

THE SWISS AMERICAN

Official Publication of the NORTH AMERICAN SWISS ALLIANCE

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Spotlight on Toledo Swiss

The Swiss motto from 730 years ago of three men forming an alliance states:

'EINER FUR ALLE, ALLE FUR EINEN'

One for all and all for one has shown the Toledo Swiss' commitment to the GAF and the GAFS and shows strong in the hearts of all Swiss Americans today.

The Toledo Swiss Society was founded on April 24, 1869. The membership grew over the years and the society now is located in Oregon, OH.

The Society has a long-standing relationship with the German American Festival (GAF) which began in 1966 when the Swiss Society and six German cultural societies joined together in a venture to have an ethnic festival. The German American Festival Society (GAFS) was formed as a non-profit corporation on January 9, 1967.

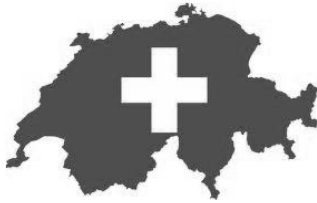
From the festival's humble beginning, the Swiss have played a large role in growing the GAF into the area's largest ethnic festival. If not for the commitment and work from the Swiss this festival would not be what it is today.

Swiss members George Recknagel and Carl Rickenman were involved in the early planning stages for the festival. In the early years, a large number of Swiss members worked cooking and serving food. The Swiss Singers performed at the festival as well. Max and Rosemarie Graf served "Grandma's Grilled Cheese Sandwiches". A spread made with butter and Sap Sago cheese was spread on slices of wheat bread and grilled with Baby Swiss cheese. It was a hit with festival goers

and is still used to this day. That small stand evolved into the Swiss Essen Haus which includes the Sandwich Shack and the Sidewalk Cafe under the same roof. All are chaired by Swiss members and many Swiss volunteers every year.

At the Swiss Essen Haus, festival goers can dine on Roast Pork dinners or Pork Hock dinners with spaetzle, sauerkraut, German potato salad and apple sauce. They also sell a wide assortment of cheeses, meats, chocolates and breads. Delicious desserts including cream puffs are available for purchase. The Sidewalk Cafe, previously named the Venice Café, was started by Willie Henoch. A baker by trade, he made the pastries and desserts for the festival in the early years. Willie belonged to three German societies; the Turners, Bavarian Sports Club, and GBU. At the Sandwich Shack you will find weisswurst and knackwurst grilled to perfection. Two favorites are the Swisswurst sandwich which is a bratwurst patty smothered with Baby Swiss cheese on a wheat bun and "Grandma's Grilled Cheese Sandwich" (of course!).

Continued on Page 3



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NATIONAL CONVENTION

The next Convention will be held via teleconference in the 2nd quarter 2022.

Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Board will be elected to four-year terms. Branch societies will be advised of details ahead of time. Delegates are determined by number of policy holders in each branch society.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Gramm-Leach Bliley Act was instituted in 1999 and became effective November, 2000 to protect the confidentiality and the security of consumer information. The act requires initial and annual privacy notices. These notices can be of a general nature such as this one posted in this newspaper. The notice will also be available in the office of the North American Swiss Alliance in North Olmsted, Ohio and to all our members who request one by mail.

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Our policy of protecting the privacy of public and non-public information extends to our former insured that no longer have any coverage with us.

Spotlight on Toledo
continued from Page One

Two large potato pancake booths are co-chaired by Swiss Society members. Teutonia Maennerchor members Erich and Ingaborg Mueller started with a single booth using an original recipe from Mrs. Regina Wandscher which is still used today. The potato pancakes are so popular that a second booth was started several years ago to feed the large crowds that attend the festival each year.

3,500 pounds of German Potato Salad are prepared every year for the festival. The Swiss, along with other GAFS members and volunteers from the public, help to cook, peel, cut, and mix the salad by hand. An old German recipe is also used for the salad and is a hit with festival goers.

Let's not forget about beer! Bar 5 serves a variety of German beers and is chaired by the same two Swiss members (for many years).

The Stientossen Contest (rock throwing) was also started by the Swiss and chaired by Richard (Red) Hardt for many years before he retired. It was getting harder for him to carry the 140 pound rock back and forth for each contestant. (HAHA!) Red was a past Director for the North American Swiss Alliance.

The Hummel look-alike contest was started by Swiss members Eugene and Naomi Conger who were avid collectors. Small children are dressed and posed like a Hummel figurine and try to stay motionless for a certain length of time to win. It is always fun to watch this competition!

Over the 55 years since the GAFS started, the Swiss have had one member as the festival chairman and five as president of the GAFS.

