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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear Readers,

*During my recent vacation in Switzerland, I visited the office of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) in Berne for the first time. I had a very constructive information exchange with my contact person for the Swiss Review, Sandra Krebs. One of her many responsibilities is to be available to all the regional editors in the world outside of Switzerland for any questions that may come up doing our jobs!*

*Once a year in August, the OSA organizes a congress for Swiss citizen living all around the world. The event has become a popular opportunity to meet and network with all those who are interested in the international mobility of the "Fifth Switzerland". The varying themes are chosen to match the interests and expectations of this audience.*

*Every year a different region of Switzerland hosts the congress. This year the 96th Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held on August 10-12 in Visp. During the event up to 400 participants meet compatriots from around the world, listen to exciting speeches,*

*inform themselves about the current news in Switzerland, talk about their own experiences and get to know interesting personalities from Swiss economy and politics.*

*Thanks to a varied social program including sightseeing excursions, the participation in this event promises a unique experience.*

*During the Congress, all speeches and sessions are held in German or French.*

*For more details, go to <http://aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/congress-2018>*

*On page 2 you'll find information on one more delegate of the OSA in the USA who represents us in Switzerland on issues specific to us. For a list of all the US delegates refer to the 2018/1 edition of the Swiss Review USA or go to <http://aso.ch/en/politics/council-of-the-swiss-abroad/members/america-1377072622>.*

*Please note that the contributions for the last regional issue for 2018 published in September are due August 22.*

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM  
EDITOR

### Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA): Tom Neidecker



Tom Neidecker has been a member of the U.S. delegation of the Swiss Council since 2009. He is responsible for the following areas: AR, AZ (Tucson area), CO, LA, NM, OK and TX.

Tom lived in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sonoma County for thirty-five years before moving to the Sonoran desert north of Tucson, Arizona. He is a citizen of Bern and the world and feels at home in the U.S. Born in Basel, he

went to boarding school in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

After an early formative experience in a Kibbutz he returned to his home town Basel where he studied electrical engineering and - at the same time - lithography, art history and critique of visual objects at the College of Design. He worked and studied in Paris in his early twenties and received a degree in trilingual technical and scientific translation before moving to San Francisco and working for an electronic component distributor in Silicon Valley in the early eighties. In his late twenties, he incorporated and became President/CEO of Multi-Contact USA, a leading manufacturer of electric and electronic connectors and contact-interfaces.

At the age of fifty, Tom decided to live his life-long passion for books, art and artistic photography full time, and resided for four years in Lugano where Oriana, his California-born daughter graduated from the American School in Switzerland in Montagnola. She is now finishing a post-graduate degree in Interactive Technology at NYU.

Tom is working with museums on the West Coast for photography exhibitions and visiting art shows and galleries in Europe, the Americas and Asia in the pursuit of adding to his collection of art books and Classic Modern photography.

He is the president and co-founder of the Swiss-California Foundation in Santa Rosa, CA, which invites graduate students from the School of Economics in St. Gallen to spend a year visiting the San Francisco Bay Area while working at the Economic Development Board in Sonoma County.

He speaks five languages, loves skiing, sky- and scuba-diving and travels the world with Martha, a Mexican-born archaeologist, wife and partner of thirty years. They divide their time between their homes in Oro Valley, Arizona and Acapulco, Mexico.

Tom has been a member of the Petaluma Valley Rotary for over thirty years and believes that travel and immersion into different cultures are mind-expanding and life-enriching.

TOMPNI@ATT.NET



## Locarno, Switzerland: Search for Heirs

Pretura di Locarno-Campagna, via della Pace 6, 6601 Locarno (Svizzera)

Grida per ricerca di eredi (SO.2018.272) (art. 555 CCS)

Il Pretore della Pretura di Locarno-Campagna, avv. Luca Losa, pubblica la seguente grida per ricerca eredi:

“Le persone che ritenessero di essere eredi della defunta:

Matilde Vittoria BASSI nata Deveaux, nata il 1° novembre 1888 (o 1886), figlia di Francis Deveaux e di Barbara Garbani, emigrata negli Stati Uniti d’America e deceduta il 26 giugno 1961 a San Luis Obispo (USA);

