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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

Dear Readers in the United States,

While I write these lines, it rains outside. Contrary to most places, here we are so happy that it rains so we will get some relief from our drought. We are of course counting on “El Niño”. Our gardens look miserable, with brown lawns and wilted plants as we are only allowed to turn on the sprinklers twice a week. To cheer things up a bit, I have painted “Sparrows in Spring.”

Again we have a Swiss Review with a wide variety of articles, so that everybody should find something to their liking.

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that we can all enjoy together the 2016 issues of Swiss Review.

WAL BAUR

wbaur@roadrunner.com



Wal - 2015

### North Carolina

#### Streichmusik Alder in Charlotte - October 30th, 2015



A true highlight on the events calendar 2015 of the Swiss Society of Charlotte was the performance of the Streichmusik Alder from Urnäsch. In the festive environment of the Bechtler Museum in downtown Charlotte, NC, founded by the Swiss Andreas Bechtler, designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta, the musicians blended in with a nice crowd of dignitaries, sponsors, members of the Swiss Society and visitors for the apéro at 6 pm. The concert began at 7:30 and was truly outstanding and enjoyable. The band members made a point in explaining a bit of their back-

ground and history and played a variety of instruments used in traditional Appenzeller folk music, including the alphorn. After the concert, people were allowed to have a go at the “Taler Swinging”, “Cowbell Shaking” and blowing the alphorn. The event was made possible thanks to the leadership of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta and a generous group of sponsors recruited by Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Heinz Roth and our board member Rahel Koller.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF CHARLOTTE  
THOMAS KOCH  
DRTHOMASKOCH@HOTMAIL.COM

Swiss Folk Night  
Original Appenzeller Streichmusik  
Alder Switzerland  
October 30th, 2015  
Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Charlotte, NC  
Door Opens 6:45 pm / Show starts 7:30 pm  
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**California**  
Sängerfest 2017

Dear Singer Families and Friends,  
Greetings from the San Joaquin Valley!

By the time this goes to publication, Sängerfest 2017 will be just a mere one and a half years away. The San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes will be hosting the 29th United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast (USSSPC) Sängerfest, June 22-25, 2017. The 4-day event will take place in Modesto and Ripon with venues at the Modesto Double Tree Hotel & Convention Center and the Gallo Center for the Arts. Saturday's Festival will be held at the Ripon Swiss Hall.

The "Swiss Echoes" are looking forward to greeting their singer friends and families once again in our beautiful San Joaquin Valley and are committed to ensuring that all will have a great time!

A sponsorship donation (personal or business) program has been set up for those who wish to participate. Sponsorship donations can be made payable to "Swiss Song Festival 2017." Thank you in advance for your consideration. We are also looking for donations for our Souvenir Bags which each "Badge Holder" will receive upon registration to include such items as: pens, pencils, candy, note pads, etc. that may have your business logo, slogan, or greeting on them (this would be a great way to advertise your business!). All donations will be acknowledged in our Souvenir Program Book. Please look for updated information on the 29th USSSPC Sängerfest in the months to come. Mark your calendars for June 22-25, 2017 and join us for a memorable and song-filled Festival.

With Singer Greetings,

HEIDI BETSCHART, USSSPC PRESIDENT - h.betschart@aol.com

Swiss Song Festival 2017—P.O. Box 583001, Modesto CA 95358

[www.swissongfest2017.com](http://www.swissongfest2017.com)



**Festival Programm**

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Badge Registration and Welcome Reception  
At the Modesto Convention Center

Friday, June 23, 2017

Grand Concert Program  
Gallo Center for the Arts  
Mary Stuart Rogers Theater  
After Concert Ball/Dance  
Modesto Convention Center

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Jodel Festival, San Joaquin Valley Swiss Hall  
Ripon, California

Sunday, June 25, 2017

Ecumenical Church Service, Modesto Center Plaza  
Grand Banquet/Closing Ceremonies  
Modesto Convention Center



