REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! 2025 will be a year of exciting changes for Swiss living in the U.S. and for the Swiss Review publication.

First, from April 11 through May 11, 2025, we will be able to elect the delegates for the Council of the Swiss Abroad by direct vote. If your embassy has your email address, you will receive an email with voting instructions from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Look in the next issue of the Swiss Review USA for an introduction of the candidates for the next term.

Second, the Swiss Review USA will be published five instead of four times per year at the same time as the main edition in 2025. This will allow a more even distribution of the publication dates throughout the year and more current sharing of Swiss related stories in the USA.

And we continue to celebrate 50 years of the Swiss Review (see last page for an insightful testimonial).

The next issue will be published on April 11, 2025. Please send me your contributions by March 4, 2025.

I wish you a wonderful Winter season.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR



Cartoon: Max Spring

"The aim of the Swiss Review would be to strengthen people's attachment to Switzerland", it said in the first-ever publisher notes. To mark the 50th anniversary, all editions of the Swiss Review from 1974 to 2024 are available to view online at www.revue.link/review50.

Final Call: Apply Now to Serve on the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Swiss citizens living in the U.S., now is your chance to serve as a delegate on the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for the 2025-2029 term. Represent the U.S.-based Swiss community, influence policy, and advocate for fellow expatriates. Your voice matters!

Why Apply?

- Shape Swiss Policy: Influence decisions impacting Swiss citizens worldwide.
- Strengthen Community: Build connections between Swiss expatriates and Switzerland.
- Expand Your Network: Collaborate with Swiss leaders globally.
- Advocate for Change: Represent the needs of Swiss citizens in your consular district.

Eligibility Requirements

- 1. Swiss Citizen
- 2. At least 18 years old
- 3. Fluent in German or French (written and spoken)
- 4. Registered with the Swiss Consulate
- 5. Registered to vote as an expatriate
- 6. Willing to travel to Switzerland (self-funded)

- 7. Live in your consular district for at least 8 months per year
- 8. Active social media presence
- 9. Strong networking and communication skills
- 10. Able to represent the interests of Swiss expatriates

Key Dates

- Application deadline: January 31, 2025
- Polls open: April 11 May 11, 2025

How to Apply

To apply, send your resume and motivation letter to svioletinternational@gmail.com by January 31, 2025. For inquiries, contact Suzanne at +1 (321) 543-5021 (mobile/WhatsApp).

Don't miss out! Apply today and make a difference!

New York: Swiss Society of New York

The Swiss Gala 2025 returns to the elegant 583 Park Avenue in New York City, offering an evening dedicated to Swiss culture and community. Hosted by the Swiss Society of New York, this annual gathering unites friends, supporters, and professionals who share a deep appreciation for Switzerland.

Enjoy an evening of fine dining, engaging entertainment, and the chance to connect with a vibrant network of attendees in a beautiful Manhattan venue. Proceeds from the gala support the society's programs and initiatives, making it a meaningful night for all who attend.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to the community, the Swiss Gala is a wonderful way to celebrate and contribute to Swiss-American relations. Tickets are available now—don't miss out! Visit swisssociety.org/gala for details.

SILVAN LEHNER, PRESIDENT SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Join Us for the Swiss Gala 2025 on February 15



Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

A huge thank you to everyone who found the new replacement location for this year's Christmas Party - the Orange Tree Resort Golf Club in Scottsdale. Not easy after years at the elegant Paradise Valley Country Club. "We are spoiled." Guenther Diersbock's words. Walking down the long hallway to the Mariposa Ballroom, all windows facing out to the green of the Golf Course and lake, gave that certain familiarity of past Christmas lunches.



Artist Fiona Reuter (10 years old)

Highlights: A golden Harp in the big ballroom added class and Christmas sounds by Dr. Heidi Hernandez.

A hugeTschu-Tschu Train, put together that morning by Jonathan Gerber and Christian Fleury loved by all kids – oh, and 'old folks' who had their own memories rekindled.

Sedona Ulrich, 12 years old, on piano, and Marc Hächler 13 years old, in Horgen Switzerland, on piano and flute added nostalgia and

joy to all the members attending (78 including kids).

A special visit from Santa Claus with Schmutzli bent over from carrying all the bags of gifts during his busy Christmas life delighted everybody.