- coniugata con Rinaldo Q. Bassi, nato in Svizzera il 16 aprile 1880 e deceduto l’8 febbraio 1950 pure a San Luis Obispo;

- entrambi sepolti nell’”Old Mission Cemetery” a San Luis Obispo, Contea di San Luis Obispo, California USA;

- Matilde e Rinaldo Bassi hanno avuto tre figli:

Richard Joseph Bassi, Adelina Barbara Machado nata Bassi, (nata il 15.12.1911 e deceduta il 2.1.1985) e Victoria Hooper nata Bassi; sono invitate ad annunciarsi entro 1 anno dalla pubblicazione della presente grida alla Pretura di Locarno-Campagna, Via della Pace 6, Locarno, producendo la documentazione che giustifichi il rapporto di parentela.”

Locarno, 11 aprile 2018 Il Pretore avv. Luca Losa

## California: Pro Ticino Nord

Pro Ticino Nord California mourns the loss of Annie Schweizer, our 106 year old loyal member who attended our events for the past ten years. At an age when most seniors retire from life, she was actively involved in her community as witnessed by the many people who came to honor her at her funeral and memorial service.

There are many Swiss clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area proud of their ancestry, be it the Italian, French, German or Romansch region of Switzerland. Some of our Pro Ticino members enjoyed a delicious lunch with new friends at a North Bay gathering at La Gare restaurant hosted by Hans and Marlyse Stocklin. The previous week, the Swiss Benevolent Society and the Aelppler Gruppe club joined together to honor all Swiss seniors with a special party. The United Swiss Cultural Committee helped bring some wonderful Swiss films to San Francisco for the enjoyment of all. Each February, the Stanislaus County Swiss Club invites all Swiss to their popular crab feed. In Ticino's Valle Maggia, the polenta cooks wear aprons from the Monterey County Swiss-American Club. Even on-line, we see posts and messages written in dialect keeping alive the languages of our native towns. In a world too often shaken by violence, we take comfort in sharing together our Swiss heritage.

CARLA TWITCHELL  
PRESIDENT  
TWITCHELLCD@COMCAST.NET

## Oregon: Portland Swiss

Portland Swiss, Inc. will hold their 101st Annual Schwingfest on Saturday, July 14, 2018, at Grossen Peaches in Helvetia (Hillsboro), Oregon. It will be preceded by a golf tournament on Friday, July 13, at the Wildwood Golf Course in Scappoose. For more information contact Joanne Odermott at 503-640-9675 or [jojoodermott@gmail.com](mailto:jojoodermott@gmail.com)



[WWW.PORTLANDSWISS.ORG](http://WWW.PORTLANDSWISS.ORG)

## Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Following our very successful Carnival/Cheese Fondue evening, our board is already planning the next event: the Annual General Meeting to be held on June 10th at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska. In addition, we will continue with our quarterly Happy Hour gatherings.

We are very fortunate to have had our very active president David Moerker leading the core group of officers and associate directors for 10 years. This consistency has proved to be successful, as our membership has been growing steadily over these past years.

Our events are open to everyone who is interested in our activities, and this draws new Swiss people as well as Americans with Swiss roots. It is interesting to realize that there are so many third and fourth generation descendants who are interested in our activities. We also organize Meet and Greet events with Swiss athletes who are playing in the Major Soccer League or The National Hockey League, and their participation is just one indication of how vibrant and active the TCSAA is. Readers of the Swiss Revue are welcome to attend our events.

In addition to our website, we are active on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/TCSAA>) and Twitter (@TCSAAMN). We also have an eNews distribution list of over 200 recipients. This list is constantly growing. Our events are also published on the website of [Swisscommunity.org](http://Swisscommunity.org).



Member Rene Vanoni as Santa Claus



Member Walter Wittwen as cook

MARKUS HOESLI  
BOARD MEMBER TCSAA  
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## Florida: Swiss American Club of Miami & Swiss American Society of the Gold Coast

The Swiss American Club of Miami and the Swiss American Society of the Gold Coast had a joint event!



