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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial



Dear Readers,  
my call for contributions and photos of the 1st of August celebrations got answered overwhelmingly. Unfortunately, I can only show very few of the 80+ great images I received from you. Most clubs have a website where

you can check out more about the fun times everybody had.

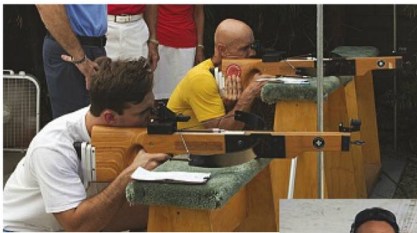
This is the last issue of the US Regional News for 2017. It's time to start thinking about Christmas presents and the advertisers in this issue certainly have a lot to offer.

The deadline for submitting articles for the January 2018 issue is December 20, 2017.

I wish you a wonderful and safe fall and Christmas time!

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM  
EDITOR

### Southern California: Swiss Fair at the Swiss Park in Whittier



Winners in the cross bow competition Kurt and Martin with Toni Lusioni in the middle



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ALEXANDER BELL  
SWISS SINGING SOCIETY "HARMONIE"  
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### Nevada: Northern Nevada Swiss Club

Our Vice President Marguerite and her husband Osi Bragger work tirelessly to make events like this 1st of August celebration at the Washoe County Park happen for our members in Reno. The club supplies the BBQ and the members bring all the other delicious foods.



Otto Clay and Marguerite Bragger



OTHMAR (OTTO) CLAY, PRESIDENT  
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### Arizona: Tucson Swiss Club

We hold this annual event at the Rose Canyon-Lizard Rock site on Mt. Lemmon which is within an hour's drive from Tucson.



Rudy Gautschi



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**Washington, DC:** Swiss Club of Washington, DC (SCDC)

Swiss bakers, bonfire builders, coin spinners, dancers, fifers, flag swingers, horn players, lampion marchers, rifle shooters, singers,



speakers, Swiss Mountain Dogs, veterans of the Pope's Vatican Swiss guard and many others converged at the 1st of August celebration sponsored by the Swiss Club of Washington, DC (SCDC). The 2017 Swiss National Day event took place on

Saturday, July 29, at the Embassy of Switzerland in Woodley Park with approximately 600 people attending. The grounds offer a marvelous venue with plenty of space for food concessions, dancing, swimming, a children's corner, an orchestra platform, and a lampion parade.

In addition to food, entertainment, and the opportunity to buy Swiss products from the vendors Swiss Traditions, Alpine Jewelry, and the Swiss Bakery, the celebration included a Tombola and Super Raffle. The raffle featured prizes from Swiss International Airlines, Switzerland Tourism, and some prominent Swiss companies, as well as a special souvenir prize provided by the Roger Federer Foundation.

A highlight of this year's event was an informal question and answer session with Andreas Widmer of the Catholic University. He talked about his experience as a member of the Pope's Swiss Guard at the Vatican during the 1980s and related some of the insights of his book "The Pope and the CEO: John Paul II's Leadership Lessons to a Young Swiss Guard" (2011).

Consul General Patricia Weber Singh also spoke, and attendees heard



a taped message from Swiss President Doris Leuthard.

As a multi-generational event, it is the highlight of the SCDC's annual calendar and a beloved occasion for Washington, DC's Swiss-American community.



MARTIN PERRET-GENTIL  
PRESIDENT  
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ABOVE 3 PHOTOS BY BEN SULLIVAN

**Texas:** Swiss Community of Texas

The Swiss Community of Texas is a recently created platform of an interactive nature, connecting Swiss people living in Texas.

We had our first event - the 1st of August Celebration. The evening



started with dinner at the Rockin' S Bar and Grill at Twin Coves Marina in Flower Mound. From there we boarded a boat to commence a cruise on Lake Grapevine with a fun game and a nice selection of Swiss music, including the Swiss National Anthem just before the fireworks display. A splendid time was had by one and all.



Join our community for meet-ups in your area, to stay informed with the latest news, communicate via members-only forums, and much more.



MARIE-LOUISE NORTON, PRESIDENT  
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**Hawaii:** Swiss Club of Kauai

The Swiss Club of Kauai celebrated Switzerland's birthday with a beach day at Anini Beach.



