

Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

SCHOLARSHIPS | SOCIAL SERVICES | EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT: The objectives of the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York are charitable, and focus on offering pecuniary and other relief to qualified persons, including but not limited to natives of Switzerland or of Swiss origin, who are in the United States and in need of assistance. (Restated Certificate of Incorporation, 1971)

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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2015 COMMITTEES

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SOCIAL SERVICES:

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2015 STAFF

Christine Hubacher
Executive Director

Elise Feuerstein Karras
Social Worker

Mary Jo Motyka
Social Worker

Tina Ross-Rudolf
Office Staff

Anja Mosimann
Office Staff

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS:

Loeb & Troper LLP
655 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(170th Annual Meeting, April 20, 2016)

A Quick History of our Commitment

It was 170 years ago, in January 1846, that the Swiss Benevolent Society submitted its first “Constitution” to New York State. It was accepted three months later in April. There were 96 members who collected \$717.25 which was sufficient to meet the various needs back then.

However, the roots of the SBS date back even further to 1832, when the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York started collecting membership dues to support the needy immigrants arriving in substantial numbers. The early records were destroyed in the great fire of 1845, so we do not have many details from those early years.

The petition to support pensioners was sent to Bern in 1849, and it took two years until 1851 for it to be agreed upon. This broadened the organization’s activities beyond immigrants.

The location at 108 Second Avenue provided facilities for relief seekers as well as a permanent Home for the Aged. It was around this time that the Ladies’ Committee was established to supervise the household aspects of the home. Also, the “Bureau of Charity” was established and began operating.

Two lots at 67th Street were purchased in 1904 and a building was constructed, in the words of its Swiss architect John Scharsmith, “to evoke memories of one of the finest historic buildings of Switzerland, the Town Hall of Basel”. It had 44 occupants in 1921.

The year 1923 brought a big change to the SBS when a hostelry and 7 acres of land were purchased in Mount Kisco and the Home for the Aged was moved out of New York City. The building at 67th Street became a residence for 56 women with a matron in charge. The weekly charge was between \$9 and \$14.

It was also in the 1920’-s when the first trained and experienced social worker, Elisabeth Rosenthaler was hired. She would remain with the SBS more than 25 years.

The Great Depression saw the height of activity of the “Bureau of Charity”, with 654 cases. It was located at 217 Seventh Avenue until 1950, when it was moved to the Town House at 67th Street.

The Depression created financial pressure for the Swiss Home for the Aged and the residents became involved in chores such as working in the chicken coop, and tilling the vegetable garden and the orchard. All the produce not needed was sold and turned a profit of \$500. During the winter, - the men produced brooms and did carpentry work, while the women did knitting and needlepoint.

The Swiss Children’s Camp was started in the early 1930’-s and lasted until 1948.

The 1950’-s brought financial distress due to building projects and post-war inflation. It was then that the Women’s Division was established. It was focused on fundraising work until the 1970’-s.

New York State regulations brought changes to the Swiss Home for the Aged and it was classified as a Health- Related Facility in 1971. This led to an increasingly larger number of non-Swiss residents and led to the need for a larger staff.

In 1976, the SBS received a grant from Andrew Pellegrini for scholarships. This broadened the organization’s activities even further and deepened its commitment to the community.

The status of the Swiss Home for the Aged changed again in the early 1980’-s due to regulations, and it became a Skilled Nursing Facility. Substantial changes would have been necessary to bring it up to the needed standards and ultimately the decision was made to close it in 1988.

Similarly, in 1982 the Town House’s tax exempt status meant that working women were no longer to live there and full time students became residents until 1991 when it was sold due to low occupancy and high operating costs.

Sonja Streuli Maguire offered a grant on the SBS that would become the basis for the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Award, which became part of its scholarship activities.

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Philadelphia started its participation in our scholarship programs which has allowed us to expand their reach to Pennsylvania and Delaware.

We are very pleased about all the good work we have been able to do over the last 170+ years, and we look forward to continuing our current activities in the areas of scholarships, social services and events for our members. We are also actively exploring more ways to assist the community. However, we depend on support for all these activities and are actively reaching out to raise funds. If you have thoughts or ideas regarding this, please contact me, Christine Hubacher, or any member of our Board of Directors.

