



SWISS HERALD

January/February 2024 Edition
 Swiss Society of Vancouver
 P.O.Box 32021
 Walnut Grove
 Langley, BC V1M 2M3

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Happy New Year and Smooth Sailing!



Alicante, Spain Ch. Lips

Jass Tournament November 12th, 2023

Albert Rechsteiner, 2023 Jass-Koenig



More Photos and Information on Page 6

Soraya Renggli, daughter of Consul Silvana Renggli, Winner of the Hand-Jass



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Maria Theresia Rey

29 APRIL, 1931 – 21 OCTOBER, 2023



Maria (Mary) Theresia Rey was born in Neuheim Switzerland in 1931 and died in Richmond, BC at the Fraserview Intermediate Care Retirement home October 21, 2023 at the age of 92. She lived a full and rich life, immigrating to Vancouver, BC in the fifties with her (predeceased) husband Gottlieb and young daughter Edith. She worked hard running a household with three boarders, a daycare and bringing up two more children, Peter (predeceased) and Rene. She was a renowned cook and baker of Swiss delicacies and frequently hosted large boisterous dinners. She found time for an active

social life within the Swiss community participating in bowling, card playing, the Swiss Choir and particularly excelling in her fabulous prizewinning fasnacht costumes. Alongside her husband, Gottlieb, she spent many years minding the beautiful popular 21 acre Swiss Canadian Mountain Range along with their dog and the occasional visiting bears. After Gottlieb's death Maria had the good fortune to find love once again with the charismatic Horst Bohme. For over fifteen years they lived happily together enjoying frequent trips abroad and sunny Southern climes.

Maria spent the last years of her life at the Fraserview near Steveston tended by a loving staff and enjoying frequent visits from multitude of friends and family. She will be greatly missed by her immediate family, son Rene, daughter Edith, son-in-law David, grandchildren, Zoe and Emma, and great grandchildren Preston and Clover in Quebec, her many nieces and nephews in Vancouver and Switzerland, Dennis and Dawne Bohme, Peter Fricker, her Swiss American relatives and countless friends. Rest in peace, Maria. It's been a long journey.

Edith Dora Rey



Blanche Rutishauser (-Roll)

APRIL 12, 1923 – OCTOBER 17, 2023

Blanche was born in 1923 in Huningue, a small French town and a northern suburb of the Swiss city, Basel, where she grew up with her older sister, Margrit. During her early twenties, she, like all others in Europe, was only focused on surviving the Second World War. As a result (and in her opinion), she was very “old” by the time she married in 1951 at the age of 28.



She met her husband, Werner, while working as a secretary at the same company he was working at. Werner was a chemical textile technician, based in Basel. Soon after getting married, they embarked on an adventure that would take them abroad, not knowing that they would not return to live in Switzerland again.

Blanche often shared the story of how this adventure began and it being one of the most challenging moments of her life. It was 1952 and she had just given birth to their eldest daughter Esther, and Werner agreed to take a job in a completely foreign country over 9000 km away - Brazil! Werner was already in Rio de Janeiro settling into his new job and preparing for his family's arrival when Blanche set off alone, with a newborn, traveling for the first time on an airplane, from Switzerland to Brazil, which at that time involved more than 3 stops and several days of travel.

Blanche, for those that knew her, had a quiet strength and a positive attitude that enabled her to not only survive this trip, but to also quickly adapt to her new life in Rio and two short years later, relocate once again to a new country – Mexico – when Werner's company transferred them to Mexico City. What a monumental change compared to the small French town she grew up in!

Blanche spent the next 30 years building a wonderful life in Mexico City with her husband and three daughters. Her charm, warmth, sense of humor and hospitality were constants throughout her life. Not to mention her amazing cooking and baking skills, which meant there was no shortage of gatherings with family and friends.



She carried on this tradition of warm hospitality when, for the third time in their life, Blanche & Werner relocated to Vancouver upon Werner's retirement.



Blanche and Werner quickly became active members of the Swiss Society in Vancouver, creating a wonderful circle of friends. And like all the previous changes in her life, Blanche quickly adapted with a positive outlook, reveling in the fact that she was taking English classes with students 50 years her junior!

Life in Vancouver was rich and full, as Blanche and Werner enjoyed retirement in a new country, surrounded by a wonderful circle of friends and close to their two daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



There were so many special birthdays, anniversaries, and gatherings, always accompanied by delicious food. Some of the family favourites' were her Hefekuchen and Apfelwähe, and not to mention all the Christmas baking!