TRUDY WELLS WWW.ARIZONASWISSSOCIETY.COM

Urs Schwank is 101 years and 5 months old



Urs celebrated his 101st birthday on August 27th 2024

May Urs have many more healthy and happy days, lots of smiles, and no pain!

Santa came early to our dear Swiss friend. Another Christmas to add to the amazing life of Urs Schwank, who has an attitude that whoever meets him marvels at. It makes him the favorite of everyone at the Assisted Living Home Morningstar in Fountain Hills AZ. Alma Muniz, the Life Enrichment Coordinator texts and calls me so Urs can say hello. I appreciate Alma

answering has stopped.

During our visit with Urs, we called his long-ago Swiss friends Jeannine and Ernst near Bern. Their son happened to be there and also asked to talk to Urs. Answers and questions -- in Schwyzerdütsch -- at his age -- were simply amazing. Alert

beyond belief! It was a great morning!

greatly. His making phone calls or



" It's not the years in your life that count . . . it's the life in the years." -- Abraham Lincoln

Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH)

The Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH) experienced a vibrant fall season, highlighted by the Membership meeting in November and three festive events in December.

On November 10th, we held our Annual Membership meeting where we introduced our newly elected executive board and enjoyed a delightful raclette dinner together.

On December 7th, we participated in the "Weihnachtsmarkt der Deutschen Samstagschule", with a raclette booth.

The following day, December 8th, we hosted our traditional Christmas Cookie exchange at the charming home of Yvonne and Silvio Bücheler, featuring an array of beautifully baked Swiss treats that delighted both the eyes and the taste buds.

Our annual holiday party took place on December 15th, where members savored a delectable four-course gourmet meal. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect in a joyful atmosphere filled with holiday spirit and even some dancing!

Looking ahead to January, we will resume our Jass games and dining outings.



To learn more about the activities of the Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH), please visit our website at www. swissamericanhouston.org or connect with us on social media.

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, PRESIDENT

Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans

SASNOLA held two events in the Fall of 2024. In early November, members of SASNOLA visited the Swiss Society tomb at Greenwood Cemetery, where Swiss immigrants and family members going back over 150 years are buried. President Ann Inderbitzin, her husband Rolf, along with members Helene Sparacello and Secretary Don Schwarzenbach visited the site, paid respects, and laid a red-and-white floral wreath.

Visting loved ones around All-Saints Day at the cemetery is a tradition in many countries, including Switzerland and the United States, and is a particularly important event in the history of the New Orleans area.



Also, members of the SASNOLA, including several board members along with Honorary Consul Alexandra Mora, gathered at the HNJ Parish Center in uptown New Orleans for the Annual Holiday Gathering. With the New Orleans Saints football game in the background, holiday guests dined on several Swissinspired dishes as well as a Raclette Grill with lots of melted cheese, vegetables and other charcuterie.

Guests stayed long after the Saints had won their game and visited, discussing holiday traditions and other topics in the pleasant New Orleans afternoon.

DON SCHWARZENBACH, SECRETARY WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA

California: San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club

Not quite the Lauterbrunnen Valley, but the Swiss spirit is alive and well in the Central Vally of California. Our club was established 90 years ago, and since then has been the hub of Swiss-American friendship. We do lots of things together:

- About 700-member strong, our club has life-long and honorary members, as well as a good base of young regular members.
- Our activities cover monthly meeting, the lustig gatherings of the choral group Echoes, Swiss kids camp, a Swiss National Day BBQ, and Spring and Fall Schwingfests, to name but a few.
- The Choral Echoes is perfecting lively renditions of favorites like "Gämsejäger" and "Appenzelerliedli".
- Our beautiful clubhouse is a lovely reminder of the Heimat, and we keep it well maintained and well stocked thanks to the efforts of our generous donors and hard-working volunteers.
- We are quite proud of our Schwingfest amphitheater, where one and all have fun eating, laughing, singing, and of course wrestling.
- We are a lively part of our community through our scholarship program and outreach events (for example, the Ripon Almond Blossom festival).



For questions or to arrange a visit please contact us at riponswissclub@aol.com or visit our website at www.sjvscriponswiss.

JACE NEUGEBAUER, SJVSC SECRETARY

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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 2025!

The Swiss Club Miami had a very active fall and winter season. On October 31st we had our traditional Halloween Witches Luncheon with a lot of fun on the famous Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. The ladies dressed up with gorgeous witch costumes and hades.