The largest festival to date was in 2019 with over 35,000 people in attendance over a 4 day period. The festival was canceled in 2020 due to Covid. On that same weekend the Swiss once again stepped up and organized a drive thru BBQ chicken dinner featuring our delicious festival chicken.



Left to right – Al Weiss, VP Toledo Swiss Society; Kevin M. Ruedy, President, GAFS and past President Toledo Swiss Society; Tom Hodges, President, Toledo Swiss Society; Ben Krieger, VP GAFS and member of Toledo Swiss Society.

Members of all the societies were encouraged to come out and enjoy a "Heritage Day" to promote fellowship and many came out to enjoy the day in the Biergarten.

After almost two years without a festival the Swiss did what they have always done chairing or volunteering in many booths and other areas to help make this year's festival a success.

Proud to be Swiss American,

Kevin M. Ruedy
 President, German American Festival Society
 NASA Executive Board Advisory Officer



The Alps are a natural playground for
 climbers, hikers, photographers and skiers.



Cleveland Swiss Celebrate August 1st

After cancelling their Swiss Independence Day celebration in 2020 due to the pandemic, the Cleveland Swiss were happy to celebrate this year!



The best way to begin the month of August, the last full month of summer, is to celebrate Swiss National Day with our family and friends. In Cleveland tradition, we gathered on August 1st to celebrate the 730th anniversary of the founding of Switzerland. The pavilion was adorned in red & white, with canton flags. The entrance to the pavilion had Swiss and US flags and adults were offered their choice of canvas bags, lanyards, or Swiss pins. The children were given Swiss coloring books. Pro Patria pins were also available for sale (and once again we sold them all). Regardless of the setting, it is a day dedicated to celebration of our Swiss heritage. We gather together to enjoy time with one another and honor the memory of our dear departed members.

This year the weather forecast was concerning. However, except for a few brief showers, the day was bright, sunny and warm. Approximately 75 people attended the event. The program was opened by Marianne Bernadotte, Honorary Swiss Consul, followed by the 1st of August video address by the president of the confederation Guy Parmelin and the remarks by Ambassador and General Consul in New York Markus Börlin. We sang both the Swiss and U. S. National Anthems.

In Swiss tradition, the children were invited to parade through the crowd as they played various musical instruments. They also participated in craft projects and games. It's always such a joy to see the youngsters enjoying themselves and hopefully creating their own memories. Rudy Hermes, loyal friend, entertained with his accordion...always a welcome and integral part of the celebration. We dined on bratwurst, Italian sausage, hot dogs, German potato salad, fruit, strudel, and more.



Former Alliance Director William Preslock and accordionist Rudy Hermes.

Thank you to the many members who volunteered their time to make the event a success. It was an enjoyable day for all.

Mark your calendar for August 1, 2022 and join the Cleveland Swiss for their celebration.



Switzerland has top-notch museums to visit.





Meet the Swiss Queens!

Hannah & Katie Lajti were crowned the 2021 Swiss Queens at the recent German American Festival.

Hannah recently graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Exercise Science. She has been accepted into the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program at Cleveland State University.

Katie will graduate from the University of Toledo in December, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She has accepted a position at Cleveland Clinic Hill Crest in Oncology Med Surgery.

Congratulations and Best Wishes, Hannah & Katie!

Swiss Doll Collection on Display

An extraordinary Swiss doll collection was donated to the North American Swiss Center in New Glarus Wisconsin by Nell Weidmann. Nell's artistry is well known throughout the Milwaukee area. Her art background includes training in watercolor, oil, porcelain painting as well pottery, ceramics and needlework.



The Nell Weidmann Swiss "Mayad" Doll Collection consists of 35 porcelain dolls. "Mayad" comes from the names of doll creator's children, Maya and Adrian.

Nell began hand-crafting her beloved Swiss dolls in 1974. A Zurich native, living in the United States, Nell researched each Canton to produce authentic costuming in miniature. The doll clothing includes knits and Swiss fabrics complete with all the proper hand-made accessories.



It's worth a trip to New Glarus to see the collection in person!

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our deceased members. May they rest in peace.

