

Sacramento Helvetia Verein

The Yodeler

Winter/Spring 2016



Friedrich Sisters

Club's Member Spotlight

Martha Friedrich, Karleen Darr-Friedrich and Margaret Trivett-Friedrich

The three Friedrich sisters, above, were excited to join the Sacramento Helvetia Verein in 2014. They were raised by Swiss parents in Rio Linda who were well known in the Swiss Community and once members of the SHV. The ladies now attend the monthly social meetings, Martha helps hang the Canton Flags at all our festivals and Karleen has become our Recording Secretary. "We love it" they said with big smiles on their faces. "We came from a family of ten. Mom, Dad, seven sisters and a brother, so we know how to pitch in and help," they agreed.

Their parents were both from Switzerland but met here in the Untied States. Johan (Hans) Friedrich was their father, who grew up on a farm in Giswil, Switzerland and came to the Untied States on a cargo ship in 1946. Hans' first job was milking cows in Chino, California where he met another young man from Switzerland that became his life long best friend and fellow SHV Member, Joe Muller. Joe and Hans worked for several diaries, farmed up and down California and even spent time as lumberjacks in Northern California. But Hans settled down once he was introduced to a pretty young Swiss girl in 1950. Her name was Josephine (Finny) Furrer and she had just arrived from Brunnen, Switzerland in 1949. Within a year of their meeting, they were married in 1951. They bought 15 acres in Rio Linda and lived on eight. Hans also started working for Capitol Machine Corp and remained there until retirement. Finny took care of the household and together they raised their family enjoying the country-farming life for the next 60 years.



1972, Back L to R: Margaret, Martha, Mariann, Kathleen, Claire, Karleen; Front: Hans, Hans, Finny and Ruth

In Switzerland, both Hans and Finny had seven siblings each. So, once they were married, having a large family only seemed natural. They had eight children between 1952 - 1963. "My father use to say that he had seven daughters and each daughter had a brother," recalled Margaret. "People would look alarmed until they figured out his riddle." Karleen added that "Family was everything to our parents. Daddy was handy and could fix anything. Even though he worked full time, he took care of everything on our busy farm too. He'd get up each morning before going to work to milk the cow and Mommy would take care of the household. She was an excellent cook and seamstress. She'd preserve the vegetables and fruit we grew, helped us all with the farming and harvesting and even helped Daddy slaughter and butcher the livestock we raised. They were really a great team."



*1995, Hans' 75th Birthday
Standing, L-R: Ruth, Margaret, Martha, Kathleen, Hans
Seated: Mariann, Claire, Hans, Finny and Karleen*

Martha laughed recalling all the fights over the bathroom, " With a house of 10, and only one bathroom, it taught us how to fight productively. We also got to know each other very well, which has kept us all close even to this day." The girls, unfortunately lost their brother, Hans to cancer in 2008. Finny passed away peacefully at home in 2012 and in 2014 their father passed away with his loving daughters by his side.

Once their parents passed away, they thought it would be nice to connect with their Swiss roots. Three of the Friedrich sisters had the time and gumption to do so. Margaret, Karleen and Martha joined the Sacramento Helvetia Verein in 2014 and the club couldn't be more pleased!

Margaret

"I'm the oldest of eight," said Margaret, "I grew up in Rio Linda and there was a lot of action and commotion at our house with all



the boyfriends and girlfriends everywhere. There are so many wonderful memories. I remember the Swiss outings, especially going to the Schwingfest! My father loved wrestling and we'd go every year. I even remember our family cheering on Paul Kiser when he was Schwingfest Champ," she said laughing.

