

REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

we are aware of the reports that the printed copy of “Swiss Review” is being delivered very late. We are extremely sorry for these delays and are looking into the causes and to improve the situation. Since it is unclear how quickly the situation will improve, we would like to inform you below of ways you can enjoy the magazine while you're waiting for your printed copy to arrive:

- You can read the latest issue online (www.revue.ch).
- You can download the magazine as a PDF and print it out if you like (also at www.revue.ch).
- You can install the “Swiss Review” app on your tablet or smartphone. This app allows you to download, leaf through and read each new issue, including offline. You can find the app by searching for “Swiss Review” on your app provider (App Store or Google Play).


The next issue will be published on July 18.

I wish you a wonderful Spring season.


DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR



Swiss Citizens in the U.S.—Make Your Voice Heard!

Are you a Swiss citizen living in the U.S.? If you're 18 or older, you have the right to vote in Swiss federal elections!  But first, you need to register with your Swiss consulate or the embassy.

 How to Register:

 Step 1: Ensure you're registered with your Swiss representation (Embassy or Consulate).

Find yours here  <https://tinyurl.com/edaadmin>

 Step 2: Submit the Application to Exercise Political Rights so you can vote.

Download the form here  <https://tinyurl.com/swissabroadvoting>

Once registered, you'll receive voting materials for federal votes and elections. Keep your contact info up to date!



2025 Election of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) from April 12 to May 11

The Council of Swiss Abroad (CSA) consists of a network of 140 delegates, 20 from within Switzerland and 120 from abroad. It is a key institution for the Swiss diaspora, playing a crucial role in connecting Switzerland and its citizens around the world, and in advocating for your interests, rights, and welfare.

Election of delegates (and deputies) representing the United States

Based on the number of registered Swiss living in our region - about 80,000 - the United States holds eight (8) seats on the CSA. The eight (8) seats are allocated as follows:

- Consular District New York/DC: Three (3) seats
(see page II and III for the selection of candidates)
- Consular District San Francisco: Three (3) seats
(see page IV and V for the selection of candidates)
- Consular District Atlanta: Two (2) seats
(see page V for the selection of candidates)

For more detailed information visit www.swisscommunity.us

Direct election via e-voting

The election this year will be carried out entirely by electronic means (e-voting), using a Swiss e-voting system (UniVote). This will ensure that every eligible Swiss citizen will have the possibility to choose their representatives. Read more about the UniVote e-voting system at <https://tinyurl.com/univotecsa>

Who can vote?

Voters can only vote for the candidates residing in their Consular Districts. All Swiss citizens residing in the United States who:

- Are 18 years and above
- Are registered with the respective Embassy or Consulate General <https://tinyurl.com/edaadmin>
- Have a valid email address registered with the Embassy or Consulate General (ensure the Embassy or Consulate General has your up-to-date contact details!)

Consular District New York/DC: 3 Seats

If your embassy has your email address, you will receive an email with voting instructions from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA/EDA). Voters can only vote for the candidates residing in their Consular Districts from April 12 to May 11, 2025.

For more information on these candidates visit www.swisscommunity.us

David W. Mörker - Incumbant - Delegate since 2009 Minnesota - CIO/CTO/Partner at Fortium Partners

Fellow Swiss in the U.S., I am dedicated to representing and strengthening our community. For over a decade, I have worked to ensure our voices are heard, our rights protected, and our Swiss identity preserved. As a Global Executive Board member of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (ASO/OSA), I help shape policies that impact us all. Leading a significant Swiss club locally, I foster cultural connections and strengthen our network. Key issues like voting access, consular services, and community engagement matter—let's address them together. Stay connected and engaged—join me to help build a stronger Fifth Switzerland! Your support makes a difference!

