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REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Traditional Swiss culture is alive and well within the Swiss Clubs in the U.S. as you can see from the stories featured in this issue. It is refreshing to get exposed to events that are different than what we hear and read otherwise on a daily basis. I've always been proud to be Swiss, even though I've never been involved with the more traditional customs. I can't even play "Jass" but I love traditional food.

The regional pages of the Swiss Review are the perfect tool to share stories and experiences that reflect the diversity of Swiss expatriates. Deadline for submitting articles and photos for the May issue is April 17.

On the other hand, if you would like to find out more what's going on in the "old" country, you may find the following websites useful:

- www.ch.ch – Government close to the people, a service of the Confederation, cantons and communes
- www.houseofswitzerland.org – Swiss Stories and Switzerland's participation in major world events
- www.s-ge.com/en – Switzerland Global Enterprise: Export, Import, Investment
- www.swissinfo.ch – Swiss news in 10 languages
- www.nb.admin.ch/index.html?lang=en – Research and

SwissInfoDesk

- www.myswitzerland.org – tourism

Other useful websites:

- www.swissnex.org – Swiss science, education, art and innovation worldwide
- www.aso.ch – Organisation of the Swiss abroad
- www.swisscommunity.org – Platform for Swiss abroad
- www.swisscommunity.org/en/homepage – Swiss Clubs in the U.S.

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EDITOR

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Bern: Press Release from The Federal Council

Facilitated entry to the USA – Global Entry Program to begin for Switzerland in February 2017

At its meeting on 11 January 2017 the Federal Council approved Switzerland's participation in the Global Entry Program of the United States of America and authorized the necessary amendment to the Federal Office of Police's (fedpol) Fees Ordinance. From 1 February 2017 Swiss nationals can register with fedpol to participate in the program. The program facilitates entry to the USA following pre-clearance security checks by the Swiss and US police authorities.

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) initiated the Global Entry Program to facilitate entry to the USA for frequent travelers at select US airports. Once accepted onto the program, the traveler can enter the country via an automatic kiosk. The objective of the procedure is to reduce the long waiting times for entering the US.

You can read about the application procedure on the following page: www.fedpol.admin.ch/fedpol/en/home/pass---identitaetskarte/global-entry.html

South Dakota: Lakota Waldorf School Fighting Poverty on an Indian Reservation

It was in 2007 and again in 2013 that I passed by the Lakota Waldorf School while on a road trip. On both occasions, the school was closed for the summer. Nevertheless, it made a big impression on me and I was immediately determined to support the school in any way I could, either through donations or hands on help. This past September, I had the opportunity to travel to Kyle, South Dakota, once again, but this time as a volunteer at the Lakota Waldorf School. The only Waldorf School on an Indian Reservation.

Swiss native Isabel Stadnick is one of the founders and current administrator and her husband Robert Stadnick is a tribal member. In 1992, they traveled to the Goetheanum with two additional Lakota tribal members, when Dr. Heinz Zimmermann - the head of the Waldorf movement - encouraged the founders to incorporate the Lakota language and culture.



The Lakota Waldorf School's mission is to empower the children and initiate their educational process with creativity, positivity, community and Lakota culture. The Lakota Waldorf School is a small school, surrounded by never ending prairie, in the midst of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This reservation is one of the poorest counties in the United States, with an unemployment rate of 75% to 80%. Many of the local people suffer from severe alcohol and drug abuse, and much of the reservation is considered a food desert.

Because of these circumstances, the Lakota Waldorf School is an incredible support system for the 24 children who attend the school. They provide the children with wholesome meals and send them home on Friday afternoon with a weekend pack filled with healthy snacks since many of the families do not have the resources for a nutritious meal.

Each morning, the children are greeted with the wonderful smell of a healthy breakfast of oatmeal, scrambled eggs from their own chicken or rice pudding with honey and raisins. Lunch consists of only organic food, vegetable from their own garden and bison meat from a local store. All meals are cooked at the school.

The 16 kindergartners and 8 1st/2nd graders that make up the Lakota Waldorf School, begin their day with the morning verse in the Lakota language, Lakota songs, music and stories. The curriculum includes language, arts, math, science, and social studies as well as handwork, flute music, painting, drawing and modeling classes and

storytelling throughout the day.

