



Sacramento Helvetia Verein The Yodeler



2016 Fall/Winter

Spotlighting SHV's First Female President

Many of our SHV members remember Anita's birth; enjoyed watching her grow up; congratulated her at 16 when she became a Swiss Ladies' Society member and thanked her when she was an adult and became President of the Ladies' Club in the 1990s. It seems fitting that this young lady, who grew up before our eyes, is now the first female president of the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. Anita's two year presidential term runs January/2016 - January/2018.

Anita's parents are Alois and Mathilde Peter who emigrated from Switzerland in 1956. They left Luzern with their two little boys, Alois jr. (aged 2) and Tony

(age 3 mos) and relocated to Sacramento, California.

Immediately, Alois started working for Made-Rite Sausage Co. where many Sacramento Swiss were employed. He and his family assimilated and blended nicely within the community; joined the local Swiss Club; became

American citizens, and 5 years later, their baby girl, Anita, was born.



*The Peter Family
Alois jr. (7), Alois, Mathilde holding
baby Anita, Tony (5)
1961*

Anita's mother, Mathilde, was the president of the Sacramento Swiss Ladies' Society in the 1960s. The entire family loved the Swiss events that played a big role in their lives. Anita's father, Alois, was a Swiss wrestler and Anita affectionately remembers attending Schwingfests during her younger years. "The Schwingfests were so much fun, both in Ripon and Squaw Valley! The people, the wrestlers, the music and atmosphere were all wonderful memories," she laughed. "In the 'old' days, all the Swiss dances and events, like Fasnacht, were bigger. There were many families and the majority were 1st generation Swiss. I have so many happy and colorful memories. I wish we could capture that atmosphere again," she said. "I'd like to bring back the Fasnacht dances and I hope the club would support the event!"

Anita's family had many friends in the area that were also from Switzerland. Anita grew up with her very close



family friend Alice Hutter (Zeboski). Together they grew up in the Swiss Club. "Alice is like family to me," said Anita. "The Sacramento Helvetia Verein helped shape so many of my childhood memories and provided my family the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of friends who also had Swiss roots."

Her mother passed away, but her father, Alois, is still an active member who attends many events and monthly meetings. Her



brother Tony Peter and his wife, Petra are also members who pitch in and volunteer to help the club run smoothly.

Anita started skiing at 7 years old. Growing up, she, her brothers and many friends were avid skiers enjoying the runs at Heavenly Valley and Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Resort. She also loves skiing in Switzerland given the opportunity! Anita enjoys visiting Switzerland and her large family there as often



Mathilde, Anita, Alois jr, Alois, Tony

as possible. Switzerland's Carnival, Fasnacht, in her mother's home town of Einsiedeln, is always one of Anita's favorites. In the winter of 2005, Anita and her brothers attended her mother's family reunion (the Fuechslins) in Einsiedeln. "That was a great trip. We had fun reuniting with cousins we hadn't seen in a long time and enjoyed the Fasnacht festivities and skiing." Anita realized keeping in touch with her family in Switzerland was



*Fasnacht in
Einsiedeln, Switzerland*

too important to set aside and has tried to make a trip back every year since the reunion. Anita is proud of her dual citizenship and the fact that she's fluent in Schwiizerduetch. "My folks would speak in both Schwiizerduetch and English," she explained. "Growing up we had so many Swiss visitors that it was second nature that my brothers and I became bilingual."



Spotlight continued



Peter Family: Al, Mathilde, Aloise, Anita, Tony

Anita attended Sacramento's Kennedy High School and Sacramento State University where she met Jim Kassel. In 1983, she graduated with a BA degree in Liberal Studies and soon after received a teaching credential. She and Jim were married and in 1984 she started teaching for Sacramento Country Day School, where she still works today. Jim and Anita had their first child, Peter, in 1990. Peter is another active member of our club who now works for the US Post Office. Her second son, Joseph, was born in 1993 and is currently attending Sacramento State University as an electrical engineering student. Both sons have followed in their grandparents' and mother's footsteps, holding both US and Switzerland, dual citizenship.

Hawaii is another big draw for the Kassel family. Traveling and exploring have always been on the top of Anita's list. She is actually a travel agent too. She also enjoys music, hiking and spending time with family and friends. Her joy for life and her enthusiasm is contagious and evident while leading the Club each month. She works hard, pitches in and is encouraged by the active participation she sees. "Our events are a great way to meet fellow members. It's also wonderful when everyone helps out. Many hands make light work."

Hopp Schwiiz!!



Kassel Family: Peter, Jim, Anita and Joseph