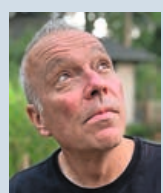


Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer - Incumbant - Delegate since 2017 New York - Project Manager

Since 2017, I have been a dedicated and engaged member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA), fully committed to advancing the interests of the Swiss community abroad. I collaborate closely with CSA members, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), key figures in Swiss government at both the national and cantonal levels, as well as Swiss embassies and consulates. My extensive experience and strong network enable me to effectively address the needs and concerns of Swiss citizens abroad. I am eager to continue this vital work and strengthen our community's connections and influence.

Aurelie Biehler New York - Entrepreneur

Having lived in Switzerland for over 25 years and in the US for over 6 years, I have a strong understanding of both cultures, am deeply involved in the local community, and invested in strengthening the bond between NY locals and their homeland. Living in New York, I am actively engaged with the Swiss community through Swissnex, the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, and the Swiss Society of New York, as well as the Swiss Collective – a community I recently launched to foster meaningful connections among young Swiss professionals.



Marc Böhlen New York - Professor of Art and Engineering

I want to help Switzerland represent itself intelligently in this complex world, and I want to help the Swiss Abroad define a powerful voice with new perspectives in support of Swiss foreign policy. After stints in private industry, I became a Professor of Art and Engineering at the University of Buffalo, where I specialize in the cultural dimensions of large-scale technical systems. Most recently I completed a project on spatially explicit Artificial Intelligence and how it might come to change the way we look and understand planet Earth.

Simon Fritz Ohio - Procurement Consulting

I am proficient managing and gaining consensus on political issues of relevance to the Swiss community abroad. Swiss democracy requires dedicated effort. I am committed to being a servant leader. As a Swiss living abroad, raised in Europe and making frequent trips back to Switzerland, I understand and appreciate Switzerland's unique political, economic, and cultural landscape. I would represent the fifth Switzerland well by understanding current events and strategic alliances for long term success.



Florian Georg Massachusetts - Investment Professional

Born and raised in Switzerland, I built my foundation at home before advancing academically in England and later professionally at Goldman Sachs, where I honed my financial expertise. Since arriving in Boston in 2022, I've embraced American culture alongside my wife and son. As a coordinator of SwissLinkBoston, I am dedicated to strengthening connections between Swiss citizens abroad and our home country. Beyond work, I find inspiration in nature, hiking, and meaningful conversations that offer fresh perspectives. With my diverse experiences, I am committed to ensuring our voices are heard, our values upheld, and our community strengthened.

Bruno Loosli New York - VP Operations

I would like to bring my international leadership experience and passion for community engagement to the Council of the Swiss Abroad to represent the interests of the Swiss community in New York. I'm a Premium Member of the Swiss Society of New York and after attending the Swiss Gala on 2/14/2025, I plan to join the Swiss Soccer Club of NY and will actively start participating in events and groups to meet the NY-Swiss Community.



Consular District New York/DC: 3 Seats (continued)

If your embassy has your email address, you will receive an email with voting instructions from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA/EDA). Voters can only vote for the candidates residing in their Consular Districts from April 12 to May 11, 2025.

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Thomas Lozser Michigan - Consultant

Originally from Mels, SG, I moved to the US for a job in 1988 after graduating from ETH. I am married and have two adult children. We have lived in Michigan since 1999. For the last 15 years, I have been self-employed as a consultant and board member and do work for US and Swiss companies. I travel to Switzerland several times per year for work and visit family. I also read Swiss newspapers and watch SRF almost daily to stay up to date on Swiss matters. As the President of the Detroit Swiss Society since 2021, I am connected to the local Swiss community. I would be honored to represent the Swiss on the Council of the Swiss Abroad.



Suresh Nirody New York - Nonprofit President

I would like to leverage my lifetime of lived and work experience to strengthen the economic, cultural, and personal bonds between the Swiss in the U.S. and Switzerland, using my skills in communication and negotiation. I have a wide variety of interests, including economics, technology, and the environment; interest in specific topics such as e-ID and e-voting, OASI, etc.; and, based on interactions with my mother and brother in Geneva, have a growing sensitivity to issues related to aging, elder care, and disabilities.