In November we started in the cooler season with our favorite Fondue Dinner at the Cuckoo Clock Brauhaus in Miami. We enjoyed the delicious original Swiss fondue with Swiss wine and Kirsch.

As every year, Santa Claus surprised the kids with gifts at our



Christmas Brunch Party on December 8th and over 80 guests loved the rich lunch buffet at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami Downtown. We welcomed our special guest Urs Brönnimann, the

Consul General of Switzerland in Atlanta, and we appreciated his speech and warm greetings. At this event we participated in its first Annual Voices for Children Toy Drive to benefit the children in the Miami-Dade Foster Care System, and all participants donated gifts. Also, a big THANK YOU to all our SPONSORS!

Stay tuned for all upcoming events on our website www. swissclubmiami.org.

CHRISTINA SCHOELZEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS
INFO@SWISSCLUBMIAMI.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSCLUBMIAMI

Here is an outlook what we have in the pipeline for the next months:

Picnic at the Tropical Park on April 6th: Swiss Bratwurst and Cervelats!

Swiss - Belgian Chocolate: A friendly chocolate competition with the Belgium Club! **Sports - Soccer, Dragon Boat, Kayaking:** Let's bring the Club's children together!

Meet with Inter Club Fort Myers: Swiss Clubs on FL East & West Coast together!

Volunteer Event: As last year let's volunteer with Feeding South Florida!

Pennsylvania: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh joined with the Swiss Nationality Room Committee and the Paul Riis Legacy Preservation Volunteers for a hike on October 5 to celebrate the legacy of Paul Riis (1876-1944), a Swiss-born landscape architect who served as the first director of the Allegheny County Parks from 1928 to 1932. The hike in South Park included stops at the Cascades, a restored multi-level grouping of stone-rimmed pools, and the unrestored Vale of Cashmere, a once popular site in the park that fell into disuse and disrepair in the 1940s, but only recently rediscovered by the Paul Riis Legacy Preservation Volunteers. Paul Riis designed both the Cascades and the Vale of Cashmere.



LYNDALL HUGGLER WWW.SWISSPITTSBURGH.ORG

California: Peninsula Swiss Club

The Peninsula Swiss Club has had a remarkable year in 2024 filled with joy and community spirit, celebrating our Swiss heritage through a variety of engaging events.

Fondue Night kicked off our year, where members enjoyed traditional Swiss cheese fondue, fostering connections and reminiscing about home. The Easter Brunch was another highlight, featuring a delectable Eggs Benedict that delighted our members, along with an Easter egg hunt that brought joy to children and adults alike, showcasing the vibrant family-oriented nature of our club.

Our Semi-Annual BBQ brought together members for a day of delicious food and camaraderie, while the Wine Tasting Picnic offered a perfect blend of fine wines and scenic views, allowing us to appreciate the beauty of our surroundings together.

In the fall, we celebrated Herbstfest, embracing the changing seasons with seasonal dishes and lively conversations. Finally, we wrapped up the year with our beloved Samichlaus event, which featured singing and a special visit from Samichlaus himself. Families gathered to enjoy festive treats and share in the joy of the holiday spirit.

As we welcome a new year, we look forward to more fun events and a growing

membership that continues to strengthen our bonds and keep our Swiss traditions alive in the Peninsula community!

> ERICH SONNBERGER, PRESIDENT PRESIDENT@PENINSULASWISSCLUB.COM WWW.PENINSULASWISSCLUB.COM



Michigan: Detroit Swiss Society

The Annual Detroit Swiss Society Christmas party was again a huge success. Over 60 members and their children enjoyed the festive event with a very delicious catered steak dinner and members' Christmas cookies for dessert. We sung Christmas carols in three of Switzerland's national languages accompanied by our resident harp player Sylvia.

We are already looking forward to next year!



Santa and Mrs. Claus delighted the children with presents.



THOMAS LOZSER, PRESIDENT WWW.DETROITSWISS.COM

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota knows how to celebrate the beloved holiday season!

This year's annual luncheon was held at the University Country Club of Sarasota. We spent a lovely time with many club members and friends of Switzerland to celebrate Christmas! We enjoyed a delicious lunch which was followed by fresh baked Swiss Christmas cookies and a fun raffle with prices mostly originating from Switzerland.