All Raclette lovers gathered on March 8th at the Setai Hotel in Miami Beach for "Raclette on the Beach". The idea was to make it REAL Swiss; with Swiss people and food, Alphorn music by Ron Goldenson, a true American who fell in love with the Alphorn music visiting Lucerne many years ago, and snow on the beach. Miami never has any snow, but we arranged a snow storm in tropical Miami ... only Swiss can organize that, right?! We had all the ingredients for a cozy Raclette evening. More Swiss is impossible! And thanks to the generous sponsoring of Swiss World Cargo, Villiger Cigars and The Setai Hotel, it all became reality!



Over 100 people came on this Thursday night to get the Swiss feeling! Thanks to all participants and see you soon at our National Day Celebration.

BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT  
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## Florida: Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida

Due to Hurricane IRMA the September and October events had to be canceled. But by November everybody was eager to get together, and the interesting visit to the Naples antique car museum, followed by lunch, gave all a chance to exchange their experiences during the storm. The traditional pre-Christmas party in December was enjoyed by all.

The New Year was toasted by a Sunday brunch at a well-known country club and then, of course, we had to have our annual Fondue



Party. The event was well attended and had to be restricted to members only due to the size of the pavilion.

Following dinner we were entertained with Swiss music and many attendees were moved to sing their hearts out.

In March we had our Annual Meeting with many items of business that had to be taken care of, followed by an excellent dinner. This was not an "election year" and the present Board members will continue for another year.

A totally different excursion awaited the members and guests in April – a visit to a local organic farm! This 10-acre farm raises pigs, long-horn cattle, chickens for eggs, turkeys, ponies (they were at the



farm when the current owners bought it!). Before the tour many enjoyed an organic mimosa. Lunch was available at the small restaurant and featured many of the products that are produced at the farm. This was indeed another very interesting outing.

ROS MARIE STROTHER  
SECRETARY  
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## Florida: Swiss American Club of Miami

On April 8th at 11:30 am our annual picnic started at the Tropical Park in Miami. Rain or shine – we were prepared! The shelter could hold 80 people and three more tents were put up for protection.



Roland Bandelier, our Vice President picked up the sausages on Friday afternoon and had to store the boxes of sausages in the refrigerator, a cool box and some ended up in his bathtub covered in



ice. Imported Buerli were delivered by Juerg Landert from Naples and prebaked in the morning by our grill master Thomas. The rest of the board members had their cars packed with food, decorations and supplies needed for the picnic. We started working at 9:00 am

and by the end of the day the board members and the volunteers were exhausted.

The final count was 137 people attending including visitors from Switzerland, friends from the Swiss Club in New York, Lotti Ochsendorf, a member for over 60 years, and many first-time visitors. Thank you all for joining our picnic event.

The kids had fun and were tired after hours in the bouncing castle. A big thank you goes to all our board members, Roland Bandelier, Urs Brunner, Astrid Artho, Nicole Unternaehrer, Mariana Wachter for their fantastic help and support to have such a great event.

Join us next time you are in Miami!



From left: Board members Astrid Artho, Urs Brunner, Bea Schmied, Roland Bandelier



Board members Nicole Unternaehrer (L), Mariana Wachter (R)



BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT  
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## Illinois: Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago

Did you know that 20% of the Swiss population speak French? The “Festival de la Francophonie” in Chicago was a great occasion to celebrate the diversity and richness of the French language and francophone communities around the world.

The Swiss Benevolent Society who has been actively supporting this cultural event for many years, helped kick off the Festival at the opening night “la soirée commune” on March 2, 2018. Many visitors enjoyed a gourmet evening with delicious food and drinks from around the globe, from Belgium, France, Switzerland, Romania to Benin, Haiti and Canada. The traditional Swiss Raclette served by members and friends of the Swiss Benevolent Society was one of the highlights of the evening!

This is just one of the many cultural happenings throughout the Chicago area that are supported by the Swiss Benevolent Society which is one of the oldest Swiss Societies in the U.S. It was founded in 1872, shortly after the great fire in Chicago, with the purpose of assisting members of the Swiss community in need. Over the years the Society was able to widen its charitable contributions and is now not only supporting the less fortunate, but also various educational and cultural programs that celebrate Swiss heritage, languages and traditions.