Rene Stutz Connecticut - Executive

I grew up in Zurich and have still family and friends there. In addition, professionally, I spend every year 1 to 2 month in Zurich and I am still very involved locally, business and personal. I think I would bring a global mind to the local Swiss community, representing the Swiss characteristics, but also the Swiss abroad. I'm a member of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce and Swiss Ski Club of Manhattan.



Samuel Willy New York - Advocacy Manager Bacardi

I have been living abroad for 15 years and in New York City for 10. I'm a proud Swiss who always strives to represent my country in the best spotlight and constantly wants to share more about it. It would be my pleasure to increase my involvement and help support the Swiss community in the US as a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

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Consular District San Francisco: 3 Seats

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Tom Neidecker - Incumbant - Delegate since 2009 Arizona - Former Management/Engineering

I have been at service to the Swiss-U.S. community since 2009 as Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad. With my fellow delegates from all over the world, I enjoy being in discussion, finding consensus and in support of all initiatives, efforts and activities that are in the interests of the Swiss abroad in the U.S. and worldwide. On the forefront: representation abroad, electronic voting, banking, and AHV-related concerns. I would like to represent the U.S. Swiss Community for another term. Involved with Swiss-California Foundation (president), Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce San Francisco, Swiss Club Tucson.

Franco Zimmerli - Incumbant - Delegate since 2017 California - Honorary Consul of Switzerland

I have been a delegate for the last eight years and would like to continue since I can contribute my knowledge and experience due to my work as honorary consul representing and supporting the Swiss Community in Southern California. My activities with a number of Swiss clubs help me understand the needs of the Swiss abroad. I am an active member of Swiss Park and the Santa Barbara Swiss Club, Treasurer of the Swiss Relief Society, Organizer of the Swiss Mixer Los Angeles, and a "Jass" group in Los Angeles.



Veronia Besmer California - Attorney

I am passionate about building community, which is why I volunteer my time as the Vice Chair of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce in Southern California. I also love listening to and representing people from all walks of life on a range of issues (personal or professional), and seek to make a positive difference for the Swiss abroad. As an attorney and long-standing member of the Swiss community abroad, I would represent and advocate for our tribe, ensuring we stay connected, informed, and empowered. As your delegate, I will ensure our community and interests remain visible, heard, valued, and united, no matter where we call home.

Luca Canonica California - Lawyer

Helping get people answers and get their voices heard by the right authorities is deeply satisfying to me. I love being involved in the Swiss community, meeting new people, and being an advocate. I enjoy public service and it would be an honor to help represent and advocate for the Swiss abroad. Now that we're starting a family, staying engrained with the Swiss community and culture is even more important to me. I serve as Board Member and Treasurer for the Golden Gate Swiss Club, but would love to serve the broader expat community too. Official Reddit moderator of r/Switzerland and r/askswitzerland.

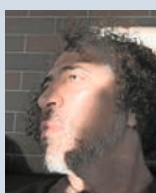


Marc Fuhrman Arizona - Banker

I have been active in politics for over 12 years, in my Conseil Communal, in the Grand Conseil of the State of Geneva and as cantonal party President. I travel back to Switzerland regularly, and am very much interested and active in affairs pertaining to Swiss affairs. I intend to move back some time before retirement, reinforcing my interest in Swiss topics and challenges. I believe I can bring some new insights from the USA on several relevant themes relevant to Switzerland. Arizona-Swiss Society, member. Frequent contributor to RTS radio (Swiss French Forum show mostly).

Olivier Henry Kohler Colorado - Board Advisor and Consultant

Swiss people living abroad are a growing percentage of our population and therefore influencing key political or economic topics whenever possible is very important. I care deeply about the future of Switzerland and what will matter most for the next generations to come. Their voice needs to be heard. Representing Swiss citizens abroad would be an honor if offered the opportunity. I'm currently involved with the Swiss-American Friendship Society in Denver, Colorado, and previously with the United Swiss Societies of Northern California – USSNC.



