



Annual Report of the SSOK for the year 2017

This year we again had our standard series of events: AGM, BBQ in Spring and Autumn, Swiss National Day Celebration, and finally our Raclette Party with the visit from Santa Claus. In addition the committee contributed to Oyamazaki town's Swiss fair, as well as helping to organize a Swiss Folk music event. Attendance at our events was generally good, and we continue to receive genuinely positive and supportive feedback from our members and guests, for which we are truly grateful. Below some more details to each event.

March 4: Annual General Meeting

Location was at the Restaurant RValentino in Sannomiya, Kobe, as already in the previous year. The official meeting was attended by 8 members which was just enough for a quorum. All proposed agenda items were approved. The business meeting was followed by an Italian dinner party. More guests joined to bring the total to more than 20. Dinner included pizza, pasta, wine and of course dessert. Delicious!

May 20: Spring BBQ

With Okuike still unavailable we returned—after many years absence—to the “Day Camping Site” in Shiawase-no-Mura. The site is well equipped with roofed areas and grills, and the weather was good. We welcomed a crowd of 52 altogether, including children. Our members and guests continue to support our BBQ events by contributing salads and cakes to complement the sausages and wine. Everyone enjoyed themselves greatly. A big, big thank you to all who chipped in.

August 1: Swiss National Day Celebration

Location was the garden of the Kobe Club, in Kitano, as is tradition. Atmosphere and weather were fantastic. Mr. Jakob Fehr, Deputy Head of the Chancery at the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo, provided the official representation, bringing the greetings from the Embassy. There to observe and honor the occasion were: 25 members, 27 guests, 2 students and 7 children. The Swiss Embassy kindly donated some fine Swiss wine for the Aperero, which was followed by dinner, catered by the Club, and included many Swiss favorites. Finally to wrap things up a well-stocked Tombola, made sure everyone went home a winner. A special thank you to our wonderful sponsors who made this possible.

September 24: Swiss Fair, Oyamazaki

Not part of our event calendar, but rather an event organized by the town of Oyamazaki. The committee exercised their “Raclette muscle” by operating a stand selling Raclette and Wine, and we even made a little profit. Long lines formed to get a taste of Switzerland. Also on site was Mr. Jean-Francois Paroz, Swiss Ambassador to Japan.

September 26: Swiss Folk Music at the Kobe Club

Our Society teamed up with the Kobe Club and the Swissôtel Nankai Osaka to organize this event, on the occasion of Alphorn player extraordinaire Lisa Stoll's visit to Japan. She was joined on stage by members of the AMSLE Quantett: Keiko Ito (yodel), Shunsuke Ohkuchi (accordion and piano) and Saeko Kurokawa (clarinet). Long time friend of Japan and Swiss Folk music aficionado, Gushti Sidler, acted as MC.

October 21: Autumn BBQ

Finally a return to Okuike, just in time to catch an approaching super typhoon. Despite a phenomenal downpour, all of the registered 48 participants showed up to enjoy the sausages, salads, cakes, beer and wine, and especially the jovial atmosphere. Great job everyone!

December 10: Raclette and Santa Claus Party

For our last of the year we gathered on a Sunday afternoon at Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club in Sannomiya. The event was well attended: 23 members, 32 guests, 7 students and 21 children, for a total of 83. Santa made his customary appearance and read from his “golden book”, much to the delight of the little ones who received a “Grüttibänz” and a bag of treats for their efforts. Then everyone dug into the Raclette.

This event too was made possible thanks to generous donations from a number of people: long-time member Andy Müller, who provided the Raclette machine as well as cheese, Lindt & Sprüngli and Nestlé contributed chocolate, and committee member Herbert Bucher kindly brought us sweets from Switzerland for Santa Claus bags.

Thank you, everyone, and hope to see you again in 2018!