Margaret went to Kaiser School of Nursing and has worked as a RN for over 42 years. She has worked for the Sacramento Plastic Surgery Group as an outpatient nurse for the last 36 years. Margaret also teaches CPR and lives in Penryn with her husband, Rick. They have four children and eight grandchildren. She travels as much as possible and has been to Switzerland four times. While in Switzerland she always visits her relatives in Giswild and Brunnen and loves keeping in touch and soaking in the beauty. When asked what she does in her spare time at home, she said, "I love to go on bike rides, snow ski, read, play the piano and cross stitch. But my favorite thing is spending time with our family and grandchildren". Margaret is also a die hard SF Giants Fan which is a family tradition. "I remember listening to every single Giants' games on the radio with Daddy," she said. Margaret is happy she joined, SHV, enjoying the dinners and events very much. We're sure glad she joined too.



Karleen

"I am the fourth child of eight. I have the distinction of being a twin. My fraternal twin sister, Kathleen, is only 5 minutes older, but in a large family birth order matters! It affords you seniority and certain inalienable rights. From the start I knew my place was second to Kathleen with no argument from me. She was 5 minutes older, much taller and a bigger talker than I was, so she was '3rd in line and I was 4th'.

I went to college, then got married in 1976, graduated from UC Davis in 1977 and UC Berkeley in 1979. My husband, Mike, and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary in August. We haven't decided how we will celebrate... maybe a trip to Switzerland, finally returning after 41 years! We have three children; Jordan, Megan and Jacob and a brand new daughter-in-law, Morgan. I've thoroughly enjoyed working for years as a UC Davis librarian, but plan on retiring in the spring of 2016.

I joined SHV to connect with people from my parents' home country and build relationships with people with the same roots. Growing up, I was influenced by my Swiss heritage closely following my parents traditions. As a child, I remember only knowing the Swiss word for an everyday item and my friends would wonder why I didn't use the English word. I remember the time we met our first relative from Switzerland when I was a 13 years old. It was a momentous occasion for me and my siblings. I could tell that our Swiss relatives were very proud of our parents leaving their homeland to build their future in California. I see the same characteristics in our SHV members- courageous, hard-working, self-sufficient, a love of smallness and a zest for the simple things family, friends and home. It's a pleasure to associate with others who share these values." The SHV couldn't be happier to have you on board with us, Karleen!

Martha

"I am the sixth child out of eight. I have 4 older sisters and two younger sisters. My brother was a year older than me. I was born and raised in Sacramento. Looking back, I had a great childhood from a large family growing up in Rio Linda on a farm. Going to Squaw Valley in September for the Schwingfest will always be one of my favorite memories growing up. I headed to college in Orange County in 1975. I graduated from UC Irvine in 1980 with a B.A degree in Social Science.



+ Martha Continued

"I married in 1983. I have 3 children, Melissa, John and Cera. I lived in Southern California for 15 years and then moved back to Sacramento in 1992 to be closer to my parents and sisters," explained Martha. Currently she works at California School Information Services (CSIS) as the director of Client Services supporting over one thousand school districts as they report student and staff data to the department of education. She has been to Switzerland 3 times. "Most recently in 2013 I visited with my three children. I look forward to going again to see my relatives and continue to explore the country," she said.

When I asked Martha why she joined the Swiss Club, she said, "It reminds me of the Swiss community my parents belonged to and the events they would bring us to. It keeps me connected to my Swiss

heritage. I especially enjoy hearing member stories of their arrival in America and marvel at their amazing experience. It is my pleasure to volunteer and do what I can to contribute to make the Swiss events a memorable experience for all." We appreciate all that Martha and her sisters contribute and want to thank you for joining!



Photo of Finny and Hans
50th Wedding Anniversary

*"The love in our family flows
strong and deep,
leaving us memories to
treasure and keep"*

So back in the 1940s , when Finny Furrer and Hans Friedrich left Switzerland as hopeful immigrants, dreaming of a better life in America, they had no idea that together they would build such a strong and happy family. Due to their resourcefulness, patience, eternal optimism, love of adventure and sense of humor their family roots are strong and the family tree continues to flourish.