We all felt the Swiss spirit at our last event of the year 2024.

Feel free to visit our website and enjoy the photos of our event: https://swissamericanclubsarasota.org/photos-2024/

In the name of the Board of the Swiss American Club of Sarasota we wish you all Happy New Year 2025!

LIZA BUEHLER

Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Joint Fall Event of the TCSAA and the Swiss Benevolent Society of St. Paul: Mixology Class

We organized a cocktail class led by Jon Robinson, a.k.a. Dr. Sunshine. Twenty-three members from both clubs met in Plymouth, where Jon and his helpers had set up a cocktail kitchen with stations

for everyone to participate. The class started with some background information about cocktails. Who knew that there are only five basic types of cocktails ("mother recipes")? We got to learn how to make two of them, an "Old Fashioned" (which is the type as well as the cocktail's name) and a "Clover Club" (a "sour" type of cocktail). Both cocktails could also be made as non-alcoholic "mocktails".



Jon was very engaging and knowledgeable about the history and science of cocktails, as well as a great teacher. Soon everyone was mixing, stirring, and shaking cocktails and having a great time. After making and sipping the Old Fashioned, we took a short break and enjoyed the charcuterie platters that the TCSAA provided. Board member Alessia Stornetta did a fantastic job providing the food – it was tasty and looked beautiful! Stan Zimmerman contributed deviled eggs, which were heavenly. Markus Gälli's home-baked bread also received high praise.

We reconvened for the second cocktail, the "Clover Club." Raspberries and egg whites gave this drink a very distinct color and texture! Throughout the event, the participants asked many questions about the history of cocktails and tips and tricks. Everyone left with new knowledge and an "Official Diploma" stating that we had each "mastered the fine art of shaking and stirring professional cocktails."

The event was a great success, and everyone attending had a great time. Thanks, Dr. Sunshine, for teaching us how to make cocktails in such a fun and entertaining way!

Swiss Rifle Club of Minneapolis End-of-Season Match

On October 9th, the Swiss Rifle Club of Minneapolis opened its 5th Invitational End-of-Season Match to members of the Swiss community and the TCSAA. A total of 13 shooters participated in the event. The two attending TCSAA members had a good time. Both tried out their siders and participated in the match. One of them also shot the Bundesprogramm/Obligatory and made the "Kranzkarte".

The subsequent barbeque with Swiss-style sausages and generous sides set the stage for a thorough match analysis, season round-up, and discussion. Everyone is looking forward to the 2026 Swiss National Match/Eidgenössisches Schützenfest in Chur.

The Swiss Rifle Club of Minneapolis appreciates the TCSAA for sponsoring the sausages.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA WWW.TCSAA.US

New Jersey: Greetings from the Swiss Society of Cedar Crest Village

Cedar Crest Village is a Continuing Care Community located in Pompton Plains, NJ.



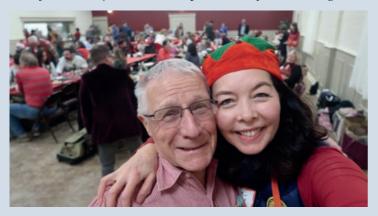
From left to right: Peter Basler, Othmar Metzler, Carol Storms, Ruth Scherrer, Ruth Pfister, Michael Benedetto, Margaret Benedetto, Susan Keller, Trudi Metzler, Elizabeth Oehler, Max Oehler, Sophie Murray

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, Philadelphia Chapter

What a fabulous Fondue dinner event we had at the William Penn Fire Hall, Hulmeville, PA, the beginning of December! Santa Claus was chauffeured-in on a majestic Fire Truck and the kids were jumping up and down for joy! The Fondue makers outdid themselves and the Fondue Neuchateloise was one of the best ever! Colette Doudin and Michael Mudrak played on their trumpets "Stille Nacht" by the Christmas tree and many went down memory lane to childhoods spent in Switzerland! Over 160 people enjoyed beautiful camaraderie and all went home with happy feelings in their hearts!

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Philadelphia gifted beautiful baskets for a fundraiser that benefitted needy Swiss families in the area.