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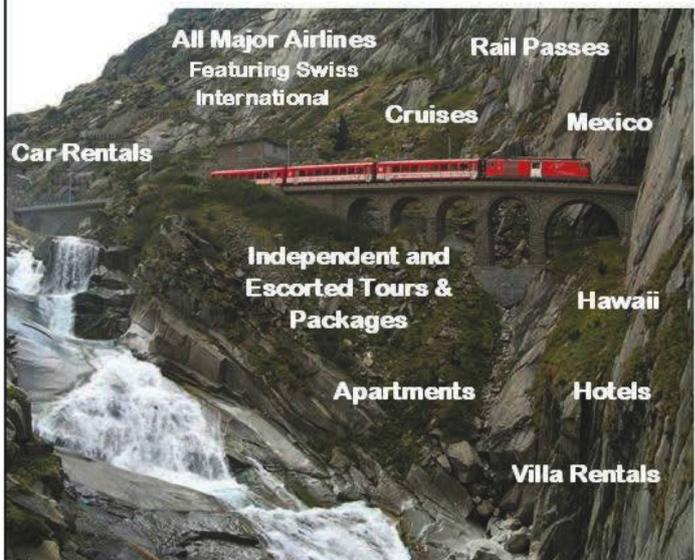
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**Massachusetts**

A boat, a bird, a Boston year.

The year 2015 is history, and it has been an exciting one for swissnex Boston and its audiences. It marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of pioneering “Science Diplomacy,” of setting up the very first swissnex in Cambridge, MA – to promote Switzerland in Arts, Science Innovation and Education. The Network now counts five swissnex locations and numerous science and technology officers around the world, but Boston is where it all started. To mark the occasion, we threw a party in early October, partnering up with the Canton of Basel-Stadt who was visiting their sister state Massachusetts with a delegation.

An array of charismatic speakers – Patrick T. Maher, Mayor of Cambridge among them – and delicious Swiss food by Swissbäkers and New York-based Starwurst, plus festive cupcakes and a great crowd

*Baschi Dürr, Executive Councillor of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, speaking at the swissnex anniversary event.*



made for a memorable day. The true star of the party though, was the Stämpfli Express, the world’s longest rowing boat, measuring 114 feet and seating no less than 24 rowers and coxswain. The impressive shell was created by the Swiss boat builder Stämpfli Racing Boats and came all the way from the shores of Lake Zürich, along with Melch Bürgin, a former Olympian and living legend in the rowing community, and David Gabel, an American expat living in Switzerland. (It came on a freight ship, in case you were wondering.)

As a major effort in displaying Swiss Innovation and getting people talking about Switzerland in general, we - with support from Presence Switzerland, Basel-Stadt and Swiss International Air Lines - brought the Stämpfli Express to its first-ever tour outside of Europe. From Boston, MA to Chattanooga, TN it was displayed and rowed at



*The Stämpfli Express is taken on a spin by 24 elite rowers. Swiss rowing legend Melch Bürgin is coxing*

almost every fall regatta, causing rowers and passersby to stop and admire, and express their wonder: “Holy smokes” and “This is soooo cool” were just two of the things we heard quite frequently. In over 70 outings, the giant boat was rowed by more than 1600 people on the east coast alone; additional trips were made on the west coast over the winter.

The Stämpfli Express had barely left the area when another Swiss invention took Boston by storm. Birdly, the virtual flight simulator developed by Max Rheiner at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHDK), had already enchanted audiences in San Francisco and New York. In Boston, the machine that lets you “fly like a bird” broke all records. Exhibited at Le Laboratoire Cambridge, an Arts/Science Institution originally from Paris, the arrival of Birdly received so much press and social media attention that all the time slots for its four days of operation were fully booked by the second day. “Virtual Reality Just Let Me



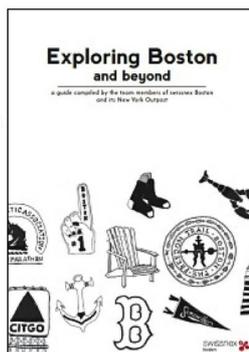
*The swissnex Boston Team flying high with Birdly.*

**Visiting Boston? Here’s your perfect guide!**

We here at swissnex Boston work hard during the week connecting the dots in art, science, education, and innovation. But on the weekends we are out and about, exploring our surroundings in quest of the most delicious foods, the most beautiful sites, the most eccentric shops, and ultimately the most authentic Boston experience— same goes for our counterparts at the New York Outpost.

Cumulatively we have amassed a deep knowledge and we don’t want this knowledge to go to waste! So we’ve put our heads together and compiled this guide. In these pages each of us has laid out a plan for a spectacular day spent locally. As you’ll see many of us gravitate toward earthly delights such as food and drink (we’re only human!) But you’ll also find the best in culture, history, shopping, and natural wonder.