Currently, the entire school consists of one small building which houses the kindergarten, kitchen and office. There is a separate small building for 1st/2nd grade. To continue supporting students and their



families, they are planning to add grades 3, 4 and 5 and up to 8th grade in the coming years. Plans are also underway to build an urgent n e e d e d

additional building, housing a bigger kitchen, three or four additional classrooms and a healthy café shop. The new building would be built with only straw bales and solar and wind energy. Jeff Dickinson, well known as a Waldorf and a clean energy architect, is involved in the addition of the school.

Not only is Waldorf education important for these children, but the support they receive is crucial for their overall well-being. The families cannot afford to pay tuition. Therefore, the school is 100% donation-funded. The Lakota Waldorf School, the administration, current and future students and families would appreciate any donation, small or large, to sustain Waldorf education on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Having spent a week working with the students, who are growing up in severe poverty and some in traumatic circumstances, I can



personally attest to the positive impact the school has on each of their lives. My sincere hope is that the Lakota Waldorf School will continue to thrive and educate young ones for years to come.

Please visit the website www.lakotawaldorfschool.org or visit the gofundme account at www.gofundme.com/lakota-waldorf-sc and consider making a donation in order to ensure the survival of this very special school. Checks are welcome as well, sent to:

Lakota Waldorf School
Attn. Isabel Stadnick
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation,
Three Mile Creek
P.O. Box 527
Kyle, SD 57752
Phone: 605 455 2487
email:
info@lakotawaldorfschool.org



MADELEINE WUERGLER
HANDWORK TEACHER AT GREEN MEADOW WALDORF SCHOOL
AND OTTO SPECHT SCHOOL
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Delaware: International Bundesbrief Society Annual Dinner

Our annual gathering took place on January 21 at the home of Rosemarie and Franz Portman in Hochessen, Delaware to discuss activities of the Society and to make plans for the coming year.

During the meal we had a fantastic and educational presentation by George Washington (Carl Closs) of his experiences as a General, President and American Citizen. He held us all captivated for an hour with a delightful, historically accurate performance. All in attendance were fascinated by the 1st hand recollections of the President. The interesting discussions lasted late into the evening.

We discussed our 10th anniversary of the founding back in 2006, our newest members from South America, Switzerland and Germany, and the presentation of the famous Bundesbrief Poster this summer to the US Ambassador to Switzerland, Suzi LeVine, at Domain de Penthes, the Museum of the Swiss Abroad, made possible by donations from our members especially Sherry McVickar (Barn Lady Artist).

We discussed raising more money to re-print our famous Bundesbrief Poster as well as the Helvetica Americana Map using proceeds of donations in support of our mission of Democracy, Constitutional Liberty and Scholarship. All donations are welcome and appreciated.

Again, many thanks go to all our members in support of our important activities and I look forward to another great year together.



Hirschpfeffer and "Swiss" sheet cake



L to R:
George Washington (Carl Closs)
Franz Portman
Albert Gallatin (Ron Duquette)



L to R:
Joyce Hershey
Eliza Scherrer
Helen Phillips

California: News from Pro Ticino Nord

Our oldest member who cheerfully participates in our meetings and luncheons is Annie Schweizer, now 104 years old. She lives in San Jose with her daughter Josie. Annie has won a prize basket of goodies for three years in a row for being the oldest Swiss person to attend the Swiss Benevolent Society's senior luncheon each April. We are proud to have her and her daughter as members of our club.



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US Ambassador to Switzerland, Suzi LeVine accepts Bundesbrief Poster from Jim Scherrer (left) at Domaine de Penthes, the Museum of the Swiss Abroad, in Geneva. Domaine de Penthes President Anselm Zurfluh on right.

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Sarasota, Florida: Swiss Music Fest 2016

Under the auspices of the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta, and the Consul General, Mr. Andreas Maager, a musical concert was held on November 4th, 2016 in Sarasota, Florida. Three regional Swiss Clubs, and local residents participated in the publicized event.



The unforgettable evening of music and Swiss friendship, was sponsored by Mr. Sepp Gmuender, Founder of Swiss Music Fest 2016 Sarasota, and was preceded by a lively cocktail

offered to the Swiss Club Members of Sarasota, St. Petersburg and Southwest Florida by the Sarasota Swiss American Club and the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta.