If you want to join us, look us up at: www.myswissclub.org



DANIELA K. KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT

Upcoming Events

February 21st-23rd: Winter Weekend Getaway at beautiful Elk Mountain, PA

April 26th: Annual General Assembly Meeting at RiverWinds Restaurant, West Deptford, NJ

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On December 14, the beautifully decorated Silverlake Clubhouse was transformed into a festive room as sixty of our members and guests gathered for this year's Chlaushock (Santa Claus gathering). The holiday spirit was alive and well as attendees mingled during the apéro, sharing laughter, catching up with friends, and exchanging stories of their upcoming holiday plans.

Joe, our club president, took a moment to welcome everyone, share warm holiday wishes, and reminded us of the events lined up for the New Year. Then, the spotlight turned to the culinary star of the night: freshly baked Fleischkäse (Swiss-style meatloaf) with potato salad and crusty Bürli rolls. Like a well-coordinated team of elves, the servers swiftly ensured every plate was filled, and the room soon hummed with contented chatter.

And then came the grand finale: a dazzling display of Weihnachtsguezli (Christmas cookies), lovingly prepared by our talented home bakers. The dessert table looked like something out of a holiday dream, with an array of buttery, nutty, and spiced cookies that tempted even the fullest of diners. It was a sweet reminder of the traditions many of us grew up with and brought a delicious close to the evening.

This evening brought a piece of Switzerland to the warm, sunny shores of Florida's Gulf Coast. With full bellies, happy hearts, and a bit of holiday nostalgia, we bid farewell to the Chlaushock, looking forward to ringing in the New Year. Ho. Ho. Ho.

VICKI H. BURKHARD, SECRETARY SWISSAMERICANCLUB@GMAIL.COM WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM



50 Years of the Swiss Review

I've been a loyal reader of the Swiss Review for quite some time now, and I must say, it's been a delightful journey. As someone who appreciates a good read, the Swiss Review has never disappointed me. In fact, it's become my monthly ritual – a moment of tranquility and joy amidst the chaos of everyday life.

My connection to Switzerland runs deep. My parents came to the USA from Switzerland in late 1948, and my twin brother and I were born in New York City in January 1949. Though my grandparents, aunts, and uncles continued to live in Switzerland, I was fortunate to travel there with my husband over 12 times to visit family. My family has also visited us in the USA several times, and we've maintained a very close relationship. Both my parents have passed away, but I am proud to keep up with my Swiss roots. I hold dual citizenship in both the US and Switzerland, as does my husband.

First of all, the Swiss Review isn't just a newsletter; it's a carefully curated window into the Swiss way of life, culture, and current affairs. It's like having a little piece of Switzerland delivered right to my doorstep, without the need to climb the Alps or yodel for it. Each issue is packed with insightful articles, beautifully written and thoughtfully presented, making me feel more connected to my heritage and the wider Swiss community.

One of the things I love most about the Swiss Review is its ability to strike the perfect balance between serious journalism and light-hearted storytelling. One moment, I'm engrossed in an in-depth analysis of Swiss politics, and the next, I'm chuckling at a humorous anecdote about Swiss customs. It's this blend of the informative and the entertaining that keeps me coming back for more. Plus, who knew that reading about cheese could be so riveting?

The editorial team deserves a round of applause for their dedication and creativity. They manage to capture the essence of Switzerland in every issue, making it accessible and enjoyable for readers around the globe. Their commitment to quality journalism is evident, and it's clear that they pour their hearts into every article. And let's not forget the stunning photographs that accompany the articles – they're the visual cherry on top of an already delicious cake.

One of the most interesting things about the Swiss Review is how it connected me to a neighbor I never knew I had. Being a physician with long working hours, I hadn't had much chance to meet my neighbors. For over ten years, I had no idea I had a Swiss neighbor only two doors down. One day, my Swiss Review was delivered, but I received two copies. Along with my own, I had received my neighbor's copy. I walked over, knocked on the door, and introduced myself. Not only is he Swiss, but he is also the President of the Detroit Swiss Club. I have since become a member and enjoy meeting other Swiss through the club.

In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Review, it's only fitting to reflect on the impact it has had on its readers. For me, it's been a source of knowledge,

entertainment, and a connection to my roots. It's like having a Swiss uncle who's always ready with a good story, a hearty laugh, and a thoughtful insight.

So, here's to the Swiss Review – thank you for 50 years of exceptional storytelling and journalism. Here's to many more years of delightful reads, engaging content, and a continued connection to our Swiss heritage. Prost



RUTH KAMIENECKI D.O. (SWISS FAMILY NAME BRASCHLER)
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