

REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Dear Readers,

Spring has already sprung here in the Southwest at this writing in late February, and by the time this issue reaches you, I hope you and yours are safe and healthy and you'll also be able to enjoy this beautiful time of the year.

The next Swiss Review will be published on May 26 online and mailed from Switzerland on June 3.

The deadline for submissions for the Regional USA Edition is April 20.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR



Wisconsin: Swiss Center of North America

The Swiss Center of North America is in discussions with the Landesmuseum Zurich to exhibit its large and comprehensive collection of stereoviews of Switzerland by American publishers dating from the late 1800's to early 1900's.

The Swiss Center's unique collection consists of approximately 2,100 stereographs. Of that total there are 1,115 unique stereographs. When seen through a special viewfinder, these photo cards become 3D and come alive.

The Swiss Center's media developer, Jarryd Lowder, of Glarus, Switzerland, is collaborating with the Landesmuseum Zurich on this project which is expected to happen the summer of 2021.

Dr. Donald G. Tritt of Ohio spent more than 60 years searching antique stores and antiquity bookshops to fulfill his passion of collecting the essence of Switzerland either in the United States or in Europe. Dr.Tritt donated his life's passion including the sizable stereograph collection to the Swiss Center in 2012. The Swiss Center's library and archive is named after Dr.Tritt because his donations are the cornerstone of the organization's collections.

Nearly all of the photographs are in perfect or excellent condition. The vast majority of images were produced by American companies, although there are also some produced by British, French, Swiss and German companies. The stereographs were taken primarily in the following Kantons: Bern, Luzern, Graubünden, Valais, Genève, Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Zürich, Ticino, Fribourg, and Schwyz.

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Call for Heirs

The Court of Locarno-Campagna (Swiss authority) is looking for information about the following persons:

Gaspare BRAVO, and Martino BRAVO, born in 1837, son of Gaspare Bravo, emigrated first to the USA, then to Australia and after to the USA (California).

Anyone who can give information regarding these persons is requested to contact the Court of Locarno-Campagna by January 31, 2021.

Court of Locarno-Campagna, Via della Pace 6, 6600 Locarno (Switzerland)

Boston, Massachusetts: Swiss Soiree on April 18, 2020, 6-9 pm
Since 2016, the Swiss Soiree has gathered Swiss and Swiss-interested individuals, community organizations and businesses around the Boston and surrounding New England area at the Hampshire House on Beacon Hill for an evening of fun, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, Roesti station and Raclette table prepared by Swiss Corporate Executive Chef Markus Ripperger, live music, magic, Swiss/American trivia, and prizes.

For more information and to purchase tickets for \$55.00, go to <https://hampshirehouse1.ticketleap.com/swiss-soiree-2020/details>.

Minnesota: Swiss Rifle Club Minneapolis

In the late 1980s, a group of Swiss expats living in Minnesota decided to form a shooting club to maintain a tradition from the homeland. They made a deal with a local club willing to share its facilities, and got the green light from the Swiss military, which continues to supply the guns and bullets. The club regularly participates in official Swiss competitions.

SwissInfo visited the Swiss Rifle Club and made a video:

https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/-swiontour_all-fired-up---with-swiss-army-rifles-in-america/45527920

Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

During their 46th Annual General Meeting, David Mörker, president, posed the following question: *"To what extent have we made an effort to become part of the Minnesotan and the larger Midwestern culture while preserving what makes us uniquely and distinctly Swiss?"*

We truly are part of the larger world and the United States in general as well as Minnesota and western Wisconsin in particular. Many a Swiss has contributed, is contributing and has yet to contribute to American society in general and to the larger Minnesota and western Wisconsin community in particular. Many have been leaving their mark in various ways: they teach at universities, lead companies, or practice their skills as craftsmen. And our distinguished membership is a reflection of that.

Furthermore, the Twin Cities Swiss American Association has been here for 46 years providing a venue for exchange, fellowship and goodwill, from its humble beginnings in 1973 having evolved to 425 strong as of today.

In 1973, a group of visionaries and pioneers chose to gather to lay a solid foundation of a community which has transcended four decades with the charge to

- provide an opportunity for closer association of Swiss and friends of Switzerland in the Twin Cities area
- cultivate Swiss and old-world traditions, culture and sociability
- foster Swiss-American friendship, cultural exchange and international goodwill

Mörker was pleased to report that the Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA) has stayed faithful to this charge and has all intentions to continue to do so in the coming years and beyond.

