



SWISS HERALD

November/December 2021 Edition
Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3

Table of Contents:

Help for Valley Members	1
Obituary M Sipila	2
Obituary B. Joehl	3,4
Seniors	5
Choir Report	6
Samichlaus und Schmutzli	7,8
13 Facts about Switzerland	8-10
Christmas Time	11
Board of Directors	12

Bread made and Photo taken by
Andrea Flukiger



Speaking in the name of all the Swiss Society Members of Vancouver, our hearts go out to every family in the Fraser Valley that experiences the terrible devastation, loss and damage caused by the recent weather. We are deeply touched to see images and reports of this well known area where many Swiss families live and farm since generations.

To all the members who are affected by the flooding of the century:
Please do not hesitate to contact any of the board-members, if you are in need of something. We will do everything possible to help you. In the meantime please be assured that all our good wishes and caring thoughts are with you.

OBITUARY

Margrith Johanna Sipila (nee Wiedmer) January 10, 1928 – October 9, 2021



Born in Olten, Switzerland, mom was the fourth of five children, and the first girl in the family. On the occasion of her home birth, mom's eldest brother Ernst paraded up and down Aarauerstrasse proudly announcing, "We have a sister!" Such was the beginning of a wonderful, adventurous and fulfilling life. Growing up in her parents' bakery home, mom apprenticed as a sales clerk and spent one_year working at a bakery in Bern. Then, at age 20, despite knowing no English, Margrith accepted a nanny position in Stafford, England, caring for the four children of a British Member of Parliament. Following that experience, she worked in a Swedish household, and it was on her way home from Sweden to Switzerland that she met the love of her life, Eino, who was travelling from Finland to work in Australia. By that point, Margrith's English was strong enough that she and

Eino could communicate with a Finnish-English dictionary. Their long-distance relationship blossomed into an engagement in Lugano, Switzerland in 1958, followed by marriage in Vancouver, Canada in 1959. They settled in North Vancouver and in their later years they moved to Maple Ridge Seniors Village. Mom was an amazing homemaker: she loved to care for children, cook, bake, knit, sew, and embroider, and all the while she loved to sing. Her Swiss chocolate mousse and chrabeli cookies were legendary. She made all of the bridesmaid dresses for several family weddings and adorned her grandchildren in beautiful hand-knit sweaters. She spent many enjoyable years singing alto in the Vancouver Swiss Choir, travelling to various song festivals throughout Canada and the USA, enriching all of us with the warmth of her Swiss culture. In her final 93rd year, mom loved singalongs at her care home alongside her companion Jack. She was a kind, friendly, and cheerful person whose greatest gift was her love and devotion to her family: husband Eino (passed away 2020), son Eric (Colleen), daughters Anna-Maya (Greg) and Christina (Doug), grandchildren Sarah, Kevin, Matthew, Crystal, Jacob, James, Andrew, and Julie, and great-grandson Caleb.

"What we
once enjoyed
and deeply loved
we can never lose,
for all that we love
deeply becomes
part of us."

- HELEN KELLER

OBITUARY

Beat Joehl passed away October 31st, 2021



Beat was an avid member of SSV and the Outdoors Club and he volunteered as a treasurer over many years.

He attended numerous Swiss Society events and also took on the role of a hiking leader on many Outdoors Club adventures. He was an honorary member of the Swiss Society.

For the next Swiss Herald his son Alex will put a write-up together in memory of his father.

Beat will be missed by many members and he will never be forgotten.





“
There is nothing
better than a friend,
unless it is a friend
with chocolate.”

LINDA GRAYSON

A strong friendship
Doesn't need daily
conversation,
Doesn't always need
togetherness
As long as the
Relationship lives in the
heart
True friends will never
apart.



SENIORS

We sincerely hope that we'll get to meet in person again in the New Year!



CHOIR REPORT CONCERT CANCELLED!



Please note: this years' Christmas Concert has been cancelled!