**www.swissnexboston.org or direct link: [bit.ly/1V2Ryv4](http://bit.ly/1V2Ryv4)**



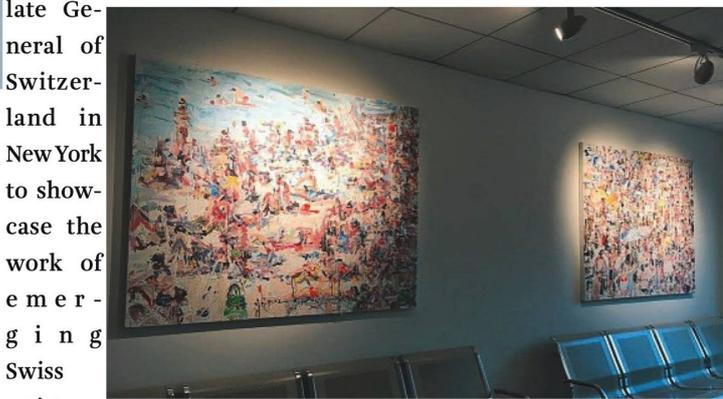
Fly Like a Bird and I Wanted to Stay,” wrote one reporter about his experience on the Swiss “Happy Machine” (“we call it that because it puts smiles on people’s faces,” says inventor Max Rheiner).

It has been another successful year for swissnex Boston in connecting the area with the best and brightest of Swiss Arts, Science, Innovation and Education, and we’re looking forward to an exciting 2016.

www.swissnexboston.org  
ANITA SUTER, SWISSNEX BOSTON

**New York  
Art @ The Consulate**

Art @ The Consulate is a curatorial initiative by the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York to showcase the work of emerging Swiss artists living in the United States.



Chrissy Angliker's paintings hanging in the reception hall of the Consulate General in New York

Last December the Consulate General unveiled its inaugural exhibition of Art @ The Consulate. For six months visitors to the Consulate can view "Bodies of Water" featuring works by Brooklyn-based Swiss artist Chrissy Angliker.



Ambassador André Schaller and the artist Chrissy Angliker

Born in Zurich, and raised in Greifensee and Winterthur, Chrissy Angliker's artistic inclinations emerged at an early age. Beginning in 1996, Chrissy was fortunate to study with the Russian artist Juri Borodatchev, who became her artistic men-

tor for several years. At the age of 16, in 1999, Chrissy moved to the US to study Fine Art at the Walnut Hill School in Natick,

Mass. In 2002, Chrissy had her first solo show at Gallery Juri in Winterthur, Switzerland. Seeking to broaden her means of expression, she then pursued a degree in Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute in New York. After spending her post-graduate years working in the design

field, Chrissy's creative expression shifted back to painting in 2008. Her art is focused on visually translating her perception of herself in relationship to the world. Chrissy's work has been shown in Europe and the US, and featured in several international publications. She has been commissioned to collaborate with several companies, amongst them AOL, Burton and

Wired Magazine.

Watch our exclusive interview on our YouTube channel:

<http://bit.ly/ChrissyAngliker> and follow

Art @ The Consulate at #SwissArtNYC

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**Florida**

**Swiss American Club of Sarasota**

On Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> the Swiss American Club of Sarasota was hosting a Wine and Cheese party in honor of the visiting Consul General, Mr. Andreas Maager and Mrs. Claudine Maager from the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta. Special guests were the Mayor of Sarasota, the honorable Willie Shaw and the President of the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota, Mrs. Beth Ruyle-Hullinger and her husband Mr. Craig Hullinger. The main theme of the party was dedicated to the candidate friendship and potential future Swiss Sister City of Rapperswil-Jona. This picturesque City, located on the shores of Lake Zurich was established in 1229. It is the headquarters of the famous Swiss National Circus "Knie" and is considered the Circus City of Switzerland. Just like Rapperswil-Jona, Sarasota has also a strong connection to the Circus World and is home of many U.S. circuses. Both cities have a



Enjoying the Wine and Cheeseparty: Mrs. Claudine Maager, Mr. Andreas Maager, Consul General of Switzerland in Atlanta; Primo Bader, President of the Swiss American Club of Sarasota; Mrs. Beth Ruyle, President of the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota and the honorable Willie Shah, Mayor of Sarasota.

strong tourist industry and are rich in local culture. Rapperswil-Jona is the home of many museums. It features multiple cultural events such as Jazz and Blues festivals and a nationally famous Summer Nights Festival. The city also hosts many sporting events: competitions in sculling, beach volleyball, athletics and sailing. Just like Sarasota, Rapperswil-Jona has excellent educational facilities including a small University of Applied

Sciences. The city also features a strong industry and business community and is headquarter of many International Companies.