We were so lucky to have Blanche – or “grossmami” in our lives for many wonderful years. Her strength and kind heart will always be remembered.



Written by her Granddaughter
Karin Plettner

Trudy Feller

(always known to me as Tanta Trudy) has been part of my life since I was born. Actually, she was part of the Rupper family before there was a Rupper family. My dad, Ferdy Rupper met Tanta Trudy on the escalator in the Hudson Bay in downtown Vancouver. Hearing the Swiss language being spoken in their new country was what brought them together and started a life long friendship. I believe this was in 1956. Tanta Trudy did the books for my dad's gardening business before he met and married my mum Patricia Rupper. Tanta Trudy then taught my mum how to do the books and also to cook and bake in the Swiss way (my mum is English). She was instrumental at my parents wedding in 1961 in the days when they were do-it-yourself affairs.



A little of what I know of her early days. Tanta Trudy came to Canada in the mid 50s. She lived at the foot of Robson (English Bay) in a shared house. My dad introduced her to Uncle Walter at a Swiss bowling league event and they were married in March 1965 (my mum was pregnant with me). They made a good team with many common interests-one of them being the love of opera. With Uncle Walter's job with Simons they traveled and lived in Maine and the Czech Republic. In Vancouver they settled in a quiet neighbourhood on Angus street.

My first memory was when I was about 5 and Tanta Trudy and Uncle Walter had a wine and cheese party. Their house was very magical. All the cheeses were labelled and had little flags to show where they were from. It was a delight to my child's eyes. When I moved into my first apartment Tanta Trudy was there with a thoughtful gift basket, she hosted a bridal shower for me and taught me how to make Kriebli (which I still make every year). When my daughter Jacqueline was young we always went to visit at Halloween and have tea, cookies and Toblerone chocolate for treats. I have lovely photos in front of the maple tree at their house on Angus.

Tanta Trudy did so much for getting new people interested in the Swiss Society and the Outdoors Club. It was because of her, my family went on a hike to Bowen Island. One of the group members was fostering a puppy. That puppy eventually came home with us and Pawcoe was part of our family for the next 14 years. We also became involved with organizing the Children's Christmas Party.

Life was very busy and time slipped by too quickly when they moved to Vernon. I never got up there until August 2022 when Uncle Walter was in hospital. There they had created another beautiful home. By that time Tanta Trudy was in a lot of pain due to her arthritis but she still got me to take her out in her car. We did errands and stopped by the grocery store to buy a mini cheesecake from Gizella which we enjoyed after a delicious lunch. She was so organized that she

could tell me where everything was in the kitchen and the exact number of scoops to make the perfect cup of coffee!

I did see Tanta Trudy one more time in September 2022. I helped her pack up some things as she was going to be moving into Hearthstone Manor where Uncle Walter was. We had lunch. I then went to get a pear that had travelled up with me from Vancouver. It wasn't in the best shape but I couldn't eat it without offering some to Tanta Trudy. I don't think I have ever seen someone enjoy a pear so much. It is my last memory of her.

Even though Tanta Trudy is not here every time I whip the eggs in her Kitchen Aid mixer (which she brought from Maine so many years ago) to make Kriebeli I will think of her.

She embraced her new country but kept the land of her birth alive. She was kind, generous and loved doing things for people. She had a sharp mind which she used in many ways. She did everything so beautifully. A visit to or from her was always a treat. Anybody who had the pleasure of knowing Tanta Trudy knows that she will be sadly missed.

Valerie Fontaine ❤️

JASS TOURNAMENT November 12th, 2023



We had a great turnout for the “Handjass” on November 12, 2023 at the Chalet of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association in Coquitlam. There were 28 enthusiastic “Jassers” for this round with the youngest participant, teenager Soraya Renggli, daughter of Consul, Silvana Renggli, winning the event. It was wonderful to see such a young player take the first prize amongst many seasoned Jassers!





Runner-up was Albert Rechsteiner with Peter Roth taking the third prize.

After the Handjass, we were served a wonderful "Zueri Geschnetzeltes" dinner prepared by Stefan Moeri and his kitchen crew. Thank you very much, Stefan, for treating us to a typical Swiss menu, which started with a lovely salad

and ended with vanilla ice-cream with chocolate sauce! Thank you also to members of the SCMRA for operating the bar and having drinks available for the duration of the event.

After dinner, 12 enthusiastic Jassers signed up for the "Schieber", which was won by Louis



Schurmann. Second prize was again won by Albert Rechsteiner with Willi Rieder coming in third.

Overall "Jass Koenig" was Albert Rechsteiner who will have his name added to the Jass Tournament trophy which is kept at the Chalet of the SCMRA.