12/30/18	MARIE ASTA	Age 99	Toledo Ladies
1/30/2019	KATHARINE CARR	Age 106	Toledo Ladies
7/15/2020	ARLENE WALTERS	Age 69	Taylor Swiss
10/12/2020	WALTER GALLATI	Age 92	Central Branch
10/28/2020	JEANETTE WEST	Age 79	Central Branch
11/4/2020	ROGER RICKENMANN	Age 91	Toledo Swiss Society
11/17/2020	LAURA SMITH	Age 75	Central Branch
11/18/2020	DAVID LONG	Age 87	Central Branch
11/24/2020	KAY OZANSKI	Age 74	Toledo Ladies
11/30/2020	SHIRLEY RIECK	Age 85	Central Branch
12/9/2020	ROSALIE ENGLEMAN	Age 83	Toledo Ladies
12/14/2020	CARL ACKERMAN, JR.	Age 64	Toledo Swiss Society
12/17/2020	RONALD HILLABRAND	Age 81	Toledo Swiss Society
1/2/2021	CECIL ADKINS	Age 92	Toledo Swiss Society
1/12/2021	PAUL STREIN	Age 72	Taylor Swiss
1/29/2021	HELEN MARCHY	Age 91	Central Branch
2/1/2021	ALICE FOHN	Age 79	Central Branch
2/9/2021	FREDERICK JOHLIN	Age 93	Toledo Swiss Society
2/19/2021	RANDALL SCHOTT	Age 81	East Bernstadt
3/17/2021	BEATRICE BUEHLER	Age 88	Cleveland Swiss Society
3/18/2021	ALAN KOMAR	Age 70	Cleveland Swiss Society
5/12/2021	DAWN CHERRY	Age 66	Toledo Ladies
6/1/2021	ROBERT ROHNER	Age 57	Central Branch
6/29/2021	RONALD RIEDER	Age 88	Taylor Swiss
7/7/2021	MARTHA MILLER	Age 84	Central Branch
8/25/2021	MARY ANN WILSON	Age 69	E. Bernstadt
8/29/2021	WILLIAM SULZER	Age 90	Taylor Swiss
9/16/21	ANDREW JANKA	Age 56	Cleveland Swiss Society
9/19/21	AUDRY ZUERCHER	Age 90	Cleveland Swiss Society
9/23/2021	ERNEST HIRZEL	Age 89	Toledo Swiss Society



Something beautiful to ponder . . .

You can shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived.

You can close your eyes and pray they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left for you.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can remember only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want.

Elizabeth Ammons

Interesting Sites to see in Switzerland

Relax and enjoy the views on the GoldenPass Line

The GoldenPass Line is the scenic rail journey through Switzerland and it offers the chance to glimpse at some of the country's best scenery. The journey takes you through two language regions, from Central Switzerland via the Bernese Oberland to the Lake Geneva region. You'll pass through six Swiss cantons via three mountain passes (including the Brünig Pass) and picturesque landscapes complete with lakes (6 in all!). Waterfalls and valleys dotted with typical Swiss chalets provide beautiful photo opportunities.

Take a train to Jungfrauoch the highest station in Europe

At 3,454 meters above sea level, the Jungfrauoch in the Bernese Oberland is the highest railway station in Europe. Taking a train to the Jungfrauoch is a sure way to admire the Swiss Alps in all their splendor. Travelling along the Kleine Scheidegg pass, it's possible to see the dramatic peaks of the Eiger, Jungfrau and Mönch mountains on the way. From the summit at the Jungfrauoch you'll see the 23 kilometer Great Aletsch glacier, the longest glacier in the Alps, stretching out before you.

Get in touch with nature at the Swiss National Park

The Swiss National Park, the Alps' oldest national park founded in 1914, is located in the canton of Graubünden in eastern

Switzerland. It's a gateway to nature and covers over 170 square kilometers, with 80 kilometers of hiking trails allowing you to explore to your heart's content. The Park is visited by approximately 120,000 people each year. Ibexes, red deer, foxes, chamois, marmots, golden eagles and bearded chamois are just some of the permanent residents of the park that can be spotted from the trails. Expert guides can lead you to the most fascinating sights and observations. The guided tours are generally conducted in German. Nature provides an abundance of plant life. *Mountain pines* dominate the park with their short, hard needles (and bloom in June). *Swiss androsace (or rock-jasmine)* grow at very high altitude but are quite scarce. *Pygmy buttercups* are found in snowy valleys and bloom in July and August. *Alpine toadflax* is a dainty but very resistant plant which grows on limestone. *Alpine clematis* winds itself around trees and shrubs, providing beautiful blooms in June and July. *Mountain avens* is one of the most widespread plants in the park. Its woody stems creep along gravel, helping to prevent erosion. *Edelweiss* is present and known as the unmistakable emblem of the alpine flowers. *Cowberry* is widely spread throughout the pine forests with white flowers and red berries. Conservation of the park has been incredibly successful, partly because it is forbidden to leave the trails, a rule that is worth remembering. No natural object may be picked or removed (plants, berries, sticks, stones, etc.). Dogs are not allowed even if on a lead. Entry in the winter is forbidden as it is a designated wildlife area.

Swiss chocolate is plentiful in Switzerland.



And so is cheese! Among the hundreds of varieties, you will not find a single one called "Swiss cheese".





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