Some of the Choir Members live in the Fraser Valley and they have not been able to go to rehearsals. Hopefully next year will be much better and they will find time, joy and energy to sing again.

Here is a link to youtube for a song, that's very appropriate for now:
[Heimweh – Zämehäbe \(Offiziells Musikvideo\) - YouTube](#)

Remark from the editor:

Andrea wrote her note before the disaster in the Fraser Valley happened

Note from Andrea Flukiger, President andreaflukiger@gmail.com

50 more days and we will have to remember to change the year on our correspondence. But before we get there we have plenty of boxes on our checklist to mark off.

One in particular is the choir's **Christmas Concert.**

On December 4th at 2 pm we would like to invite you to our live concert.

We will have it at the All Saints Anglican Church, 7405 Royal Oak Street , Burnaby.

(Masks are mandatory and all attendees must be double vaccinated and show proof at admission) **It is cancelled!**

Another one is “ Samichlaus” on December 6th.

***Samichlaus, i ha di gern,
I ha nümme Angscht, wie fern.
Du bisch doch e liebe, guete,
bringsch mer sicher hütt kei Ruete.
Drum wott i gäng zfriede sy
Und ou lieb u brav derby.***

***Samichlaus, ich bitt di,
Bring mer au es Ditti,
Aber eis, wo Baebeli heisst,
Suscht wotti lieber gar e keis.***

***Samichlaus, wie bin i froh,
Dass du hüt bisch zuenis cho.
Wil d is öppis Guets tuesch bringe,
Wott i dir es Liedli singe:***



This being said, our choir is in need of more voices. Especially Alto, Tenors and Basses .

Do not hesitate to get in contact with one of our choir members to get more information or send an email to vancouverwisschoir1966@gmail.com

Practices are every Thursday evening, starting at 7 pm at the same location as the concert will be held : All Saints Anglican Church

I'm quite proud to say that 70% of our choir was able to attend this years Swiss Society AGM held via zoom .

For your ongoing support a heartfelt thank you. *Andrea*

SAMICHLAUS UND SCHMUTZLI – LEARN HOW SWISS SANTA WORKS!

Dimitri Burkhard November 29, 2010 (from "newlyswissed.com")



Swiss Santa is not exactly a jolly good fellow like his American counterpart. He is not mean spirited, either. But yet, his job description differs quite a bit.

Here is an overview of the Swiss Santa tradition from my own perspective. It is important to note that the details of how this tradition is carried out differs significantly within Switzerland. Each linguistic region has their own traditions, and catholic cantons vary from protestant cantons.

Regardless of where you are located, December 6 is the traditional Santa Day in Switzerland. On this day, "Samichlaus" and his companion "Schmutzli" (as they are called in Swiss German) will emerge from their cottage in the woods to visit children at their kindergartens, classrooms and homes.

Rather than flying on a reindeer-pulled sleigh, Samichlaus and Schmutzli walk across the countryside with a donkey in tow.

Once they reach town, Samichlaus and Schmutzli have their work cut out for them. One by one, they will visit families at their homes. Since Samichlaus has a special **Santa bell** attached to his waist, the trot can be heard loud and clear from afar.

Some families take the time to decorate their living room with candles and Christmas lights. Others might host Samichlaus in their yard where they might have a bonfire going. And yet other homes show no signs of the festive season whatsoever.

Once seated, Samichlaus with his deep voice will narrate a heartwarming story. Next up, children are expected to rehearse a poem and make a promise to better themselves for the upcoming year. To thank them for their poems, Schmutzli will hand them a gingerbread cookie from his sack.

And finally, the emptying of the big bag. Whether they have been naughty or nice, children are left with a pile of walnuts, peanuts, chocolates, tangerines and ginger breads...



As you can tell, a Santa visit is not a bad deal for those kids who have studied up.

Apart from nuts and sweets, Swiss Santa is not in charge of dropping off presents for the children. (Climbing down a chimney on Christmas Morning is only in the job description of his American counterpart.) In Switzerland, delivering Christmas presents has been outsourced to the *Christkind*...