It is too bad that only 12 Jassers were able to stay for the second round, the Schieber. The Handjass took longer than in the past and many people found it would be too late to stay for the second round. So... next year, we will change a couple of things so that the event does not go so late in the



evening.

Thank you to all the Jassers and non-Jassers that showed up for this event and to everyone who provided donations to the prize table.





Also a big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event... especially Fritz Graf who manned the computer and ensured that everyone's scores were properly recorded and tallied so that the winners could be easily determined. We could not have done it without Fritz's help. Thanks a lot, Fritz. Hopefully we can continue this event in the future, as there are many people who really enjoy getting together for a friendly game of Jass. We will re-organize the event to hopefully accommodate more people staying for the Schieber!

Elisabeth Rechsteiner

COOKIE-BAKERS GETTING READY

December 7th, 2023 at Elisabeth Rechsteiner's House



16 cookie bakers contributed to the goodie-bags and 6 of them met at Elisabeth's place to wrap them all up.



Here are their names:

Consul Silvana Renggli, Ursula Hauser, Caroline Merkli, Erika Humbel, Barbara Wirsching, Christine Intile, Ursi/Fritz Graf, Teresa Weltzin, Dorli Meier, Andrea Flukiger, Anna Marie Spaeti, Marie Louise Hannah, Rosa Schuepbach, Rotraut Bender, Christina Lips and Elisabeth Rechsteiner.



Barbara Wirsching organized the event and made it to the wrapping-party too, although she was in the ER the day before with an injured ankle!

Thanks Elizabeth for being such a good host and feeding us with delicious quiches!

SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 9th, 2023 at the Executive Plaza Hotel



78 people came to the luncheon and enjoyed the pleasant event. There was enough time to pay, get the name tags and find a place to sit.

The cookie-bags were put beside each plate and everyone admired them.

Once again Elisabeth was the MC and she made sure everything went smoothly.

The choir under the guidance of Dubravko Pajalic sang quite a few Christmas Songs

In different languages and

encouraged the audience to join singing the "Silent Night".





Consul Silvana Renggli attended this event too and had a speech to the group.



Every participant had received a ticket when near the entrance and throughout the luncheon numbers of those were drawn for great prizes like gift-certificates, candle-holders, Zopf etc.



Susanne Wilson, our Membership chair and Edvige Weingand, who was in charge of sending invitations, registration, name-tags and much more.



Peter Schaele and his wife Edith, who organized the fabulous Anniversary Cakes, made by Thomas Haas. They also brought containers for the members, who liked to take their piece home.



WALDWEIHNACHT

Sunday, December 17, 2023

The SCMRA Delegates, who were excellent hosts.



Name tags for all the registered guests were handed out.

It was a perfect evening for the Waldweihnacht, not too cold and not raining.

The bar was open and on the tables were cookies, chocolates, mandarines, peanuts and festive decoration



created by Mountain Range Members. The Turnout was impressive: around 70 adults and children attended the event.



Some of the choir members guided the Christmas songs we sang outside around a Christmas tree with real candles. A perfect time to get into a real Christmas Mood.



Final touch to the mulled wine. It was delicious!



Santa Claus showed up and talked to more than twenty children. Each of them received a bag with goodies.



Photo provided by Peter Schaele.



It was a great set-up and the table decoration made it look very festive, also the garlands around the railings. Not to forget the cozy fireplace area where people could warm up.

A big thank you to Dan Meier and his crew from the SCMRA who helped so much. Everything went smooth and all the people seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

Two more photos provided by Peter Schaele



Members of the SCMRA and SSV at one table

Great set-up





Thanks so much to Hans Peter und Ursula Hauser who organized the whole event including volunteers!

I hope it will be continued in the future and become a tradition up at the Mountain Range.

Photos and Text by Christina Lips

SENIORS' CORNER

Filmnachmittag



The next Filmnachmittag will take place on

Sunday, January 21st, 2024, 1:30 to 4:30 pm.

Movie: Das Fraeulein Wunder

Location: Martin Luther Church

Address: 505 East 46th Ave, Vancouver

Time: 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Please register by the Monday before by calling

Elisabeth Schupach 604-584-3742 or Veronika Sans at 604-730-9781.

If you want to donate some baking, please let Susanne Wilson know a few days before by calling her at 778-908-5906.

Everyone is welcome who understands some Swiss German or German and likes to socialize with other Fans of Movie-Watching! Age does not matter.

