

PENINSULA SWISS CLUB

Newsletter No. 6 November 2009

President: Monika Ryser Newsletter Editor: Judit Van Caenegem Assistant Editor: Monika La Grill

www.peninsulaswissclub.com

Join us for our last event of the year: The Samichlaus Brunch at Las Palmas Park in Sunnyvale. Please register by November 26. Happy Holidays to everyone!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Peninsula Swiss Club Members and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity and repeat my thanks to all the Committee members and their families for a job very well done all year long. It is not an easy task to organize the huge events that we have.

For all of you who could not be at the Metzgete/General Meeting, here are the people who make those events possible:

Anna Ralston: A huge thank you for your friendship and professional advice!

Barbara Attinger-Snarr: We will miss you on the Committee. Thank you for always being so reliable with all the letters, minutes, and other paperwork.

Frank Siegenthaler: The books are in best hands with you.

Erich Sonnberger: Thank you for always being available to fill in when no one else can make it.

Maya Gyger: It is awesome to have somebody like you taking care of our membership.

Peter Thoeny: Thank you for all the hauling and for always keeping a calm spirit when everything and everyone is going crazy before an event.

Chris Marolf: Thank you for having been a great support for Peter. We wish you a wonderful new start in Switzerland; we will miss you on the Committee!

Judit Van Caenegem: The newsletter would never turn out this great without your creativity.

Monika La Grill: Without you, we would not hold the newsletter in our hands right now.

Claudio Bui: Thanks for uploading new information onto our website!

Walter Gyger and Willy Arter: Thank you two for going to the USSNC meetings and for representing our club.

And last but not least: A huge thank-you goes to all the **spouses, children, and friends** of our Committee members who are always available to lend a hand as well!

It has again been a great year to work with all of you!

I wish everyone a happy Holiday Season!

Monika Ryser
President

PSC CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

Dec 6 Samichlaus Brunch
 Las Palmas Park, Sunnyvale

PSC News

Congratulations to:

Carola and Aaron Gutierrez-Gyger on their recent wedding.

Daniela and Dominic Liechti on the birth of their son Noel Ryan, born on September 2.

Andres and Giselle Ott on the birth of their son Josef, born on October 13.

We wish them all much happiness together!

Condolences:

We are sad to inform you of the death of two of our long-time members.

Our dear member Pius Lenz passed away on September 17. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Valerie Lenz, his children, and the whole family. Pius Lenz was active in the PSC and the Committee for many years.

Our dear member Lisa Schneider passed away on November 1. We will always remember her especially for her warm welcome into her home for many First of August celebrations. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband Mike and her whole family.

Announcement

As of January 2010, our newsletter will go digital. All members will be able to choose from digital or paper.

2009 PSC Committee

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Swiss Club Camping and Visit to Goat Cheese Farm

By Zwia Lipkin

For those of us whose entire knowledge of goats derived from movies like "Heidi," the visit to Harley Farm came as a surprise. In the movies, goats are always depicted as cute, harmless furry animals. No movie ever mentioned the assault of smells that greeted us at the farm, or the endless mines on the ground, which we tried to avoid at first, and then gave up on. Furthermore, most of us didn't expect to be immediately surrounded—and munched!—by a mob of goats... Some of the children, especially those who were about as tall as the goats, were startled, whereas some adults erupted in uncontrolled laughter to mask their own discomfort.

But we needn't have worried. The goats, friendly and spoiled, turned out to merely be eager for a pat and a taste. And by the time our affable guide finished telling us informative and funny stories about the farm and its inhabitants, we felt as if we knew the goats personally, as well as their crooked-toothed lama guards (yes, we learned that lamas are naturally inclined to protect goats...). Our hands-on milking experience gave us the fuzzy warmth of intimate acquaintance, as did actually seeing the process of turning milk into cheese (or rather—turning the very weeds we stepped on into cheese, to be precise). By the time we got to make our own cheese (decorated with flowers, no less), we were so hungry and excited that we could eat a cow (should we say a "goat?"). Once seated in the farm's amazing dining room, complete with hand-made rustic furniture and dazzling flower arrangements, we immediately dipped into our cheese and couldn't have enough of it. Even our young picky eaters ate enthusiastically, moving on later to taste all the cheese samples at the store. Needless to say, most of us left with much lighter wallets. After all, how could we not buy nice amounts of cheese, produced by our very "own" goats?

Camping at Memorial Park was as memorable as the visit to the farm. The kids enjoyed running around in big gangs, swinging from a rope into the river, and frying their own marshmallows on the campfire. The adults marveled in their kid-free time, had nice conversations, and relaxed with wine and great food (Swiss cakes, Züpfe, and desserts were passed around, to everyone's delight). In the evening there was even live-music entertainment, when singers joined talents with guitar players, performing Swiss and American songs. The camping trip ended with a nice hike through the woods on Sunday morning. We all left for home tired but satisfied, with a craving for more.