Sabar Mourad Souag Washington - Software Manager

I want to become a delegate on the Council of the Swiss Abroad because I believe it will provide a valuable opportunity to connect with my cultural roots while actively contributing to the Swiss community abroad. I am passionate about fostering ties among Swiss expatriates and bridging the gap between our heritage and our experiences in the U.S. My background in leadership and project management equips me to engage effectively with our local Swiss community, advocate for our collective interests, and promote cultural exchange.

Consular District San Francisco: 3 Seats (continued)

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Hanspeter Waldner California - Biotech Executive

The political discussions about the 13th OASI pension payment and the reduction in services and benefits for the Swiss Abroad are evidence that the mood in Switzerland has turned against the "Fifth Switzerland". The interests of the Swiss abroad need to be defended and appropriately be represented, which I would be honored to contribute to. I had been sporadically involved in Swissnex in Boston and the Swiss Benevolent Society of New York when I was living on the US East Coast until recently.

Frederic Zenhausern Arizona - University Professor and Director

My broad interdisciplinary background and international experience in academia and industry with multiple research institutions in Switzerland and USA bring a deep knowledge of how Swiss people abroad can benefit the home country of Switzerland while enabling stronger intellectual, economic and cultural engagement and interactions across the world. I'm a member of the local Arizona Swiss Society and I have an active joint academic affiliation with the University of Geneva ("professeur ordinaire") with the graduate students exchange program



Consular District Atlanta: 2 Seats

If your embassy has your email address, you will receive an email with voting instructions from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA/EDA). Voters can only vote for the candidates residing in their Consular Districts from April 12 to May 11, 2025.

For more information on these candidates visit www.swisscommunity.us



Olivier Francois Brack Georgia - Director Int'l Division

For the past 17 years, I have been actively involved in bridging Switzerland and the US in terms of business, politics, and expatriation issues. Helping organizations, families and individuals with their needs when moving to or from the US. Removing stress and clear burden by assisting them w/logistics and tips to ease their move and integrate smoothly. It will be an honor to represent Switzerland in the US and to share my extensive world experience with anyone who needs assistance, guidance, support, compassion and kindness. Member of Swiss Business Enterprise, in contact with many members of Swiss clubs of Atlanta.

Helena Claesson Tennessee - Professional Musician and Freelance in Commercial Audio

I'm one of few active Swiss artists in the United States as I've worked as a professional musician for 10+ years. I'm very used to community building and actively working towards building something, and am always excited to connect with other Swiss people in the area I'm touring in. In this capacity I've also served on advisory councils for Lincoln Center and Manhattan School of Music in New York City.



Flavio Frohlich North Carolina - Professor of Psychiatry

My personal and professional experience as a Swiss citizen in the US offers me a unique perspective on how to strengthen the Swiss-US connection, offer community and connection, and effectively represent our Swiss community. I am connected with Switzerland through various institutions and positions, including my work with Swiss delegations visiting NC and my position as adjunct professor in Bern. I am excited to pay forward and contribute to strengthening Swiss-US connections and advocating for the community of Swiss people abroad.

Andre Hernandez Florida - Sales Director

With Swiss roots and global leadership experience at Swatch and Lindt, I bring strategic expertise, cultural understanding, and a commitment to advocate for Swiss citizens abroad while fostering connections. My legal and business education, combined with my success in managing international operations and building networks, positions me to advocate for Swiss citizens abroad, strengthen ties with Switzerland, and proactively contribute to the Council of the Swiss Abroad. I have been actively involved in Swiss associations for many years including the Swiss Club in Miami, fostering community ties and cultural engagement.