Markus Bruderer, *President*



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

As Executive Director of the SBS, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the activities and services provided by the SBS during the year 2015.

In 2015, the Social Services Program continued to expand its roster of community building activities. We were proud to offer both new and traditional events that captured the interest of many of our active members, and also introduced us to new people in the Swiss community who then decided to join the SBS. Our Annual Spring Outing to Oheka Castle and Holiday Lunch Party in December were particularly successful.

Our social workers continued their dedicated work with longtime clients (with the oldest 101 years old), those who are home bound, and those with no-next-of kin to help with the challenges of aging. In 2015, the social services team also offered, assistance during acute situations on several occasions.


The Scholarship Program remains an integral part of the SBS. Our 2015 scholarship recipients continue to be successful in their studies and careers. The SBS appreciates and thanks all former scholarship recipients who gave back in 2015, - to support the next generation of students.

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new website, which is more user-friendly and enhances our presentation of a more modern image to the public. Our website is still a work in progress, and the next step is to add a membership portal starting in 2017.

If you would like to receive email updates regarding our social service or scholarship activities, volunteer opportunities, or are in need of general information regarding "all things Swiss," please indicate your need on the enclosed contribution form or call us during business hours. We will always do our best to find answers or direct you to the appropriate resources.

I would like to thank our dedicated staff, our social workers, The Consulate General of Switzerland and the many volunteers for their support and the excellent work they have done to support SBS's important work in 2015.

Sincerely yours,



Christine Hubacher, *Executive Director*

OUR ACTIVITIES: SUPPORTING THE SWISS COMMUNITY

170TH ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 20, 2016

The SBS Annual Meeting was held at Vanderbilt Suites in New York. These are the reports presented by the Board of Directors. The meeting minutes can be requested from our office.

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Silvia Hafliker, *Chair*

As the Swiss Benevolent Society approaches its 170th year of incorporation, we reflect on our continuing commitment to serve the Swiss community. Although the times have changed, we remain dedicated to the traditional core values with which we began. We continue, like always, to support our members in the day-to-day life challenges. We serve our clients with respect and knowledge, and provide guidance on both a practical and personal level.

We have had a banner year in terms of organizing events and activities for our members in 2015. On any given month, our members can choose from a list of several interesting and informative events. The growth in our small group activities has generated unanticipated positive results. With increased contact in smaller activity groups, many of our participants have been able to develop close individual friendships. This is most likely due to the smaller and more intimate group size, shared cultural interests, and the opportunity for discussion and common ground not always found at the larger Kaffeeklatsch (KK) meeting. We know that some of these members are now meeting



on their own, extending their friendships even beyond the initial SBS contacts. When new people participate in an activity, they not only get to meet other members, but they begin to develop a relationship with a social worker and the SBS as a whole. If later, they need to call on us for help, they can reach out with a high degree of comfort and trust.

Our regional Kks continue to bring in new members on a regular basis and foster closer connections to the SBS. Our Kks in New Jersey, Long Island, and Staten Island are hubs of budding friendships, which continue even beyond the event itself. Many people who did not know each other before are now in regular contact. There is always room for new people to join these monthly regional Kks.

We continue to be focus to those who are struggling with increased frailty, reduced mobility and general weakness. We are keenly aware that diminishing physical capacity can lead to increased social isolation. Since we have known many of our clients for several years, we are in a unique position to identify the precursors that can lead to more serious issues. We are proactive in identifying the following:

- Home safety issues that can cause falls
- Cognitive changes
- Medical concerns
- Change in social relationships

Many of our clients are approaching or are beyond 90 years old. The difficulties experienced by this age group have allowed the social workers many opportunities to use their clinical practice skills. With increasing infirmity comes isolation and possible loneliness, especially for those with no next-of-kin. We continue to work with this group to bring strong and consistent support and to provide increased connections with services, as needed.

