

**Turner Hall of Monroe, Inc.
Member Organizations**

**New World Swiss Club
Monroe Swiss Singers**

**Foreign Type Cheesemakers Association
Swiss-American Gymnastics Club**
(currently inactive)



Turner Hall of Monroe

**1217 - 17th Avenue
PO Box 762
Monroe, WI 53566**

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"Where Old and New Worlds Meet"

A Brief History of the Turner Hall

The Turner Hall derives its name from the German word for *gymnast*, which is *Turner*. Although there are many German Turner Halls throughout the country, it is believed that this Turner Hall is the only one of Swiss origin left in the United States. The building itself, a Swiss Emmental-style chalet, is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Its authentically Old World interior houses many irreplaceable paintings and Swiss artifacts as well as exemplary examples of *Bauernmalerei* (Swiss folk painting.)

The first *Turnhalle* was built by Swiss immigrants in 1868 on approximately the same site as the current Turner Hall. Originally a place for the Swiss to practice gymnastics and preserve their Swiss traditions, it also soon became a center of community activities and was often referred to as the "opera house".

On Labor Day of 1936, the structure burned to the ground. Almost immediately, plans were begun to build the present Turner Hall, which was completed and dedicated in 1938.

The Turner Hall of Monroe, a non-profit 501(c)(3) entity, continues to be a vital place for nurturing Swiss heritage through its many Swiss-related events and activities, as well as a venue for concerts, dances, receptions, and a host of other community events. Long known for being a place *Where Old and New Worlds Meet*, its rich history also includes personal appearances by William Jennings Bryant, John F. Kennedy, and big band names such as Wayne King, Tiny Hill and Lawrence Welk.

In recent years, the entire building...the authentic Old World Ratskeller, the beautiful upstairs ballroom and stage, the gym, and bowling lanes...has undergone loving renovation. Turner Hall's volunteers and sponsors work tirelessly to support and maintain this landmark gem and treasure of Swiss heritage.

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can help
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Turner Hall
of Monroe



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Swiss Heritage & Community Center
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