Throughout these 46 years, many families and individuals have chosen not only to become part of our Swiss-American community but have stepped up to the plate to pour themselves into building and fortifying this community.

The TCSAA consists of 163 households with 279 adults and 146 youth or live-in (61 families). The median member joined five years ago, while 17 member households have been an integral part of the community since the 1970s. With membership numbers at 425, we had the pleasure of welcoming 18 households with a total of 43 individuals just this past year alone!

The TCSAA fosters close partnerships with the Swiss Benevolent Society of St. Paul, the Germanic-American Institute, the General Consulate of Switzerland, New York, Swissinfo and, last but not least, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad. Other TCSAA plans for closer collaborations are with societies like the Swiss Rifle Club and the Swiss Center in New Glarus amongst others.

Furthermore, the TCSAA sponsored a plethora of events: the General Meeting, the August First celebration, quarterly Happy Hour gatherings, the MN United FC soccer match, the cheese order (1,877.3 lbs/851.5 kg Emmi), the Christmas Party, the Fondue event as well as a sausage order (Continental Sausage).

Communication with our members, fellow Swiss and friends of Switzerland, is a vital part of TCSAA's activities: print, tcsaa.us website, eNews, Facebook, Twitter, Swisscommunity.org, and newsletters.



Mörker further quoted a famous quote from Abraham Lincoln, this organization truly is *"of its members, by its members, and for its members!"*

Each one of us, young or young-at-heart, whether actively or passively contributing, has shaped, is shaping and will continue to shape this community into what it is today and what it will be tomorrow and beyond!

I invite each of us to reflect on why we are part of this community and how we will contribute to its success in the years ahead.

DAVID W. MOERKER, PRESIDENT
MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT
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Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

On Monday, January 6, members kicked off carnival season with 12th Night celebrations across New Orleans. There were celebrations galore held across the city from King Cake parties, to formal balls, to streetcar parades, and masked celebrations. It's the beginning of "King Cake" season going on through to Mardi Gras Day, February 25 this year. Our members celebrate the season in a broad range of ways.

On Saturday, January 11, St. James Cheese Company, a local cheese shop in New Orleans, invited members of our club to an Emmentaler Cutting Ceremony. There were prizes for guessing the exact weight of the entire wheel of cheese, this one weighed in at 207 pounds. The store was decked out with Switzerland flags – it was a great time with delicious, freshly cut Swiss Emmentaler to boot!

On Sunday afternoon, January 26, we gathered for our Annual January Party/ Business Meeting at the home of Alexandra Mora, The Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans. After welcoming guests, Ms. Mora spoke briefly of consul activities throughout the year. She introduced our outgoing president, Robert Stickney, who called the meeting to order. President Stickney thanked the outgoing board for all the planning and work that went into the active, fun and exciting year we had. The presiding officers gave their annual business reports. Prior to introducing the proposed slate of officers, the 2020 nominating committee, Alexandra Mora, Robbie Stickney and Rolf Inderbitzin, were introduced. Alexandra explained the process, as per our bylaws, used to determine the slate and then presented the proposed slate of officers. After a motion and a second to approve the slate of new officers, the vote was



SASNOLA 12th Night Maskers at Hotel Peter and Paul



Cutting the wheel of Emmentaler at St. James Cheese Shop



January Party - Ferdinand Addo, John Geiser III, Roger Brodmann, 2020 President Don Schwarzenbach



Preacher Man! Preacher Man! Front row: Michele Agid, Helene Sparacello, Reachel Mayeur, Jean Stickney. Back Row: Roger Dickerson, Pauline Lambert, Robert Stickney

unanimous to accept the proposed slate. Our 2020 officers are President Don Schwarzenbach, Vice President Nicole Luder, Treasurer Manuel Gemperli, Secretary Jean Stickney, Director at Large Ann Inderbitzin. With business out of the way, we resumed mingling, while sipping on wine and punch and snacking on Swiss raclette, finger sandwiches, Swedish meatballs, assorted cheeses, fondue, fruit, crudites and Helene's acclaimed apricot tarte.

January 31 - February 2, members gathered throughout the weekend for Preacher Man! Preacher Man!, a musical comedy, presented by The Music Department of Xavier University from the acclaimed playwright John O'Neal and fellow SASNOLA member, composer Roger Dickerson. The three act musical heralds the sights and sounds of two preachers' worlds colliding set to the backdrop of 1940's New Orleans. Bravo Roger, the musical score was terrific!