In 2015, our activities included the monthly KK in New York City, where the attendance averages 25 to 30 people, regional Kks in New Jersey, Long Island, and Staten Island, periodic museum and concert trips, the "Doctor is In", hosted by Dr. Silvia Hafliker, Musical Matinees with music and food from different countries, and a walking group.



For the second year in a row, we hosted a Swiss-themed lunch at the Mont Blanc restaurant in August to celebrate Swiss National Day. Again, we filled the entire restaurant and everyone enjoyed the fine fare and mutual conversation.

Our volunteers continue to play an essential role, and are part of the very fabric of our society. They bring companionship to some of our older members and visit the homebound. They also support many SBS projects and enhance our social activities. We were pleased to honor and celebrate our volunteers at the annual Volunteer Luncheon in November 2015. Some of our volunteers also participated in the Holiday Volunteer Program, bringing cheer and gift bags to many of

our homebound seniors. Ambassador André Schaller also visited two clients at their places of residence.

For our annual June outing in 2015, we traveled to the Oheka Castle on Long Island, where we were given a private tour and lunch. Beforehand, we made a stop at the picturesque town of Cold Spring Harbor.



The Holiday Party in 2015 was immensely popular and was attended by 150 people. The entertainment again was stellar: everyone enjoyed the professional young acapella singers. There was exceptional food and very generous gift bags. The Ambassador, his wife, and other consulate officials also attended.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruedi Greiner, *Chair*

As I have in years prior, I would like to start my report by thanking all of you for your continued support of the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York and - of course - the Scholarship Committee. Your generous donations have allowed us to support hundreds of students over the years. A good number of these students have become members themselves, and are now also active supports of our programs.

A special thank you goes out to Dr. Medicus, who has been a great friend and supporter of the Swiss Benevolent Society, and more specifically, of our Scholarship activities. We very much value his ongoing support.

As this committee report also gets published in our annual report. I want to make sure I use it to recognize the scholarship committee and its work to all the members that cannot be here today and potential new members or future scholarship recipients.

In case you hear of young adults of Swiss descent about to enter college life, please make sure to let them know about the scholarship funds potentially available to them.

The following Scholarship programs exist today:

PELLEGRINI SCHOLARSHIPS

Pellegrini scholarships are partial tuition grants, awarded at the post-secondary school level for vocational or undergraduate and graduate academic studies at an accredited school. They are based on need and merit (Grade Point Average 3.0 min.) or merit alone. Pellegrini Scholarships do not renew automatically, but the student may re-apply each year.

Pellegrini scholarships are paid directly to the recipients' school in two installments, one at the beginning of the Fall semester, and the other at the start of the Spring semester.

SONIA S. MAGUIRE OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT (OSA) AWARDS

The award may be granted to a college senior or graduate student who demonstrates sustained academic excellence (cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.8) in a demanding study program. It is a one-time only award, and the full amount is paid to the recipient's school at the start of the Fall semester.

MEDICUS STUDENT EXCHANGE

This program provides partial financial support for U.S. residents at the junior, senior or graduate college level who have been accepted to study at a Swiss University or Federal Institute of Technology.

The full amount of these grants is paid directly to the students upon proof of registration. They are non-renewable.

Swiss students who wish to study in the United States may apply for this grant by contacting swissuniversities, Effingerstrasse 15, Postfach, 3001 Bern, Switzerland.

Zimmermann Scholarships will be awarded to the graduate students with the highest cumulative Grade Point Average (3.8 min.). They are non-renewable and are paid directly to the school at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters.

Let us now look at the different grants that the scholarship committee offered during our meeting last year, together with some additional details:

- Total amounts granted per program:

Pellegrini (58 students)	USD 172,000
OSA (1 students)	USD 8,000
Medicus (5 students)	USD 50,000
Zimmermann (1 student)	USD 10,000
Total for all grants:	USD 240,000

- There were adjustments made due to lower tuitions, students going abroad, part-time studies or for the simple reason that we did not hear back from students.

Earlier in the year, we started to have conversations with swiss universities with regards to the grant making process for the Medicus scholarship. It is too early to report on what the final outcome will be, but we are looking into streamlining the process and possibly mirroring it for the Fulbright Scholarship process.