13 FACTS ABOUT SWITZERLAND FOR CURIOUS KIDS AND OTHERS

Diccon Bewes November 19, 2021 (from Newlyswissed.com)

From Cartographica Helvetica, 13 facts about Switzerland for curious kids:

About Switzerland's geography 🏠

Although Switzerland is one country, it is made up of 26 cantons. Each mini-state has its own flag, parliament, taxes, and school system.

If you were to cut out a map of Switzerland and balance it on a pin, the geographic center of the country would be at Alggialp in Obwalden.

And Switzerland's wiggly shape means that nowhere is very far from the national border. The place furthest away is Uetendorf in Canton Bern, 69 km from any foreign land.

Trees and forests 🌲

There are 65 trees for every person living in Switzerland. That's a lot of trees - about 535 million, although no one has ever counted them all. Perhaps it's no surprise that a third of the land area in Switzerland is forest.



By far the most plentiful tree types are conifers, or evergreens, that have needles rather than leaves.

The power of water in Switzerland 🌀

Thanks to the natural geography of mountains and rivers, Switzerland's biggest producer of energy is water. Over 650 hydropower stations provide 57% of the nation's electricity, with over half of it produced in Graubünden and Valais.

Where rivers are born 🏠

The combined length of all flowing water in Switzerland is 61,000 km, or 1.5 times around the equator. Two of Europe's big rivers - the Rhine and the Rhône - start their epic journeys to the sea in central Switzerland.

But the longest river completely within the country is the Aare at 295 km.

Old MacDonald had a farm 🐔

If the whole of Switzerland was one farm, it would have a vast number of animals that would hugely outnumber the 8.6 million humans. Swiss farms are home to 11.8 million chickens, 1.5 million cows, 1.4 million pigs, and 300,000 sheep. Plus quite a few ducks, geese, goats, and horses.

Swiss cantonal flags featuring animals 🐻

Six animals appear on Swiss cantonal flags. There's a bear on the flags of Bern, Appenzell Ausserrhoden and Innerrhoden, while Uri has a bull and Geneva an eagle.

Schaffhausen has a ram and Graubünden an ibex. But Thurgau's flag has a foreign animal: two lions. Of course, there's a seventh animal, too: the man on the flag of Glarus, the only one featuring a person.

The longest train ride in Switzerland 🚂

What's the longest train trip possible in Switzerland without changing at all? That's easy: 8 hours 20 minutes in the Glacier Express between St Moritz and Zermatt.

What the Swiss like to eat 🍫

With 10.4 kg per year, a typical Swiss person eats more chocolate than carrots (8 kg) or tomatoes (9 kg). But cheese trumps even chocolate: each Swiss eats an average of 23.1g kg of it every year.

A word about Emmentaler cheese 🧀

The most famous Swiss cheese is Emmentaler, the holey one. It's a big cheese, made in giant rounds weighing up to 120 kg, and each kilo needs 12 liters of milk to make it. That's a lot of milk which is probably why Canton Bern has so many cows.

Babies in Switzerland 🍼

Around 86'000 babies are born every year in Switzerland, or about ten every hour. The easiest way to compare cantons is to count how many births there are for every 1,000 people. That way, we can see that across the cantons, Fribourg has the highest birth rate and Ticino the lowest.

Fact #11 is about Solothurn 🕒

Solothurn is the capital of the 11th Swiss canton and has 11 churches, 11 fountains, 11 museums, a clock with 11 numbers, and a local beer called "eleven" beer.

Bearded vultures in Switzerland 🦅

With a wingspan of almost 3 m, the bearded vulture is one of Switzerland's largest birds. It died out in the 19th century but was re-introduced about 60 years ago and there are now several hundred birds.



Recycling in Switzerland ♻️

Each person in Switzerland produces 716 kg of rubbish every year. That's the bad news. The good news is that around half is recycled - paper, metal, glass, and PET plastic bottles, but also biowaste that's turned into compost.