As we head deep into Mardi Gras season, we will no doubt be gathering for some parade watching, bead catching and king cake eating now through February 25, Mardi Gras day when it all comes to a close.

Happy Mardi Gras!

JEAN STICKNEY
SECRETARY
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Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

“The sense of community and belonging is founded in our shared cultural heritage!”

In November 2019, a small group enjoyed our annual LeBarge Sunset Dinner Cruise. The weather was just perfect, and nothing is more enjoyable than being lulled by the calm waters of the Gulf and hoping to see a dolphin (or two) surface to say hello.

On January 19, 2020, after a hiatus for the holidays, our Club held its Annual Meeting at the Peridia Golf & Country Club. Nelly Camardo introduced the outgoing Board members: President Primo Bader and Entertainment Chair Stan Abshier who delivered their final remarks



Retiring President Primo Bader and his wife Ruth



Retiring Entertainment Chair Stan Abshier and his wife Alma

treated the members to a nice salad and “Chäs wähe” followed by Tiramisù brought by Charlotte.

On Sunday, February 2nd, it was time for our very popular Fondue luncheon held at Rolf’s New Florida Kitchen owned by Chef Rolf Zander, a Swiss Chef from Berne. The event started with the Aperitivo giving a chance for members to mingle and exchange niceties followed by the Fondue luncheon and ‘Apfelküechli’ for dessert.

Next, we are looking forward to the start of our very popular picnic season. There are 6 picnics scheduled and we are anxious to see what René and Hans have in store for us.

Uf wiederluege!

to the members and were met with warm applause, good wishes and a grateful ‘Thank You’ for a job well done. Each was also presented with a gift basket and flowers for their wives. Nelly proceeded to give the members the State of our Club stating that our membership has increased, and the financials are healthy. The membership then, by a show of hands, elected the new Board. Nelly Camardo will take over as President; Charlotte Hull, Treasurer/Membership; Imelda Egg, VP of Communications; René Purro and Hans Egg will share the duties of Event Chairs; and Debbie Sczezney, Secretary. We wish the new Board great success in the coming year. After the meeting was adjourned, we all enjoyed a delicious brunch and spirited conversation.

The new Board held the first meeting on January 28 at the home of the President, Nelly Camardo. On the agenda was the introduction of the new members to their duties and finalizing the schedule of events for the year. After the meeting, Nelly

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society (NHS)

What a blast we had at the 2nd Annual Winter Weekend Getaway!

The members of the NHS, PA Chapter took the opportunity to travel up to Elk Mountain, PA, the 3rd weekend in February to spend two days together in the mountains! The weather was glorious and 30+ skiers had a super time skiing on the hills and bonding with each other in the Elk Mountain Lodge. Saturday night the organizing committee threw a fun Raclette Party at the huge common area of the Moose House for 50 excited members. The Raclette was delicious and the atmosphere unforgettable. Old and young enjoyed playing pool or took a try at the shuffleboard table. Others relaxed by the fireplace, played some Jass, or took a dip in the hot tub. Many memories were made and the happy comments of all propel us to keeping this new tradition going.



Our smallest snowboarder!



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DANIELA KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT
 NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY, PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
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Southern California: 30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival June 25-28, 2020 in Pasadena, CA

It's almost time for "Swissfest 2020"! Come join the "Harmonie" of Los Angeles as we welcome several hundred singers and guests from the Western US, Canada, and Switzerland for the 30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival aka the "Sängerfest" to take place June 25-28, 2020 in Pasadena, California. The Harmonie has been proudly participating in these festivals since 1945, and it will be the 5th time that we are hosting the event! Many of you have enjoyed past singing and yodeling festivals, and so you know they are wonderful



events to bring the Swiss community together and promote friendship and camaraderie. This time will be no different! Over the past few months the Harmonie and ten other participating choirs have been hard at work rehearsing, and we have a fantastic music program lined up for all to enjoy.

The festival highlight is our Grand Concert, June 26, 8 pm, at the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena. Come to our Grand Concert to see and hear 200+ singers, alphorn players, and musicians in original costumes perform on stage together! Or, join us for an all-day Folkfest June 27 at the Swiss Park in Whittier, where eleven choirs, soloists, and the Berner Oergeliplausch from Switzerland will entertain you with individual performances. And, you certainly wouldn't want to miss the traditional Yodel Mass on Sunday morning on the grounds of the Pasadena Hilton, our official festival hotel!