All eight of their children grew up to appreciate their parents and on Hans and Finny's 25th Wedding Anniversary the kids presented them with a trip to Switzerland. The Friedrichs so enjoyed seeing their families again after 30 years that they followed up by visiting another seven more times over the next 30 years, keeping the family ties strong.

The three Friedrich sisters recalled that at the end of a family celebration, their father once said that he came to this country with little money in his pocket and that some might say that he still had little money in his pocket, but he felt rich in so many more important ways.

The Friedrich's youngest sister, Claire lives in Angels Camp and is active in the San Joaquin Ripon Swiss Club. The other three sisters may join our club once they are retired and have the time. **+**

Annual General Meeting:

February 6
Noon - 4 PM
Noon - 1 PM Social Hour
Pay Dues
1-2:30 PM - Meeting
Elections & Member Input
2:30 - 3:30 PM
Luncheon Social

Happy New Year



Grüezi mitenand!

Our club had a very productive and enjoyable 2015!
Thank you all for your active participation! We had loads of volunteers and the events were well attended! SHV welcomed eight wonderful new members, although sadly, had to say goodbye to some dear old friends whom we will certainly miss.
Merci vilmal.

General Meeting Discussions:

Nelson Grove in Woodland is not available this year for our Annual Picnic. We have yet to decide where and when to hold the picnic. We hope you come and help us decide. We will also discuss the possibility of hosting a Northern California Schwingfest each year., along with other items on the agenda.
We need your input!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Peter Duringer
- Debbie Durringer
- Joe Ming
- Monika O'Brien
- Reese Peter
- Darlene Rauschnot
- Sarah Tenthorey
- Nicolas Henri Tenthorey
- Meryssa Tenthorey

IN MEMORIAM

- Angie Alexander
- Charlotte Coldwell
- Leonie Deiter
- Elena Fippin-Scheiber
- Margit Grogan
- Margaret Miller
- Heidi Schlatter
- Marie Schmidt
- Alex Votteri
- Heidi Wackerli

DUES NOTICES

Dues Notices have been sent via Email. Those without Emails have received notice by mail.

1) Benefit Members:
\$24 Plus \$4 Assessment
Total \$28 Due

2) Honorary Members:
\$4 Assessment Total Due

3) Social Members:
\$24 Total Due

Please make checks out to SHV and pay at the General Meeting, February 6, Sacramento Helvetia Verein from Noon-4 PM or mail to
Gabi Wackerli
4367 Oxwood Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

by Joseph Servocky

Are you an active member
the kind that would be missed
or are you just contented
that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock
or do you stay at home
and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
to help the work along
are you satisfied to be
the kind that "JUST BELONG"?

Do you ever go and visit
a member that is sick
or leave the work to a few
and talk about the clique?

Think this over, member,
you know right from wrong
are you an active member
or do you "JUST BELONG"?



The SHV Membership Path

Are traditions archaic and no longer relevant?
Are you part of a straight line that's come to the end?

No! You joined a club exploring your cultural heritage
and your path is an ever growing circle.

You are connecting and allowing yourself to identify
with others of similar backgrounds.

You are enjoying a sense of unity and belonging.
The Sacramento Helvetia Verein helps you to better understand
previous generations and the history of where you come from.

You benefit from the sense of personal identity and
communal support.

By learning, understanding and reaching out
you will find that you value your heritage and
you will start to care and enjoy the sense of being Swiss
even more than you realized.

As a SHV Member you learn;
and the more you learn, the more you care.
The more you care the more you want to learn....
and so your circle grows and your path is never ending.

Upcoming Events ~ Mark Your Calendars

www.sacramentoswiss.com

- 1) Saturday, February 6th Noon - 4 PM Annual General Meeting, Elections, Luncheon
- 2) Brunch & Jass at Ettores 11:30 AM on the following Saturdays: March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17 & November 19.
Contact is Gabi Wackerli if you'd like to call and reserve a spot or if you have questions. 919-364-5610



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