

Annual Report of the Committee for the Year 2013

As we have done the last few years, we started our year in an 'at home' atmosphere at the Swiss Chalet in Kitano-cho. On March 8th, approximately 20 members gathered for the the official business, and a fondue dinner. Consul Jürg Metz joined us as the Embassy representative accompanied by his wife.

Our spring barbecue was held on May 18th in Okuike as usual, and was attended by about 65 people; members, along with friends and children. The menu consisted of grilled sausages, meats, salads, and other dishes, with wine, and beer, and followed by a buffet of cakes and desserts. This familiar setting nevertheless became the backdrop for a very special event. It was with great pleasure that we were able to give special recognition—in the form of an honorary membership—to Andy Müller. Andy was recognised for having been a member since the society's founding in 1979, a past president, and an all-around energetic, engaged, and very generous participant to all of our society's events. Andy thus became the third honorary member of our society, and the first to be nominated in 30 years.

This year again we were able to celebrate our Swiss National day in the garden of the Kobe Club in Kitano-cho in Kobe. The date was of course the 1st of August. It was a beautiful, very hot day. We were joined on this summer evening by about 70 guests, including students from the Swiss-Japan culture exchange. General Consul Jürg Metz again made the trip from the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo, which kindly sponsored the wine for the aperitif for this event. We were able to enjoy a fine buffet dinner prepared by the Kobe Club. The evening culminated in a tombola, which included many generous prizes, including two flight tickets to Europe sponsored by Lufthansa. A very sincere thanks to all the sponsors who made this event such a success.

Our fall barbecue took place on October 12th, once again in Okuike. Our good luck with the weather continued to hold. Approximately 60 members, guests and children gathered and enjoyed meat, sausages, bread and salads, followed by desserts. Our warmest thanks to all the members who time and again provide us with their delicious contributions.

Our final event of the year was the Raclette evening with a visit from Santa Claus on December 1st. The Kobe Regatta and Athletic Club (KRAC) provided a festive backdrop, that allowed us to welcome almost 120 people, with over 40 children. After everyone had settled around the tables, Santa arrived. He read from his golden book and gave each child a Grittibänz and a bag filled with treats. The bags for this event were once again sponsored by Panalpina, which kindly shipped them from Switzerland. With this 'official' part completed it was time for the cheese! A good raclette takes time, but things nevertheless moved along quite smoothly thanks to a gas-powered raclette grill. A sincere thank you to Andy Müller for lending us his machine, and also providing a generous donation of cheese. After the dessert buffet, and coffee it was time to wrap up another successful year for our society.

We would like to express our most sincere thanks to all our members and guests for their active participation. We are very happy to have such good attendance at all our events, and we look forward to welcoming many of you again in 2014.

Swiss Society of the Kansai

The committee