Everything you need to know about participation, concert tickets, festival registration, or hotel reservations can be found at www.swissfest2020.com. Or go directly to our ticket vending site www.itsmyseat.com/swissfest2020 to purchase Grand Concert tickets. All of us from the "Harmonie" look forward to seeing you at the festival!



Harmonie hosts in 1948 at the Hollywood bowl

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Florida: Swiss Club of Central Florida

Nearly 100 members and guests of the Swiss Club of Central Florida enjoyed a wonderful luncheon followed by a visit with Santa and his elf. This annual event is a favorite among our members as they love to watch the children share their wishes for Christmas morning with Samichlaus and laugh at the balloon animals made by his Elf. Each child receives a traditional stocking filled with nuts and oranges and spend the afternoon decorating cookies.



Juliette with Santa






Board of Directors with Santa

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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

On January 19th the Swiss Club Miami organized an adventure bicycle



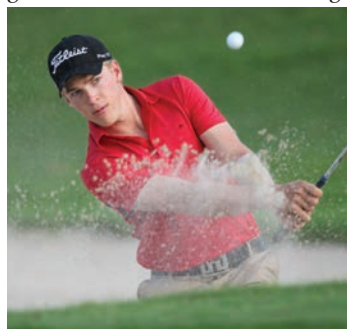
ride at the Shark Valley. After 13.5 miles of bicycling and taking lots of photos of the beautiful wildlife, the alligators and their babies piggybacking everyone returned safe and sound to enjoy the picnic in the wild. Thanks to Christian Gschwind for organizing this. "See you later alligator"!!!



On May 3rd, 2020 the Swiss Club Miami, together with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce, is planning the 2nd Swiss Miami Golf Open at the Crandon Golf course in Key Biscayne. The winner of a 'hole in one' will receive a luxury watch provided by Ulysse Nardin! Lots of fun, each hole will have a surprise, either you play the longest drive or come closest to the cheese. Shotgun at 8:00 and we will play a 4-person scramble. For more info go to www.swissclubmiami.org



On this note, I would like to introduce our Golf Pro Olivier Gilmartin. He was born and raised in Visp and his parents lived in Zermatt, moved to St. Moritz and finally ended up in Grindelwald where he started to play golf in 1994 at an age of 6 years old. The 9-hole golf course close to Glacier Gorge was where it all started!



Another milestone was the Interlaken-Unterseen Golf Club in 1997, the year when Tiger Woods won his first major. Olivier came through the ranks in the Swiss junior golf circuit and was fortunate to win the Basel Championship twice in 2007 and 2008 which got him selected to

represent Switzerland in various International Tournaments.

The sunny state of Florida was waiting for him and the family moved to Orlando in April 2007. With his outstanding talent he got a golf scholarship at an American University. His career continued with his passion for golf. In 2010 his decision to be a professional golfer was clear and he traveled the world and competed on the highest level. Only last year he decided to become a teaching professional and he is now working as an assistant golf pro at the Fisher Island Golf Club in Miami. We are so happy to have Olivier in our Swiss community and with his energy and talent he is one of the founders of the Swiss Miami Golf Open. Come and join us!!

Raclette, Swiss wine and snow at the Setai Hotel in Miami Beach. Thanks to the staff of the Setai for organizing such an authentic Swiss food and wine feast! The Swiss Club Miami organized again some real



snow to create a true home feeling for all 100 Swiss guests who were joining us this evening on Feb. 27th. The food was delicious! Bravo and thanks to Alex Furrer for hosting this event for the 3rd time. The

forecast said, 'cold and windy', but the wind turned around and the outside heaters kept us cozy and warm. Nobody wanted to leave, and some stayed long after the restaurant was closed. All in all an absolutely splendid Swiss evening. Apart from the Setai team and Gourmet Food International, a big THANK YOU goes to our Board members, in particular Astrid Artho and Roland Bandelier who helped at the event and Nicole Unternaehrer who decorated the place in real Swiss style plus of course our 'in-house photographer' Olga Riedi who made it a memorable event taking the most gorgeous pictures which you can check out on our web site.

Thank you to all and see you again soon!

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New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

Over 100 Swiss Hockey fans joined the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York and the New Jersey Devils Team for the third Annual Swiss Hockey Night with Swiss players Nico Hischier and Mirco Mueller taking on Roman Josi and Yannick Weber of the Nashville Predators.



Autographs for the fans

The fan experience included an exclusive invitation to the High Five Tunnel, cheering the NJ Devils players as they head to the ice, a group picture on the ice, and signatures from Nico Hischier and Mirco Mueller.