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**North Carolina: Swiss Society of Charlotte**

Saturday, August 5th, 2017, marked one of our annual highlights: we celebrated Switzerland's National Day, which once again paid tribute to Switzerland but also to the achievements of the Swiss Society of Charlotte, USA. The family event that was hosted at the exquisite Red Fez Club on Lake Wylie had over 100 attendees.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by a pleasant and family friendly atmosphere enriched by a delightful lake view and a nicely decorated



venue. Displaying the Swiss colors red and white, the decoration paid tribute to Switzerland's 726th birthday. A speech from our President Markus Bersinger kicked off the afternoon, followed

by the opening of the traditional buffet, offering grilled Bratwurst, Cervelat, Fleischkäse, and a rich variety of salads.

With exquisite items, the Silent Auction was a new attraction added to this year's program. The auction offered a great variety of items that catered to everyone's needs, ranging from Aromat, beverages, glass ware, etc. Guests could explore the items and submit bids for their favorite ones until the very last moment!



A kids table with games, a lifeguard on duty for all the swimmers and some firework sparklers brought excitement and lots of fun for our youngest guests.

The success of this year's celebration would not have been possible without the kind contributions of our members and friends. A big thank you to all of our sponsors and contributors of the silent auction items and to our guests participating in it. It was certainly an event to remember.

RAHEL KOLLER  
WWW.SWISSCHARLOTTE.COM

**Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida**

Members and guests of the Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida keep enjoying the monthly events organized by their Board of Directors, including but not limited to a Fondue party, the Annual



Meeting, a sunset cruise and golf.

Tropical Storm "Emily" threatened to put a damper on the 1st of August celebration, but after one heavy downpour, the sky lightened up and the sun actually peeked through. Board members were busy setting up for the traditional Bratwurst grilling. As the participants arrived with their coolers, old



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acquaintances were renewed and new members were welcomed. President von Atzigen poured the welcoming glass of wine and welcomed the group to the 726th birthday celebration of Switzerland. .

The decorative Swiss canton flags were waving in the sea breeze and the sound of Swiss music set the right atmosphere. After listening to the message from the Swiss President, Doris Leuthard, to the Swiss abroad, the official part concluded with the singing of the first verse of the Swiss National Anthem.

In the meantime the delicious aroma of the grilled Swiss Bratwurst made everybody hungry. Harry Hauser and Werner Christinger did a great grilling job and the helpers served the Bratwurst with a Swiss Bürli. As always the members provided the desserts. The lively party was interrupted later by another rain curtain from "Emily". A hard core group enjoyed staying longer under the Gazebo. It was a very nice National Day celebration!



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**Delaware:** Swiss Club of Delaware Valley

The Swiss Club of Delaware Valley, aka New Helvetic Society (NHS), has invited the community to celebrate Swiss National Day since 1951. This year the event was held at the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum in Lambertville, NJ on August 5th, 2017. A record number of guests enjoyed the celebration under a tent and a picture perfect blue sky. The kids loved playing on the lush green lawn and around various antique artifacts on the museum grounds. Everyone indulged in a variety of homemade salads and desserts while listening to the folklore music. The guests enjoyed watching a demonstration of an egg grader invented in the 1930's by a Swiss immigrant who lived in Titusville, NJ. The celebrations concluded with a lampion parade, bon fire and singing of Swiss folklore.

To find out more about the activities of the Swiss Club of Delaware valley, please check out our website [www.myswissclub.org](http://www.myswissclub.org).



DAVE SINGH  
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**Florida:** Swiss American Club of Miami

The Swiss American Club of Miami celebrated the 726th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation on Sunday, July 30th, at the Fritz & Franz Bierhaus in Coral Gables. The board worked really hard to put it all

together so that everyone would have fun.



Almost 140 people came dressed up in Swiss outfits to celebrate this event. The entire restaurant was decorated with Swiss lanterns, flags and balloons.

Our tombola/raffle table was filled with 100 prizes which were generously donated by our sponsors. Everyone was excited to get the party started with Swiss wine for the Apéro and delicious Swiss food. Then we watched the video of the National Day greeting for the Swiss abroad from Swiss President Doris Leuthard followed by the National Anthem. Switzerland was so far away ... sniff!

At dawn the kids received lanterns for the parade and walked



around in the neighbourhood of the restaurant – you cannot believe how much they loved it.