The special program featured Lisa Stoll, well known alphorn musician, winner of the 2009 International Stadelstern Award and the Streichmusik Alder who specialize in Swiss Mountain Music. The Sarasota Concert Band joined the Swiss Musicians for an unforgettable evening.

Proceeds of the evening went to the Honors Band Program of the Sarasota Concert Band. This program allows local children from Sarasota, Manatee, Hardy, Desoto and Charlotte Counties a chance to participate in specialized music camps. The camps are designed to cultivate their talent in a nurturing and professional environment.

CANDACE WEHBE
VICE PRESIDENT, SWISS AMERICAN CLUB OF SARASOTA
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Lisa Stoll and the Streichmusik Alder with the Sarasota Concert Band



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From left to right: Koebi Freud, Hansueli Alder, Freddy Kosten, Jack Waelti and Walter Alder



Lisa Stoll and Sepp Gmuender

Miami, Florida: Swiss American Club of Miami's 75th Anniversary Celebration



First a heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our 75th Swiss Club anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 6th, 2016. Over 150 people participated, the youngest was 8 months old and the oldest 89 years! We all love the Swiss Club - it's diversity and celebrating the Swiss culture far from home.

We enjoyed "Swissness" at its very best with the amazing Streichmusik Alder Urnäsch and special guest Lisa Stoll. Everyone of us became a bit home sick listening to the sound of this performance.

This exclusive concert was made possible thanks to the combined efforts of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta, the Honorary Consul of Miami and, most of all, our sponsors.

The BuureZmorge (Swiss Brunch) was such a success and everybody raved about it. Our guests of honor were the Swiss Consul General Andreas Maager and his wife Claudine and the honorary Consul Ferdinand Kurt and his wife Avril.

We also had the great pleasure to welcome Lotti and Karl Ochsendorf. They arrived in the US 1956 and have been members of the Swiss Club for 60 years! Claire and Hans Baumann arrived in Miami 1968 and have been very active at the Swiss Club for 48 years. Thank you for laying the foundation which got us where we are today!

On Monday, November 7th, the Streichmusik Alder Urnäsch performed two concerts at public schools. Mrs. Leslie Cooper, an educator of music at Richmond Heights Middle School gave a warm welcome to the group and the band played in front of 120 students. Mr. Leonard J. Ruan, Admission Director South Region Office at Miami-Dade Public Schools, was present during the entire show as well as the Honorary Consul Ferdinand Kurt. One of the highlights was when the students were allowed to play the instruments themselves.

In the afternoon, the Streichmusik Alder played another concert, this time at the Holmes Elementary School in Liberty City. The 180 kids and the teachers had received some educational material from the Consulate General in Atlanta 2 months ago, so they were prepared with handcrafted Swiss style suspenders and small Alphorns made of paper. It was so cute to watch 2nd and 3rd graders enjoying the performance. Dr. Albert Payne Jr., Region Superintendent Central Region Office from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, was present as well as two representatives of Gulliver Schools, Linde Barrett and Betsy Steel, for the program "Teaching America". Ferdinand Kurt gave a speech and special thanks goes out to Caran D'ache for donating pencils, and Lindt having generously sponsored chocolate to the pupils of both schools. Every student got a sweet taste of Switzerland.

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Lisa Stoll with her Alphorn



Koebi Freud from the Streichmusik Alder Urnäsch shows his "Hackbrett" to students

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Oklahoma: Swiss Craftsman Turning his Skills into Art

In 2011, one of our Swiss Club of Oklahoma members, Olaf Batt, was featured in the Swiss Review for his distinctive skills as a certified journeyman farrier. Since then, Olaf has not only enhanced his skills in his profession, but he also has expanded his talents as a sculptor with creating spectacular works of art that are gaining attention in his professional circles.

Besides his main undertaking of horseshoeing roughly 300 horses every 5 to 6 weeks here in Oklahoma, Olaf has spent his spare time using his everyday tools, turning a pile of old worn out rasps into something very special. The photo of the American Indian war headdress exemplifies the result of many hard and strenuous hours spent with remarkable attention to details. Olaf and his friend Holly Fisher spent over 12 months of their personal time on completing this piece of art.