Christian Stern Florida - Entrepreneur

My primary residence is Estero, FL, my secondary residence is Raleigh, NC. I am visiting Switzerland about 10 -12 times per year for business and as a board member of European companies in the US, I truly understand the bi-cultural and economic challenges the Swiss community will need to address. I'm a member of the Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida, Honorary member/past president Kavalierverein Duebendorf, Honorary member/past president Graduate School of Business Administration Zurich Alumni Association.

Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The Swiss Club Miami started 2025 with the traditional Shark Valley Bicycle Tour and refreshing breakfast picnic on January 19th. We had amazing views over the Everglades and counted more than 50 alligators along the 14 miles bicycle ride.

Also in January we had an exciting event in collaboration with the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce Florida Chapter about navigating the US and Swiss Social Security systems.

The Swiss Club Miami Annual General Assembly meeting took place in February. We approved the 2024 financials and voted for our new board members Carlos Boelsterli as our Treasurer and Laura Sanchez Mejía in charge of Project Management. We welcome them to their new positions! Also, we made Bea Schmied and Astrid Artho honorary members for their extraordinary effort in our club activities.

Swiss Club Miami meets Miami Ski Club. For the first time we organized a joint Happy Hour in Coconut Grove in February. Over 70 fans joined our evening to network over the same passions, such as skiing, mountains, and après ski events.

Taking advantage of the “cooler Florida season” we had our Fondue Dinner with the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce Florida Chapter and the Miami Ski Club at the Cuckoo Clock Brauhaus in Miami, a rustic restaurant with vintage skis and ski lift decorations.

With our new concept "Stammtisch on the Move. No Place Is Too Far for Good Company!" to better involve our members from Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Fort Lauderdale, and North Miami, our Stammtisch was held at the Old Heidelberg Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.

Upcoming Events

Swiss - Belgian Chocolate Competition with the Belgium Club in April in Miami!
Scuba Diving/Snorkeling/Picnic in Key Largo in May/June
Volunteer Event Beach Cleaning with the Miami Reef Initiative in Key Biscayne in June

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

CHRISTINA SCHOELZEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSCLUBMIAMI](https://www.facebook.com/swissclubmiami)

Georgia: Savannah Swiss Club

The calendar for 2025 is filling up nicely:

- May 31st - BBQ & Pool Party, Jacksonville, FL
- August 3rd - August 1st celebration Beach Party, Butter Bean Beach, Skidaway Island
- October 5th - Phil in the Park, Forsyth Park, Savannah

We are a social club in Savannah looking to connect with Swiss expats or anyone who loves Switzerland. For more information about our club and additional events, please visit our Facebook page.

PATRIK ROSENAST, PRESIDENT

Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Our Christmas event took place on Sunday, December 8th, 2024, in the Oakwood Room at French Regional Park in Plymouth, Minnesota. A total of 35 people attended, and 10 children were there to meet “Samichlaus” (Santa). Everyone enjoyed a warm lunch of soup and bread. Guests brought Christmas cookies to share, which went well with the hot chocolate bar (a big hit!) and Christmas tea. The children were entertained at the craft table (also a big hit!) and Samichlaus who called each child and praised for good behavior or ways to improve over this year. Each child also received a little present.

The TCSAA would like to thank everyone who attended and brought cookies to share, as well as the organizers, Alessia Stornetta and Bettina Wernimont, and our Samichlaus, Rene Vanoni, making this an unforgettable event year after year.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA
WWW.TCSAA.US

Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

In January, we held our 68th Swiss Club of Chicago Annual Meeting and Fondue Fundraiser. A comprehensive overview of the club's activities and achievements was given to the members, reinforcing the club's commitment to the Swiss community in the Chicagoland area. After the board meeting, attendees enjoyed a delightful evening of camaraderie and indulged in delicious fondue. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, the large raffle boasted a diverse array of prizes. The Consul General of Switzerland, Pascal Borno, was in attendance as was the leadership of the Swiss Benevolent Society. The event served as a testament to the strength of community spirit and the importance of supporting cultural initiatives.