A business card for Varty & Company. The card features a logo of a stylized globe with horizontal lines. The text on the card includes the company name, profession, and contact information for David L. Varty in Vancouver and an associate office in Los Angeles.

Varty & Company
Barristers & Solicitors

DAVID L. VARTY B.A., LL.B., LL.M.
Avocat

300 - 1055 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6E 2E9
Telephone: 604-684-5356
Fax: 604-608-3256
www.vartylaw.ca

Email: dvarty@vartylaw.ca
Associate Office:
11620 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 900
Los Angeles, California 90025



Wishing you time to reflect and remember what has happened and to stay positive. Take a break to sit down and relax.



Hope it will be a year with joy and happiness. Take care of yourself and find lots of moments of joy.



- **Elisabeth Rechsteiner**
- **Notary Public**
- *...helping you with what matters....*
- Member



- Real Estate Transactions including Purchases, Sales and Mortgages
- Personal Planning Documents including Wills, Powers of Attorney, Representation, Agreements and Advance Directives
- Notarizations and Certified Copies
- Executorships

● 100-5050 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 4C2
info@erechsteiner.ca

Telephone: 604-433-1911 Fax: 604-433-8970 Email:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Email address	Phone Number
President	vacant		
Past President	Karin Kapp		
Vice President	Aio Haeberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	
Membership	Susanne Wilson	membership@swiss-society.org	604-888-6949
Seniors	Werner Rutishauser	wrutish@shaw.ca	604-929-6923
Advisor	Veronika Sans	vsans@prontomail.com	604-730-9781
Advisor	Christina Lips	ch.lips@live.com	604-984-9036
Advisor and Event Coordinator	Brigitte Roy	brigitte.roy@protonmail.com	604-722-8474
Advisor	Jost Klopstein	jost.in.canada@gmail.com	
Secretary	vacant		
Treasurer	vacant		
Choir	Andrea Flukiger	andreaflukiger@gmail.com	
Youth Club	vacant		

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Consul General	Andreas Rufer	vancouver@eda.admin.ch	604-684-2231
Delegate for all Swiss Societies in West-Canada on the Council of Swiss Abroad in Bern	Silvia Schoch Heidi Lussi	silv.schoch@gmail.com heidi@heidilussi.com	
Swiss Canadian Chamber of Commerce: President	Fabian Lemann	chamber@swissccc.com	
Swiss Canadian Mountain Range	Rene Zollinger	scmra.president@gmail.com	
Vancouver Dorfmusik	Urs Fricker	julieturs@hotmail.com	604-274-0802
Editor Swiss Herald	Christina Lips	ch.lips@live.com	604-984-9036
Swiss Society Vancouver Webmail Address		www.swiss-society.org/contact-us	
Legal Advisor:	David Varty	dvarty@smartt.com	604-684-5356
Webmaster	Aio Haeberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	604-803-5910

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY MY DOG

- 
1. Greet Everything
 2. Be nice to nice people
 3. Eat stuff that makes you smile
 4. Smell interesting things
 5. Be less afraid of vacumes and doorbells
 6. Don't take any crap off the squirrels
 7. Poop frequently
 8. Take good care of your genitals
 9. Run outside and yell
 10. Nap all day
 11. Fart without shame
 12. Learn to love the mailman
- Daily Holiday Blog

11 LIFE-IMPROVING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS LEARNED FROM CATS

- 
1. Practice death-stare
 2. Gratuitous napping
 3. Accept how cute I am
 4. Smack annoying people
 5. More cardboard forts
 6. Be unashamed of butthole
 7. Reward friends with corpses of enemies
 8. Groom more
 9. Rub face on soft things
 10. Sleep where I'm comfortable
 11. Care less what stupid humans think

by Peter Chykowski a.k.a. @RockPaperCynic
ROCKPAPERCYNIC.COM