The management and handling of the application process are in the trusted hands of our Executive Director, Christine Hubacher. She was being supported by Tina Ross, Anja Mosimann, and volunteer Christa Burkhardt. On behalf of the Scholarship Committee I would like to extend a big "Thank you" to them, since the process of getting everything ready for the scholarship meeting takes a lot of time. I am also very appreciative of all the hours my fellow committee members have put in preparing for our meeting.

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Philadelphia under the stewardship of its President, Dolf Herger, supports our scholarship financially, and Dolf also sits on the committee. We are very thankful for their continued support. I would like to close my remarks by thanking you, the members of the SBS, for your continued support of our organization. Please talk to any of us on the board or our Executive Director if you would like to learn more about our scholarship activities and how you can support us even more.

DEVELOPMENT & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Urs Reinhart, *Chair*

We are pleased to report that the total membership-related revenue for the 2015 fiscal year increased 115% to \$646,194 (up \$346,572 from 2014: \$ 299,622.16). Contributions totaled \$332,260 (2014: \$222,870.00) thanks largely to the contribution of Dr. Medicus. Legacies and membership also saw an increase and totaled \$247,139.15 (\$5,511.16) and \$59,221.00 (\$ 58,977.00), respectively. In-kind donations totaled \$4,098.25, and matching gifts \$3,475.00 (2014: \$2,520.00).

We are confident that this year will bring many positive changes to the Swiss Benevolent Society of NY. We are working towards increasing membership and donations by attracting individuals through social media and other online efforts. Combined with the efforts of the newly created Fundraising committee, we will also begin to raise much needed community awareness, corporate sponsorships, and in turn funds which are crucial to our sustainability.

The year 2015 saw growth in many program areas. One of these involved the various outings and member activities led by our dedicated staff and social services team. We have expanded our Kaffeeklatsch to the outer New York City boroughs and to New Jersey. We are also hosting popular Monthly Movie Afternoons at the office, and are developing many other programs.

As you know, the Swiss Benevolent Society no longer organizes the SND. Nevertheless we participated with a booth at the 2015 Swiss National Day in Long Island City at the Studio Square Beergarten. We organized a competition and drew hundreds of people to our table. We distributed 300 Barry Foundation keychains and 2Kg of "Sugus", the popular Swiss candy. Three hundred and nine people participated in the Lucky Draw for which we had three prizes. We collected hundreds of emails to add to future contact lists. Many members and scholarship recipients approached us and shared stories on how the SBS positively

affected their lives. Other people we spoke to were unaware of our social services and scholarship programs and were very interested in learning more.

I would like to thank our event sponsors (Ustinet, The Style Cube and the Barry Foundation du Grand St. Bernard for their prizes and donations, our volunteers, Silvia Hafziger, Annelies Belanger, Nina Froiep, Ralf Kubli and Anita Ulrich as well as the SBS staff.

Many of you know that we have maintained a plot at the Oakwood cemetery in Mount Kisco, New York since the early 1900'-s. Many members are unaware that we have final resting places available. We are looking into enhancing this plot and still being able to provide these at very reasonable and modest fees to our members. If any members are interested, please contact our staff.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Lorenz Lobsiger, *Chair*

The year 2015 was a challenging year for investors. Concerns about a global economic slowdown mainly caused by China, as well as the uncertainty over the timing and path of interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve, caused US equity markets to close the year flat or even negative. International equities fared worse in US dollar terms and hedge fund returns were also below expectations. Even in the fixed income space, US corporates and global bonds showed negative performance. Small positive returns in other areas of the bond market were not enough to offset the losses.

The market volatility carried over into 2016 with risk assets selling off sharply until mid-' February amidst global recession fears. It appeared that there was a disconnection between market price action and economic fundamentals.

Over the last two months however, sentiment has turned and we have seen a sharp rally in financial markets due to encouraging US economic data, signs that China might have turned the corner, further easing from the European Central bank, rebounding oil prices and a somewhat weaker US dollar.

On a positive note, our portfolio has by now fully recovered the losses incurred since the beginning of the year. We remain constructive and maintain a reserve of risk assets in our globally diversified portfolio.

