



SWISS HERALD

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

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Photo Roland Fischer

AGM (Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society Vancouver)

Will be held Sunday, April 14th, 2024 from 4-7 pm at the Edmonds Community Center in Burnaby, 7433 Edmonds Street

We hope that this afternoon meeting will encourage all of you members to come and help making important decisions!

BOARD MEMBERS' FAMILY LUNCHEON



For the first time in 4 years the SSV board-members and their families had a lunch again Sunday, February 4th, 2024.

The “Tannenbaum” in New Westminster was a great place to gather and meet.

Invited was also Deputy Consul Silvana Renggli and her husband.

The three children present were busy with creating crafts and entertaining each other with the help of the Haeberli Family, Peter Schaele, Silvana Renggli and other adults.

The food was delicious and the time went by fast.

Veronika Sans was awarded a nice bouquet of flowers for her 90. Birthday and for everything she helped with in the board for the past years. She resigned from that job but still will be seen at activities. She will also be helping as Christina’s editor and mentor.



SENIORS' CORNER

Filmnachmittag



The next Filmnachmittag will take place on

Sunday, March 17th, 2024, 1:30 to 4:30 pm

Movie: Kaviar Kollektion: Diesmal muss es Kaviar sein.

Location: **Martin Luther Church**

Address: **505 East 46th Ave, Vancouver**

Please register by the Monday before by calling

Elisabeth Schupach 604-584-3742.

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.

Future Filmnachmittag: April 21, 2024

Movie: Kaviar Kollektion: Diesmal muss es Kaviar sein.

Happy Birthday, Veronika!



Veronika was celebrating her birthday with a small group of friends at the Top of Vancouver Restaurant.

One of them was Elisabeth Guebeli who celebrated her 90. Birthday two years ago.

Thanks Veronika for all the work you did for the SSV. We will miss you at our meetings!

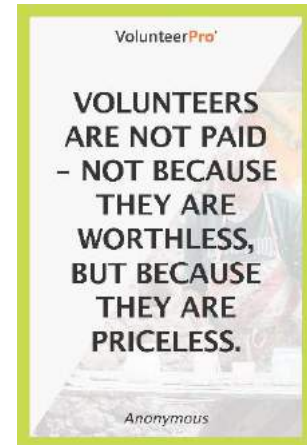
SENIORS' LUNCHEON VENUE- AND MENU ORGANIZER

Lotti Frowein kindly agreed to organize the next Christmas Luncheon in 2024.

It will be most likely at the New/Old venue in the Holiday Inn Hotel in North Vancouver Dec. 7th , 2024!

Lotti has quite a few ideas for future outings and she'll let you know more about it via email, with help from Aio.

Thank you, Lotti!



CHOIR NEWS

written by president Andrea Flukiger

Singing is one of the easiest and most accessible ways for us to participate in making music. We are the instrument, so we already have everything we need to get started.
(Stefan Joubert)

Why don't you join us? We are in full swing back to our weekly rehearsals. And there is plenty of time for you to catch up and to be able to sing with us at the upcoming Spring Concert.

Please mark your calendars.

Saturday, May 25th at 3pm at the All Saints Anglican Church on Royal Oak Street in Burnaby.

New! Since last fall we have been practising on **Fridays from 11am till 1pm**. Afterwards it's lunch/coffee time.

Our weekly coffee fairies do always spoil us with delicious goodies.

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the choir.

Also if you know of a retirement home that would like to have us come and sing, let us know.

vancouverwisschoir1966@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Saturday, May 25th 2024, 2 – 4 PM or longer 😊

Spring Concert

with the

Swiss Choir Vancouver



Vancouver Dorfmusik

VANCOUVER



DORFMUSIK

Lower Mainland Mandolin Society



After this very special concert there will be fabulous refreshment in the Church Hall and a raffle with the famous gift baskets.

More information in the May/June Swiss Herald.

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 April , 2024 (AGM date) deadline, I would need a new form filled out, because it lapsed and the liability has expired. There is an updated form available on-line 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.

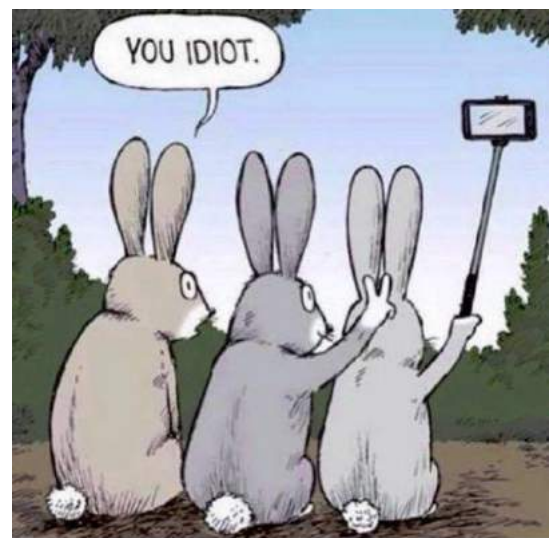
If you receive the Herald by mail and you do have an e-mail account, you might want to consider making a donation of \$ 20.00 or more to cover the printing and mailing cost of the Herald. The SSV would really appreciate this gesture.

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

Sincerely,
Susanne Wilson,
SSV & Choir Membership Chair

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 border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ad Size</th> <th>One Issue</th> <th>Six Issues</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <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> </tbody> </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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WHAT IS SECHSELAEUTEN

From the website: www.zuerich.com with some additional information from Christina Lips

Sechseläuten is a centuries-old tradition to herald the beginning of spring in Zurich. Besides guild members attired in historical costumes, the festival is characterized by music ensembles, horses, flowers, flags, and the Böögg. Nowadays, the Böögg is even the main protagonist: the pyre with the snowman figure on top is set alight when the clock of the St. Peter church strikes 6 pm. The faster his head – which is filled with fireworks – explodes, the finer the summer will be. At least that's what the people of Zurich say.