The President from the Swiss Benevolent Society, Markus Bruderer and Ambassador Boerlin, Consul General of Switzerland in New York met both players, Nico Hischier and Mirco Mueller, for the ultimate fan experience.



Fans in the High Five Tunnel



L to R:
Ambassador Markus Boerlin,
Consul General of
Switzerland
Mirco Mueller
Nico Hischier
Markus Bruderer, President
Swiss Benevolent Society

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Northern California: San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club (SJVSC)

We had nearly 50 card players for the biannual Jass Party on February 15th. A great time was had by all which included 12 high point winners, a boobie prize winner and six beginner jassers. Upcoming is our Spring Swiss Echoes Concert /Dinner on April 18, Spring Schwingfest on June 6th and a Kids' Swiss Camp on July 25th. All events are held at our Swiss Club in Ripon, CA and everyone is welcome.



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Group picture on the ice

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On Sunday, January 5, we started 2020 off with our traditional New Year's Brunch at the Cypress Woods Golf & Country Club in Naples. After President Maria von Atzigen welcomed 49 members and guests and wished everybody a happy and healthy New Year, we all dove into the huge Brunch Buffet that had (too) many things to chose from. We were also able to welcome new members who attended the event: Lucienne Ramoni and Gilberte Yarusso and two returning former family members: Heinz & Brita Rubin and Kurt & Marisa Pfister. All participants seemed to enjoy the outstanding food and the lively discussions and were in no rush to go home, maybe we were all afraid to go outside because it was rather chilly!

Then on Saturday, February 15, one of our most popular events took place: the Fondue Party! We could use the Clubhouse at Silverlakes Community in Fort Myers again, where we already had the



“Chlauchock” last December. It is a perfect location; thanks again to Markus & Patricia Albrecht who gave us access to this facility.

We were 48 members and 3 guests enjoying the Fondue which was prepared by member and renowned Master Cheese Maker Urs Pfister.



He and organizing Board Member Ursula Nussbaum gave the participants some tips and then the preparation of the Fondue started, and the typical Fondue smell began to fill the room. Thank you both, Ursula and Urs. A big thank you also goes to member Ueli

Wagner who baked the homemade baguettes. The Fondue was absolutely delicious and everybody enjoyed the party.

The next event will be our Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 8. If you would like to find out more about our club, please visit us at www.swissamericanclub.com. New members are always welcome. Best wishes from beautiful South West Florida.

JOE HUBER
SECRETARY

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Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

The Swiss American Society of Houston, Texas started the year with its Annual Meeting and Election on Sunday, January 26th, at l' Alliance Francaise of Houston. The Swiss-American Society provided a beautiful display of delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine, coffee, and cheese to welcome the members and new board.

Members of the Swiss American Society and the new board congratulated the new elected President, Maura Ferrero-Baroni, and welcomed two new board members, Debra Pletscher and Jaqueline Liber. The board further congratulated Anna-Maria Dober on her new role as Vice-President of membership. The new board recognized and thanked immediate past president, Lilian Tade, for her dedication and contribution throughout the many years.

Maura Ferrero-Baroni issued a statement about her role to further the involvement of the Swiss-American Society of Houston with the purpose to promote the Swiss culture, languages, and values of the Swiss population in Houston, Texas, and in the United States of America.

On February 16th, 2020, our own board member and U.S. Alternate Delegate for the Council of the Organization of the Swiss



Maura Ferrero-Baroni, President of the Swiss-American Society of Houston, and David Moerker, Member of the Executive Board for the OSA

Abroad (OSA), Margrit Young-Zellweger, hosted and welcomed presenter David W. Moerker, Member of the Executive Board of the OSA. The slide presentation introduced the OSA organization which is supported by some 650 Swiss expatriates' associations and Swiss institutions all over the world.

Mr. Moerker further informed the audience on OSA's milestones and the main projects for 2020. Members had a few questions on banking, social security, and pension.

The afternoon ended with an open discussion around wine, cheese, and desserts generously offered by the host and members of the Swiss-American Society.

On February 19th the club held its first Happy Hour for the year at "Postino". With great food and good drinks, the event was well attended by several members.

We're looking forward to the Swiss-American Society's 2020 events, which include Members' coffee, Happy Hours, Jass, Picnics, and more to further enhance the expansion of its culture and values in Texas!

LINA CORINTH
VP COMMUNICATION/RELATIONS
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