The value of the investments as of December 31, 2015 stood at \$7,228,410.85 and the allocations were as follows:

	2014		2015	
Equities <small>(domestic & international via ETFs)</small>	\$ 3,615,168	46%	\$ 3,469,460	48%
Fixed Income <small>(bond mutual funds & ETFs)</small>	\$ 2,203,661	28%	\$ 2,100,785	28%
Alternative Investments <small>(funds of hedge funds REIT and Gold ETFs)</small>	\$ 1,748,705	22%	\$ 1,637,552	22%
Cash & Cash Equivalents <small>(cash, money market funds)</small>	\$ 288,707	4%	\$ 20,613	0%
TOTAL	\$ 7,939,543		\$ 7,228,410	

The investment portfolio had a negative return of - 3.06% for the year. We are maintaining our asset allocations in line with the Statement of Investment Policy approved by the Board of Directors.

In 2015, the Investment Committee maintained continuous active contact with our advisor Morgan Stanley Wealth Management and between the committee members by holding regular meetings with the Board of Directors.

The current asset allocation and long-term investment horizon is based on the mission of the Swiss Benevolent Society and helps us manage our risk in a prudent and appropriate manner.

There were withdrawals from the investment portfolio totaling \$700,000, and contributions in the amount of \$300,000.

The Investment Committee continues to closely monitor and evaluate the asset allocation as well as the investments. Changes are being discussed and executed if necessary. The portfolio remains well diversified and all investment activities are in compliance with the Statement of Investment Policy approved by the Board of Directors.

OUR FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

The table below shows our financial highlights over the most recent five – year period, excluding amounts related to the Swiss National Day event, which we organized until 2013, but is no longer included

in our core activities. Due to this exclusion, some amounts may not correspond to actual results published in prior annual reports.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Net Assets	7,308,501	7,723,844	7,917,524	7,795,447	7,480,954
Investment Portfolio	7,234,959	7,748,947	7,927,917	7,803,837	7,207,867
Restricted Assets	1,407,102	1,340,891	1,275,556	1,387,159	1,559,795
Revenues	(61,862)	1,064,971	908,425	581,089	463,537
Investment Income	(263,864)	903,818	711,382	270,275	(196,761)
Donations	155,532	120,261	261,313	289,776	642,050
Scholarships Awards	262,730	179,666	251,748	198,572	253,175
Expenses	424,712	481,953	483,911	501,947	520,757

Comments about our 2015 finances:

- **Net Assets** represent our Assets (almost exclusively consisting of the investment portfolio), minus accounts payable, which are scholarships awarded, but not yet paid. Net Assets decreased from \$7,795,447 (December 31, 2014) to \$7,480,954 (December 31, 2015).
- **Restricted Assets** have a use limited to specific purposes, and are mainly related to the Dr. Medicus Scholarship Fund, which can only be used for Medicus scholarship awards.
- **Revenues** are largely dependent on the performance of the investment portfolio and decreased from \$581,089 (2014) to \$463,537 (2015), mainly due to the investment loss.
- The negative performance of the investments was affected by financial markets, as detailed in the Investment Committee report.
- **Donations**, excluding in-kind, increased from \$289,776 (2014) to \$642,050 (2015), thanks to the \$300,000 addition to the Dr. Medicus scholarship program and \$247,140 in legacies. A \$200,000 contribution by Dr. Medicus is also included in 2014 Donations.
- **Scholarship Awards** increased from \$198,572 (2014) to \$253,175 (2015), with the increase related to the Dr. Medicus Scholarship, as outlined in the separate report.

- **Expenses** increased from \$501,947 (2014) to \$520,757 (2015), mainly due to payroll and rent increases, as well as expanded social services.
- The net result is a net loss of \$314,493 (2015), compared to the \$129,214 net loss from the prior year. This drove the reduction in Net Assets.

A detailed audited financial report is available on our website.

Looking back over the past five years, our financial situation has weakened. As returns on the investment portfolio have fluctuated depending on financial markets, Net Assets have decreased from \$8,037,294 (December 31, 2010) to \$7,480,954 (December 31, 2015), excluding Swiss National Day.