The Swiss Club of Oklahoma is proud to have such a talented individual amongst the group and it is a privilege to have the chance to be around him as well as being able to enjoying his skillful creativity. If anyone is interested in getting more information on his sculptures, please contact me via e-mail.

ANDRÉ SIEGENTHALER
PRESIDENT, SWISS CLUB OF OKLAHOMA
SIGI21@COX.NET



California: 29th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing & Yodeling Festival, June 22-25, 2017

Admission Registration Deadline is May 26, 2017.

The Festival is a four-day event that begins with a Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, June 22nd at the Double Tree Hotel Convention Center in Modesto. The Grand Concert will be on Friday, June 23rd, at the Gallo Center for the Arts, Mary Stuart Rogers Theater, featuring approximately 200 singers from the nine participating singing societies of the Pacific Coast. They will be singing melodies from their native homeland dressed in colorful costumes of Swiss tradition. Our special guest performers will be the Family Rohrer from Sachseln, Switzerland. On Saturday, June 24th, the Folk Festival will be held at the Ripon Swiss Hall featuring each of the active member societies. The four-day festival will conclude on Sunday, June 25th with the Grand Banquet at the Double Tree Hotel Convention Center.

Detailed information regarding the registering and purchasing of Singer and Non-Singer Badges, Non-Singer Tour Tickets, Individual Event Tickets, and Grand Concert Program Tickets are on our website at www.swissongfest2017.com

Grand Concert Tickets can be purchased online at <http://tickets.galloarts.org/single/EventDetail.aspx?p=6026> or call the Box Office at 209-338-2100 or go to the Ticket Office at 10th & I Street.

The Double Tree by Hilton in Modesto is our host hotel for the 4-day Festival. Reservations can be made by calling their central reservation desk at 1-800-222-TREE or the hotel directly at 209-526-6000. Please be sure to include the three letter code "SSF" or ask for the United Swiss group room block. All reservations must be made no later than May 22, 2017 to get the discounted room rate. You may also go to our website www.swissongfest2017.com and click on the prompts to the Double Tree Modesto website.




For more information please contact:

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Newark, California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted SwissFest 2016

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted the SwissFest in the fall of 2016 with over 200 fans watching some very interesting wrestling rounds. The weekend started with a nice welcome dinner and music with Schwyzeroergelers Andy Gwerder and Lucas Furrer.

The SwissFest was honored to have Michael Guldumann's Tour Group from Switzerland, with two Schwingers, Matthias Moser and Urs Hauri. Also Mickael Matthey joined from Mont-Sur-Rolle, Switzerland, who was on vacation and who may have been the 1st French speaking Schwinger at one of our Schwingfests. The referee of the day was Matt Ming assisted by Chris Portman. The judges were Bob Wipfli, Chris Portman and Walter Haslemann. Urs Gwerder and Connie Grass assisted with the Schwingfest. Andy Gwerder and Lucas Furrer played Schwyzeroergeli all afternoon, joined at various times by Matthew Gallego and Lenard Marchy.

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club was fortunate to have three wrestlers who had also participated in the Eidgenoessisches Schwing- und Aelplerfest 2016 in Estavayer, Switzerland, in August: Mickael Matthey, Andrew Betschart and Urs Hauri.

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Mickael Matthey

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Events

Tucson, AZ: All Tucson Swiss, their families & friends, as well as friends of Switzerland, are invited to Tucson Swiss Club's spring picnic at Picacho Peak in celebration of spring.

Visit www.swisscommunity.org/tinyurl/55404dac252a2 for details and RSVP

Date: April 4, 2017, noon to 4:00pm Location: Picacho Peak

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1/2017	December 14, 2016	January 13, 2017	January 20, 2017	approx. 1st week of February
2/2017	February 13, 2017	March 16, 2017	March 23, 2017	approx. 1st week of April
3/2017	April 17, 2017	May 19, 2017	May 26, 2017	approx. 1st week of June
4/2017	NO REGIONAL NEWS			
5/2017	August 14, 2017	September 15, 2017	September 19, 2017	approx. 1st week of October
6/2017	NO REGIONAL NEWS			