You can read below where this custom originated and where the word "Böögg" comes from, and also find some tips on how to get the most out of your Sechseläuten experience.



Every guild has a marching band joining their walk in the parade.

History of the Festival

Back in the 16th century, the City Council – which at that time comprised exclusively members of various Zurich **guilds*** – resolved that in summer, work should stop an hour later than in the winter months. It was decided that on the first Monday after the vernal equinox, the second largest bell of the **Grossmünster** should ring out at 6 pm precisely to proclaim the beginning of spring. From this day until late fall, the working day would be one hour longer. "Sechseläuten", or "Sächsilüüte" as it is called in local dialect – which literally means "the six o'clock ringing of the bells" – has been celebrated ever since.

Guilds (Zuenfte) are associations of artisans or tradesmen that originated in the Middle Ages. They regulated common interests such as wages or price agreements and formed a social system with their own coat-of-arms, signs, and traditional attire. In Zurich, 26 guilds still exist today. They no longer regulate the everyday work of their members, but keep the custom and tradition alive.

Sechseläuten Monday is a city-wide holiday.

Most workers are off after 2 PM for the Sechseläuten parade of floats. The procession of floats



is the main attraction of the Sechseläuten parade. Each float is designed and built by a different guild, and each guild tries to outdo the others with its creative and intricate designs. The floats are made of wood and paper mache and decorated with flowers, lanterns, and other colorful decorations. The parade features some 3500 men and women in traditional costumes. Also, there are the before-mentioned camels and horses.

Who or What is the Böögg?

The Böögg is the main focus of attention during Sechseläuten. It stands at the top of a huge pyre, which on Sechseläuten Monday is set on fire at 6 pm on the dot. As a symbol for winter, the purpose of this tradition is to welcome the spring. However, the Böögg was not present at Sechseläuten right from the beginning.

The word “Böögg” is probably related to the English terms, bogy, bogle or boggle. The Zurich Böögg is 3.40 meters (11 ft) tall and resembles a snowman. At Sechseläuten, it is burnt to symbolize the driving out of winter.

In bygone days, every year young boys in Zurich’s Kratz quarter (now Bürkliplatz) would burn several Bööggs on the day of the vernal equinox – the same time that the guilds commenced their Sechseläuten celebrations just a stone’s throw away. The Böögg figures were tied to wagons and pulled through the streets by jeering youths.

It was not until the end of the 19th century that the two customs – Sechseläuten and the burning of the Böögg – were combined. Thus the procession of jeering youths became what is now the children’s parade, while the Böögg was adopted as the main protagonist of the spring festival.



The riding group of each guild gets to ride around the burning pile 3 times to the sound of the “Saechsiluete March” until the explosives of the Boegg start to blow up.

Nowadays, the Böögg is used to forecast the weather. It is said that the faster its head – which is packed with fireworks – catches fire and explodes, the finer the summer will be.



On the Sunday of the festival weekend, there is a popular children's parade where everyone registered is allowed to participate.

About 2000 to 3000 children aged between 5 and 15 years will walk through downtown Zürich dressed in historical costumes. They are accompanied by around 800 musicians from youth formations based in the Zürich region.

A few decades ago a 9-year old girl was very excited to walk in the parade: the editor Christina Lips.

On Sechseläuten Monday, the main event takes place.

Every year since 1991, a different Swiss Canton is invited to take part in the Sechseläuten festival as a special guest.

The Boegg looks traditionally always the same, however on or around his head is always an item of the invited Canton.

The route of the parade of all the guild members, their family members, their wagons and Bands is about 4 km long and ends at the Sechseläutenplatz, Bellevue.

After the Boegg's death the Members of the Guilds go to their special Guild House to have dinner and then they will visit each other. Behind closed doors they will have speeches and say things nobody else is allowed to know. Very often they won't go home until the next morning.

The Unofficial After-Party

When, after the big explosion, the pyre slowly collapses, spectators gather around the huge bonfire and, amidst a jovial party ambiance, barbecue sausages that they have brought with them over the embers until late into the evening.

Urban Legends, Flops, Failures, and Flaws:

The faster the Böögg's head explodes, the finer the summer will be. A burning time of between 5 and 12 minutes means a warm and sunny summer. Anything above that predicts rather rainy summer months.

In 1921, a young lad – allegedly incited by communists – already set fire to the Böögg at 1.30 pm. In 1944, Sechseläuten was held at Enge Harbor, as its usual site, the Sechseläutenwiese, was being used to grow vegetables. On that occasion, the Böögg tipped over and fell into Lake Zurich. In 1950, 1960, 1993 and 1994, the Böögg fell off the pyre before its head had exploded.

In 2006, the Böögg was abducted by a group of leftist revolutionaries. It reappeared at the Swiss Labor Day festivities on May 1 on Helvetiaplatz, and after disappearing again, it eventually turned up in the cellar of a school building. Nevertheless, Sechseläuten still went ahead as planned – using a **replacement** Böögg.

In 2020, Sechseläuten had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2021, for the first time in its history, the burning of the Böögg did not take place in Zurich. To prevent crowds gathering, it was burned in the Schöllenen Gorge in Canton Uri.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Email address	Number
President	Peter Schaele	globuscontract@gmail.com	
Webmaster	Aio Haeberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	
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
Secretary	Aio Haeberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	
Treasurer	vacant		
Choir	Andrea Flukiger	andreaflukiger@gmail.com	
Youth Club	vacant		

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

Consul General	Thomas Schneider	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 Haeberli	webmaster@swiss-society.org	604-803-5910