The Board of Directors has taken note of the excessive reliance on investment income to fund our operations and has established the Fundraising Committee to consider various initiatives that can help increase revenues from Donations.

Not only we want to limit our dependence on financial markets, but we also would like to have more funds to expand social services and to increase scholarship awards.

Alberto Zonca, *Treasurer*

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

(With summary for 2014)

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED			PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	
		PELLEGRINI	MEDICUS	TOTAL	MEDICUS	2015	2014
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT							
Contributions	58,060	36,850		36,850	300,000	394,910	284,265
In-kind contributions	4,098					4,098	9,784
Legacies	247,140					247,140	5,511
Investment income (loss)	(146,106)	(487)	(50,168)	(50,655)		(196,761)	270,275
Miscellaneous	14,150					14,150	11,254
Net assets released from restrictions	86,363	36,363	(50,000)	(86,363)			
Total revenues, gains and other support	263,705	-	(100,168)	(100,168)	300,000	463,537	581,089
EXPENSES (see table below)							
Program services							
Social services	224,588					224,588	231,788
Scholarships	253,175					253,175	198,572
Total program services	477,763					477,763	430,360
Supporting services							
Management and general	297,314					297,314	276,965
Fund raising	2,953					2,953	2,978
Total supporting services	300,267					300,267	279,943
Total expenses	778,030					778,030	710,303
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(514,325)	-	(100,168)	(100,168)	300,000	(314,493)	(129,214)
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,435,484		159,963	159,963	1,200,000	7,795,447	7,924,661
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	5,921,159	-	59,795	59,795	1,500,000	7,480,954	7,795,447

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended December 31, 2013)

	PROGRAM SERVICES			SUPPORTING SERVICES		TOTAL	
	SOCIAL SERVICES	SCHOLARSHIPS	TOTAL	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	FUND RAISING	2015	2014
Salaries and payroll taxes	119,073	22,728	141,801	166,578		308,379	281,503
Employee benefits	16,527	3,155	19,682	23,121		42,803	41,881
Scholarships		216,940	216,940			216,940	160,576
Assistance and client activities							
(incl. in-kind of \$4,098)	22,361		22,361			22,361	21,505
Rent	31,523	6,017	37,540	44,100		81,640	69,450
Supplies and equipment	4,557	870	5,427	6,376		11,803	12,740
Professional fees	3,300		3,300	28,101		31,401	33,388
Board expenses				4,215		4,215	4,965
Insurance	5,591	1,067	6,658	7,821		14,479	14,522
Telephone	3,085	589	3,674	4,315		7,989	8,197
Postage and messengers	1,062	205	1,267	1,233	277	2,777	6,846
Printing	3,896	744	4,640	4,442	1,009	10,091	10,889
Travel and entertainment	8,613		8,613			8,613	9,030
Depreciation				710		710	710
Investment fees				35,603		35,603	38,733
Miscellaneous	5,000	860	5,860	6,302	1,667	13,829	34,101
Total expenses	224,588	253,175	477,763	332,917	2,953	813,633	749,036
Less investment expenses deducted directly from revenues on the statement of activities				(35,603)		(35,603)	(38,733)
Total expenses	224,588	253,175	477,763	297,314	2,953	778,030	710,303

Complete financial statements and auditor's report can be requested from our office.

COMMEMORATIVE DONATIONS:

In memory of Hans Schaeer: Baere Club New York	In memory of Hans Schaeer: Baere Club New York	In memory of Mafalda "Mimi" Rossel: Suzanne Rossel	In memory of Peter Jordi: John Bucher	In memory of Ruth Athasis: Arkorn Athasis
In memory of Annatina Graf: Serafina Reichmuth	In memory of Helen Trochster: Michael & Margaret Benedetto	In memory of Marie Frances Varonier: The Long Island Swiss Club	In memory of Peter Jordi: Robert Lacobelli	In memory of Ruth Lustenberger: Ruth Silver
In memory of Benjamin O. Villa: Anita Behnken	In memory of Howard Cunningham: Yolanda Cunningham	In memory of Mathilde Christen: Irma Christen	In memory of Peter Jordi: Anthony Simpson	In memory of Ursula Zimmermann: Erwin Zimmermann
In memory of Bernard Berthoud: Josette Berthoud	In memory of James M. Ruedin, Sr.: Doris Ruedin	In memory of Max Meister: William & Marlene Laderach	In memory of Peter Jordi: Joseph & Gemma Huber	In memory of Verena Henry Kemp: Louis Franklin Kemp
In memory of Dr. Joseph Otto Loretan: Deanne Loretan	In memory of Jane L. Witzig: Fred Witzig	In memory of Max Meister & Fritz Eichenberger: Felix Mick	In memory of Peter Jordi: Hans Egloff	In memory of Werner A. Kobelt: Wade & Kirstin Tettenburn
In memory of Dr. Willi Kreis: Emily L. Kreis	In memory of Jean-Paul Pillet: Jane Pillet	In memory of Miriam Gut: Nicole Gut	In memory of Peter Jordi: James Elder	In memory of Werner Kobelt: Victor Noerdlinger
In memory of Eduard R. Scherrer: Ruth E. Scherrer	In memory of Johann Borer: Jaqueline Borer	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Hans Leu-Schindler: Christine Biava	In memory of Peter Jordi: Matthew & Lyn Schuette	In memory of Werner M. Hoeltschi: Patti Hoeltschi
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There are many ways to help support the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York.

Monetary Donations

The most immediate way to give is cash – by either sending us a check or donating by credit card via our website. Cash gifts are fully deductible up to 50% of the donor's adjusted gross income. There are no membership forms to fill out; your check will serve as your application. Each donor is a member of the Society for the calendar year in which the contribution is made and will be listed in the appropriate category in our annual report.

Ask your employer about matching gifts

If your employer participates in a matching gift program, the value of your donation to the SBS will be multiplied. Please inform your employer of your gift to us. We will be happy to provide all necessary forms and information.

Appreciated Securities

The Internal Revenue Service allows you to take a tax deduction on the full fair-market value of appreciated securities you donate to charity. You must have held the securities for a minimum period of twelve months or longer. Even with a 20% tax rate, significant tax savings may be achieved, because your donation is exempt from capital gains taxes. These gifts may be deductible up to 30% of the donor's adjusted gross income.

Real Estate

Real estate, in some cases, can be given outright, and a charitable income tax deduction equal to the property's fair market value is received by the donor.

Legacies

You may wish to bequeath a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the "Swiss Benevolent Society of New York" in your Last Will and Testament, or name us as a beneficiary in your Living Trust. A legacy to the SBS may reduce your estate taxes without depleting current assets.

Life Insurance

You may have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed to protect your family. Why not consider changing the beneficiary to the "Swiss Benevolent Society of New York?"

Charitable Trusts

Different types of trusts (e.g., charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trust) may be established that meet your current needs for either ongoing income or immediate tax deductions, and which will benefit the SBS over the long run. These trusts are administered by a fiduciary and are subject to strict regulation.

TESTIMONIALS

Dear Swiss Benevolent Society of New York,

Here my delayed note to let you know how grateful I am for all the wonderful work you are doing. You are so dedicated to help the Swiss community, especially the senior citizen; it is outstanding. You make our life more interesting and fun with organized activities, you support us with information on elder care in myriad ways. You call us at home to check whether we are alright, etc. We feel pampered!

Thank you all, Thank you!

A.W.

Dear Swiss Benevolent Society of New York,

It is an honor to be awarded a Pelligrini Scholarship from the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Thank you so much for considering and choosing my application. I am now even closer to making my dreams of becoming an environmental scientist a reality. This Scholarship is even more special because of its link to my Swiss heritage which I am very proud of.

Thank you so much again!

T.B.

Dear Swiss Benevolent Society of New York,

The SBS Holiday Party was absolutely wonderful. Many, many thanks for all the thoughtful and lovely gifts and also for your generosity and kindness this past year. I am very grateful for everything. Being a member of the SBS has very much enriched my life. Thank you.

Happy Holidays!

H.B.

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