Over 50 guests attended the event and in some laudable speeches Mr. Anreas Maager and the honorable Mayor Willie Shaw as well as Mrs. Beth Ruyle expressed their strong support for a partnership between Sarasota and Rapperswil-Jona. Mr. Maager and Mrs. Ruyle have been visiting Rapperswil-Jona to discuss the potential partnership with the local City Management.

PRIMO BADER, PRESIDENT, PRIMOBADER@AOL.COM

**Last Minute:**

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota together with the Sister Cities Association of Sarasota are pleased to report the signing of a Declaration of Friendship by Mayor Willie Charles Shaw of Sarasota and Mayor Erich Zoller of Rapperswil-Jona. The Declaration of Friendship is an interim agreement to enable both cities to proceed toward building a formal Sister City relationship in the future. The partnership has also been officially endorsed in a letter to Mayor Erich Zoller written by the Honorable U.S. Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, Suzan G. LeVine.

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota is very pleased with the developing relationship between the two cities and has high expectations for future synergies beneficial to both communities.




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**California**

**Newark, 58<sup>th</sup> West Coast Swiss Wrestling Championship Schwingfest and 23<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Coast MusicFest**

From Sept. 4 to 6, 2015, the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted a very successful Fall and 58<sup>th</sup> West Coast Wrestling Association Championship Schwingfest, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Coast MusicFest, the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the Swiss Park Hall.

The highlight of the Schwingfest afternoon was the colorful Alpauzug parade led by Club members carrying the National flags & Club flag along with large cowbells. A dairy steer was led through the Schwingplatz and children carried the Swiss Cantonal flags to the delight of the large audience.

Two tour groups from Switzerland brought five Schwingers with them, which made the wrestling exciting. Albi Saner, a scout from Switzerland, was in attendance, evaluating U.S. Schwingers to attend the Eidgenössisches Schwing- und Älplerfest in Estavayer, Canton Freiburg from Aug. 26 to 28, 2016.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Coast MusicFest was a rousing success on Sunday in the Swiss Park Hall. Over 275 people enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of Ländler music.

The MusicFest began with a flag parade and included over twenty different groups performing traditional Swiss Music. The next MusicFest will be held in Frances, Washington in 2018.

ROSE SATARIANO

aelplergruppe@gmail.com



All the artists on stage for the 23rd Pacific Coast MusicFest



Two views of the colorful Alpauzug with the dairy steer and the cowbell ringers



Triumphant  
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**Indiana**  
**Swiss Club Activities**

The Swiss Club of Central Indiana participated in the 39th Indy International Festival 2015, November 5, 6 and 7 with an educational booth and a chocolate booth. The theme of the Festival was “symbols around the world”. Our display included a fondue/cheese display, information placards of William Tell and Swiss Vatican Guards. The central display of a manikin representing Tell’s son was a target for guests to try to shoot a marshmallow, with a marshmallow-firing crossbow, over his head into the apple from which it would return below his feet. The theme of our display took the blue ribbon for first place in the educational division. The Swiss Guards uniformed dolls were dressed with costumes made by club member Marceline Hammer.

Volunteers, mostly dressed in typical Swiss costumes, helped at our chocolate booth for the festival. This was the second fall event we participated in as we had a two-day event in Columbus, Indiana in October for the Ethnic Expo, which is an annual event. Our club had only a chocolate booth in Columbus but our imported chocolate was a rave both there and at the International Festival. The response for the chocolate was so overwhelming that we were sold out by the end of the three-day festival.

Check out our website at [www.swissclubindy.org](http://www.swissclubindy.org)  
 REGIS HAMMER  
[rehammer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rehammer@sbcglobal.net)



The greatest hit at the Swiss booth was the central display of a manikin representing Tell’s son. It was a target for guests to try to shoot a marshmallow, with a marshmallow-firing crossbow into the apple.



Volunteers at the Swiss booth, all dressed in typical Swiss costumes were: Therese Jochum, Katherine Desmeules, Marceline Hammer and Stephanie von Bulow



The Vatican Gards display. Club member Marceline Hammer was the dressmaker who sewed the uniforms of the gards..

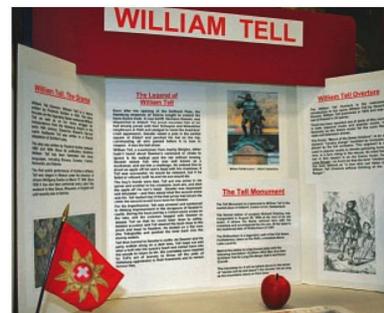
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The William Tell display and the 1st place blue ribbon in the educational division which the Swiss booth received.

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