The event was supported by the Consulate General

of Switzerland in Atlanta and the Consulate of Switzerland in Miami, Honorary Consul Ferdinand Kurt.

The Swiss Club is managed by six board members. At present our club has over 350 members who live and work in the Greater Miami area. The purpose of our social club is to preserve the Swiss heritage

and traditions within the Swiss community in South Florida as well as to promote the Swiss culture celebrating our “Swissness” with regular meet ups and typical Swiss events throughout the year.



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**Florida/CH:** Sister Cities Sarasota, FL and Rapperswil-Jona, CH Rapperswil-Jona was on our mind this summer and we are excited to report that Nelly Camardo, Sister City Director Rapperswil-Jona, and her Assistant City Director, Charlotte Hull, had the opportunity to visit the City of Roses in June/July.

It is amazing to realize that both cities are different, yet alike in many ways. Nelly had the opportunity to share her views about Sarasota with city officials and the Sister City Association of Rapperswil-Jona. She thinks the two cities are a good match since both are on the water and look back on a long circus tradition. Tourism, arts and culture are important to both cities, as well as sports, music and quality of life.

For Nelly, it was like “going down memory lane” when she had the chance to visit the tourist office and step upstairs to the Circus Museum. She remembers as a young child to go to the Circus Knie and see all the wonderful posters, the beautiful sequin costumes, and the clowns.



Rapperswil-Jona is a sports town and many of their competitors love to go to the US to participate in various sports, such as beach volleyball, canoeing, and sailing.

We are so proud to have gotten to know the Rapperswil-Jona canoe team under the leadership of Joe Kunz when a group of four trained in Cape Coral, Florida, in February 2017 to get ready for the World Championship in the Czech Republic later this year.

Rapperswil-Jona has a very active yacht club and Nelly has given her word that we will look forward to welcoming their sailors in Sarasota. Their season ends in September/October and Sarasota offers an ideal situation to be able to sail in January, February and March.

Mr. Alex Simeon, Co-Rector of the University of Applied Science in Rapperswil-Jona, visited several local universities in Sarasota in 2016. Student exchanges could be very engaging between the two

cities. Nelly was given a private tour of HSR (Hochschule für Technik Rapperswil) by Alex Simeon. She was amazed at the variety of programs available to students, the interesting projects and useful innovations being promoted.

By having conversations with the Director of the Linth Hospital near Rapperswil-Jona, possibilities exist to have an exchange of ideas and techniques between their hospital and Sarasota Memorial or other comparable health facilities.

Charlotte visited the island “Lützelau”, where Canoe Coach Joe Kunz lives. She had the chance to meet with the Rapperswil-Jona City Council Martin Stöckling and the Treasurer Hansjörg Goldener. She was also interviewed by Ms. Miledas Caderas, editor of the Südostschweiz News for an article called “Fernsicht”. Charlotte was able to talk about our Sister Cities Rapperswil-Jona/Sarasota and their partnership.

Our job is not done, Nelly Camardo says, we still must spread the word and make people aware in both cities that Rapperswil-Jona and Sarasota are becoming official Sister Cities in 2018. Plans are for the Sarasota delegation to go to Rapperswil-Jona during the Seenachtsfest, taking place in mid-August and for Rapperswil-Jona to visit Sarasota in late October/November for the official signing of their partnership.



NELLY CAMARDO, SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION SARASOTA CITY DIRECTOR FOR RAPPERSWIL-JONA  
TREASURER OF THE SWISS AMERICAN CLUB SARASOTA  
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### Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted an annual Swiss National Day celebration on August 5th, 2017, organized by the United Swiss Societies of Northern California. The event was held at the beautiful picnic grounds at Swiss Park in Newark, CA. Many guests came to celebrate the 726th Anniversary of Switzerland, to eat Swiss food, and to listen and dance to Swiss and German music. The festival also gave children a chance to wrestle Swiss style, try out an authentic alphorn, participate in a Swiss flag parade, and see Bernese Mountain dogs in action. The Swiss Park had a kid's zone with fun games and activities for the children along with a bounce house. Exhibits were set-up such as a Swiss heritage booth, the San Francisco Pier 17 Swiss Consulate, Swiss Tourism and Swiss Business Hub.