CHOIR NEWS

Andrea Flukiger, President, is taking a leave of absence. Teresa Weltzin takes over until Andrea will be back as president.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Choir Rehearsals have changed to **Fridays from 11 am to 1 pm at the same place:**

All Saints Anglican Church on
7405 Royal Oak Street, Burnaby.



And remember: to be a singer in the Choir does not cost anything anymore, just the regular membership of the SSV!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024

2024 SSV MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL by Mar. 31, 2024

Thank you for supporting the Swiss Society of Vancouver in the past. It is time for the 2024 renewal. Members who filled out the new Membership / Liability form for the 2023 SSV membership can send in the membership payment only (no form necessary).

If you did not renew in 2023 or would like to join the SSV for the first time please send the membership / liability form with the payment. You can download & print the form from the SSV website or send me an e-mail.

If you don't know if your membership form is current please call 604-888-6949 or e-mail me at membership@swiss-society.org

You are able to pay for SSV with one cheque or make an e-transfer

Memberships are as follow:

SSV Individual: \$ 40.00
SSV Family: \$ 60.00
SSV Single Senior \$ 25.00
SSV Senior with Spouse \$ 40.00

Choir members do not have to pay an additional fee, but they are required to pay the SSV membership.

Please mail cheque to: Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3

If you miss sending in the payment by the Mar. 31, 2024 deadline, I would need a new form filled out, because it lapsed and the liability has expired. There is an updated form available online at the SSV website under “membership”, or call me, then I can send one out.

Also, if anything changes in your membership status or there is a change of address, a new form is required.

If you receive the Herald by mail and you do have an e-mail account, you might want to consider making a donation of \$ 20.00 or more to cover the printing and mailing cost of the Herald. The SSV would really appreciate this gesture.

Please get in touch with me, if there are any other questions

Sincerely,

Susanne Wilson,

SSV & Choir Membership chair

NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP



Any member of the Swiss Society can make a WRITTEN nomination, which must include details as to why someone is recommended, and why that person should be deserving an honorary membership. Any nominations must be received by Susanne Wilson by February 28th, 2024 at the latest. Please send them to: membership@swiss-society.org or the SSV address on the front page of the Herald.

LOOKING FOR A SENIORS' LUNCHEON VENUE- AND MENU ORGANIZER

Christina Lips has been doing that volunteer-job eight years and she is ready to pass it on to someone.

The main work is to find a suitable location and book it as soon as possible for December 2024. After presenting it to the board and have voted on it, it needs to be booked and decided, what the menu will be and what price the SSV would be willing to pay.

Please contact Christina for more information by email:

ch.lips@live.com or cell phone 604-928-9097.

CHRISTINA'S FAVOURITE PETS NEW YEARS' RESOLUTIONS

Photos and Text by Christina Lips



Relax on my favorite chair.

Go to the Spa, but no hair-dryer!



Go to the beach and play with the ball, dig, dig, dig in the sand.



Groom on the dining table and enjoy the sun, when no one can see you.





Go to parties with lots of good treats.

Take lots of naps



Play with your sibling and always show an innocent face



Find a good place to hide.



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FEES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SWISS HERALD

<p>Fees for design: To have minor adjustments made: Free To have major changes made to an ad: \$ 40 To have a new ad made: \$ 100</p> <p>Deadlines for sending in ads or articles: 28th of December, February, April, June, August and October.</p>	<p>Fees for advertisement:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Ad Size</td> <td>One Issue</td> <td>Six Issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td>One full page</td> <td>\$ 150</td> <td>\$ 825</td> </tr> <tr> <td>½ Page</td> <td>\$ 90</td> <td>\$ 495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1/3 Page</td> <td>\$ 60</td> <td>\$ 330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>¼ Page</td> <td>\$ 40</td> <td>\$ 220</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Card (5 Lines)</td> <td>\$ 20</td> <td>\$ 110</td> </tr> </table>	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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Membership	Susanne Wilson	membership@swiss-society.org	604-888-6949
Seniors	Lotti Frowein	lmfro@gmail.com	
Advisor	Karin Kapp	karinkapp@yahoo.com	
Advisor	Christina Lips	ch.lips@live.com	604-928-9097
Advisor	Elisabeth Rechsteiner	elisabethrechsteiner54@gmail.com	604-375-9802
Advisor	Veronika Sans	vsans@prontomail.com	604-730-9781
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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
Organization of the Swiss Abroad	Thomas Arn Sam Oettli Johann Roduit	Can be contacted via LinkedIn	
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@vartylaw.ca	604-684-5356
Webmaster	Aio Haerberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	604-803-5910