Over a weekend in February filled with fresh snowfall in New Glarus, Wisconsin, a unique blend of winter sports and Swiss-inspired delights were enjoyed. A great time was had by all.

Many Swiss Club members make an annual pilgrimage to celebrate Fasnacht in Lucerne. For the fifth year in a row, alongside Swiss Club President Horst Zemp, the group dressed in festive costumes, dancing and reveling from day to night - making plenty of noise to drive away winter. It seems their efforts were successful, as both Lucerne and Chicago have since welcomed the warmth of spring.

Upcoming Events

May 3: Birds & Biers in Milwaukee, WI
June 15: Swiss Sunday Brunch at the Lakefront, Chicago, IL
June 21: German Fest in Forest Park, IL

Come join the fun! Make certain to check out our website at www.swissclubchicago.com to see our full calendar and event updates.

THERESE MARIE PESKOWITS, SPONSORSHIP DIRECTOR
SPONSORSHIP@SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM

Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH)

The Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH) had an exciting winter with our monthly Jass games and dine outs. As we transition into Spring, our traditional biannual picnic is scheduled for April 27 at Brazos Bend State Park. We also have more events lined up for the upcoming months, including a Brunch in June.

The Swiss National Day celebration in Houston will take place on August 2nd at St. Arnold Brewery. Be sure to check our website in the coming months for more details and to register (you do not need to be a SASH member to join us for Swiss National Day).

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

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, PRESIDENT

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota started the year with our Annual Meeting Brunch at the Peridia Golf & Country Club on January 12th. After President Nelly Camardo welcomed our members and the new Board was elected, we all enjoyed a delicious brunch buffet with outstanding food and drinks.

Then on February 9th, one of our most popular events - the fondue luncheon at Chef Rolfs New Florida Kitchen - took place. The event was well attended and the typical Cheese Fondue smell filled the room!

On March 2nd, with a sunny and blue sky, we had our first out of six picnics at the Oscar Scherer State Park. Over 60 members and guests enjoyed delicious Bratwursts grilled to perfection by our new BBQ Chef Peter.

Sunny wishes from beautiful Sarasota!

LIZA BUEHLE
WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUBSARASOTA.ORG

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, Philadelphia Chapter

The New Helvetic Society took its 6th Annual Winter Weekend Getaway Trip to Elk Mountain in February! The snow conditions and the weather were perfect. We had 41 skiers who loved every minute of the day! The non-skiers relaxed in the fun hot tub or chilled and relaxed at the expansive Moose House. The Raclette dinner on Saturday night was a great hit as well and all enjoyed great camaraderie!

If you want to make fun memories with like-minded Swiss people, then look us up at MySwissClub.org.

DANIELA K. KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT

Upcoming Events

April 26th: Annual General Assembly Meeting, Riverwinds Restaurant, West Deptford, NJ
June 14th: Father's Day Picnic, Red Bank Battlefield Park, National Park, NJ

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Our annual fondue event has become so popular that seats disappeared faster than cheese on a hot raclette grill! On what felt more like a Florida spring day than a cozy winter fondue night, 62 eager guests enjoyed glasses of apéro wine and the sound of lively chatter. Soon, the cow bell rung and Joe took charge, passing the spotlight to our master cheese maker, Urs Pfister. Urs, the guardian of his secret fondue recipe (which might be locked in a Swiss bank vault for all we know), orchestrated the evening with military precision together with his assistant Urs Brunner. Guests lined up with their réchauds like devoted cheese disciples, waiting for Urs to bless them with his final, magical touches. As the last bits of fondue were scraped from the caquelons, word spread like wildfire: this was the best fondue ever! But of course, there's always room for dessert of home-baked cakes and pastries. An extra thank you to all the wonderful home bakers of our club. Full and happy, we can't wait to do it all over again next year! Until then, stay cheesy and we see you in March at our general assembly.