The United Swiss Societies and Lugano Swiss Bistro provided guests with a wonderful lunch of either roasted chicken, vegetable Spätzli, or Swiss bratwurst. Pastries were sold to the delight of everyone by Swiss Delices Bakery. The Internationals played music, Arthur Brogli yodeled with his accordion, the Swiss Singing Society



of San Francisco performed as well as the Swiss Kids Choir and we enjoyed Monika Ryser and Thomas Ott, who each played the Alphorn.

Our San Francisco Bay Area Consul General, Hans Ulrich Tanner, gave a 1st of August address. The afternoon concluded with a raffle. The Grand prize, donated by Switzerland Tourism, was two Swiss Travel Passes in First Class. A couple of cash prizes were also donated along with many other prizes.



ROSE SATARIANO  
AELPLER GRUPPE NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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### Virginia: Swiss Club of Southwest Virginia

Who knew that there were so many Swiss living in Southwest Virginia. Our first organizational meeting coincided with the celebration of our Swiss National Holiday, August 1. As at any typical Swiss Festival, food specialties included the traditional Swiss sausages, Bratwurst and Cervelat, homemade potato salad, breads, cookies, and many other homemade treats from all regions of Switzerland. Many stories were shared and new friendships formed over great food and drinks including some excellent red wine especially flown in from Switzerland for this event. The evening's highlight was a bonfire which I am certain made all of us feel just a little closer to Switzerland.






The decision was made to form a new Swiss Club for Southwest Virginia and all of us are looking forward to many more events to celebrate our unique heritage.

Please direct all of your inquiries to Rene Reiner at [rene.reiner@gmail.com](mailto:rene.reiner@gmail.com) until an official board is formed.

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

On behalf of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast and the 2017 Sangerfest host society, the San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all sponsors, supporters and attendees. The Sangerfest would not have come to fruition without your help. The four-day Festival was well received at all events with great enthusiasm. Great food, wine, and entertainment was had by over 750 guests at the Folk Festival on

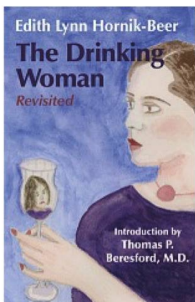
Saturday at the Ripon Swiss Hall. The San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club along with the Swiss Echoes outdid themselves in preparation for the HOT weather for the outdoor event that was predicted. Sunday's Grand Banquet and Closing Ceremony brought the Festival to a conclusion as we said our "Aufwiedersehn" to singer friends and family with the announcement of the 2020 Sangerfest under the leadership of Mirjam Stadelmann and host society "Harmonie" of Los Angeles.

With Singer Greetings,

HEIDI BETSCHART, 2017 SANGERMUTTER  
BETSCHARTHM@YAHOO.COM



**Book:** The Drinking Woman: Revisited by Edith Lynn Hornik-Beer



What is it like today for the woman with a drinking problem? How does she know when she has crossed the fine line between social drinking and addiction? What can she do to help herself, and what can her family do to help her? Through an extensive and intimate series of interviews in halfway houses, women's groups, and with individuals across the country, Edith Lynn Hornik-Beer has

uncovered the social dynamics that create problem-drinking among women. She has also visited with spouses and children who have suffered because of a wife's and/or a mother's addiction. She has gathered a list of resources which will help a woman with a drinking problem pick up the pieces.

Edith Lynn Hornik-Beer is the author of four books, including "For Teenagers Living with a Parent Who Abuses Alcohol/Drugs". She has written for major magazines and newspapers both here and abroad, and for many years she had a syndicated newspaper column, The Young World. She has lectured at universities and colleges throughout the United States and has been a guest on radio and television shows.

Visit [www.answersforthedrinkingwoman.com](http://www.answersforthedrinkingwoman.com) as well as [www.answersforteens.com](http://www.answersforteens.com) for more information and to sign up for the blogs.

**Steamboat Springs, Colorado:** 1st of August ... Home away from Home

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**REGIONAL NEWS 2018:**

Number	Deadline USA
1/2018	December 20, 2017
2/2018	February 13, 2018
3/2018	April 17, 2018
4/2018	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>
5/2018	August 14, 2018
6/2018	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>

On Website
January 22, 2018
March 21, 2018
May 22, 2018

Mailed from CH
January 31, 2018
March 29, 2018
May 28, 2018

Arrival in US
approx. 2nd week of February
approx. 2nd week of April
approx. 2nd week of June

September 21, 2018
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September 29, 2018
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approx. 2nd week of October
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