Upcoming Events

April 13 - Easter Bunny Picnic
May 15 - Pizza and Bowling
June 14 - The Amazing Soup-er Club Social
August 2 - Swiss National Day Celebration

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

Northern California: Sacramento Helvetia Verein

Thank you to everyone who attended the General Meeting. We swore in the new board, discussed new business, and our future events. The Sacramento Swiss have an exciting year planned, from our spring picnic to the Christmas party. Our famous Spring Picnic is right around the corner! Join us at Nelson's Grove April 27, for an incredible day outdoors with the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. It's wonderful to be Swiss with all the games and company..

PETER KASSEL, PRESIDENT
WWW.SACRAMENTOSWISS.COM

Pennsylvania: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon and Annual General Assembly Meeting was held on December 7 at the Teutonia Maennerchor. The luncheon featured Teutonia's traditional buffet. Entertainment was provided by the Teutonia Kinderchor, who performed a short concert of German Christmas songs. There was also a visit by Samichlaus, who brought Grittibaenzli and other treats for the children!

LYNDALL HUGGLER
WWW.SWISSPITTSBURGH.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSPITTSBURGH

Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

Centennial Celebration September 12-14

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club is celebrating its centennial milestone this September. Established in 1925 in San Francisco, the club transitioned to Alameda and subsequently relocated throughout the East Bay before acquiring land in Newark and completing our Swiss Hall in 1935.

For nine decades, the Aelpler Gruppe and Swiss Park have organized events and supported the Swiss community in Northern California. We express our gratitude for your continuous support through various events such as Schwingfests, Musikfests, Concerts, and Tour Groups. Your unwavering support has been instrumental in our success.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Aelpler Gruppe, we will host a three-day event in Newark from September 12-14. The festivities will include the Championship Schwingfest on Saturday and a Concert on Sunday. The Toggenburger Schwingerverband and Schwingklub Küssnacht will bring 11 Schwingers to compete with the finest wrestlers on the West Coast. Performances by the Walter Grimm Kapelle from Switzerland, along with the Gander Scheiber Kapelle, Alphorn and Schwyzer Örgeli players will enhance the celebration. These three days in Newark will conclude a week of Swiss activities beginning with the Ripon Schwingfest on September 6.

We invite other clubs, businesses, and individuals to participate by placing an advertisement in our Schwingfest Program, sending us any historical photos related to the Aelpler Gruppe, attending our events, and marching in our flag parade with your club flag or bells at the Schwingfest.

Please visit our website www.aelplergruppe.com for more details.

ARNOLD AMBIEL, PRESIDENT

Urs Schwank: A life well lived is a life remembered with Love

Urs Schwank, our long-time dear Swiss friend, left for the garden in the sky called Heaven on Saturday morning, January 25, 2025, at the age of one hundred and one and five months, at Morningstar Assisted Living in Fountain Hills, AZ. Thanks to Alma Muniz, the Life Enrichment Coordinator, Lew and I saw Urs two days before he died. May the memory of Urs be a blessing we hold in our hearts forever.

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.” – Richard Paz

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New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

The Swiss Benevolent Society started out the year strong with our 7th Annual Swiss Heritage Hockey Afternoon. The New Jersey Devils played against the Ottawa Senators.

What makes this event so special, is that this yearly gathering has become a sort of tradition amongst the SBS members, their friends and families, and everyone looks forward to being able to celebrate a Swiss American afternoon with thousands of New Jersey Devils' fans.

A Swiss Heritage T-Shirt was specifically designed for the day. We got to support our Swiss Players Nico Hischier, Timo Meier, and Jonas Siegenthaler with celebratory high-fives. Not only did we get to meet and greet Nico and Timo following the game, but we also ended this memorable afternoon with two group photos! Despite the loss of the New Jersey Devils on that day, it was a day worth celebrating and honoring our Swiss Heritage amongst friends and families!

Please visit the SBS website www.sbsny.org to learn more about Swiss Benevolent Society of New York and how to support us.

MARKUS BRUDERER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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