SONJA MANHART  
SECRETARY  
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**Pennsylvania:** New Helvetic Society of Philadelphia

The New Helvetic Society of Philadelphia Hike Club organized the second Spring hike trip to Washington DC in April. A joint hike with DC Swiss hikers at the Billy Goat trail followed by a BBQ picnic at the Great Falls National Park. Due to the weather, the overall plans changed which



did not dampen the mood and enthusiasm. A total of 19 hikers enjoyed the visit to Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center (National Air Space Museum) after having lunch, and then the group headed to the Swiss Bakery where everybody enjoyed some tasty Swiss deserts and beverages. Dinner at Stable DC, a Swiss restaurant, was delicious and fun filled.

The group started the hike on day two from Jefferson Memorial Tidal Basin area and followed various monuments. They enjoyed the fully bloomed cherry blossoms along the way and adding a whopping total of 15,000+ steps. The day ended with everyone having dinner together in an Italian restaurant on the way back home.



The outing created a great sense of comradery among the participants and everyone is looking forward to next year's hike/fun adventure.

To find out more about the activities of the New Helvetic Society (NHS), The Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) Philadelphia Chapters and Maurice Rohrbach Fund, please visit our websites: [www.myswissclub.org](http://www.myswissclub.org), [www.sbsphiladelphia.org](http://www.sbsphiladelphia.org) and [www.mauricerohrbachfund.org](http://www.mauricerohrbachfund.org)

DAVE SINGH  
NHS BOARD MEMBER  
[WWW.MYSWISSCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.MYSWISSCLUB.ORG)

**Florida:** Swiss American Club of Sarasota

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota members enjoyed a very special dressage demonstration by Martha Dodd, Bronze Medal Rider. Martha earned her Bronze Medal Dressage accreditation in the USA and trained in 2016 in Switzerland under Christine Stuckelberger, Olympic Gold Medalist for Switzerland in Dressage in 1976.

Christine Stuckelberger was the only Swiss sports person to compete at six Olympics, winning in addition to the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, at not



only the Olympics, but many other international championships. Martha Dodd lives and trains in Ft. Myers with her Swiss Partner, Marc Lanz, former professional racing sailboat captain.

Over 120 Swiss Club Members attended this wonderful event held at one of our regularly scheduled picnics within the State Park.



Martha Dodd and Primo Bader  
(president of the Swiss American Club of Sarasota)



CANDACE WEHBE  
VICE PRESIDENT  
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## Oklahoma: Oklahoma City

It was a cold Monday morning in Oklahoma City! April just started and Easter was passing by. For many in the State of Oklahoma a memorable day. Not because it was Easter Monday, but because all schools were closed! Oklahoma teachers just walked out on their government. They all gathered around the Oklahoma State Capitol rallying for more education funding. A historical moment for the Okie State which will go on for another eight days. For others, it was the start of the Oklahoma Consular Summit. Governor Mary Fallin welcomed diplomatic representatives from 10 countries to Oklahoma for a two-day Consular Summit on economic development opportunities. Hosted by the Oklahoma Governor's International Team and sponsored by the Oklahoma Business Roundtable, the representatives met with the Governor at the Governor's mansion. The Swiss Consul General Peter Zimmerli was among the visitors, participating in several other events that day. He is representing Switzerland's interests in Atlanta providing services to eleven states from North Carolina to Florida and from Texas to Tennessee. His jurisdiction naturally includes Oklahoma which gave him the opportunity to also visit with the local Honorary Consul Rico Buchli. In the last 15 years, Oklahoma became a rising State generating a lot of economic interest. Today, Swiss companies create around 5000 jobs in Oklahoma and are the 4th largest employer of foreign affiliates. Oklahoma exports around \$10 M of goods to Switzerland and imports \$70 M of goods from Switzerland. There are nearly 20 Swiss companies located in Oklahoma. More astonishing, there are about 6,000 Oklahoma residents of Swiss descent. Don't be surprised to run into a Swiss in Oklahoma!

After an informative two-day Summit, Consul General Zimmerli extended his stay to learn more about Oklahoma. He visited several historic, cultural, and outdoor attractions, including the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the Centennial Land Run Monument, and of course had a short encounter with part of the legendary Route 66. In addition, the CG also traveled to Stillwater to visit with Randy Kluver, the Dean of the School of Global Studies and Partnerships at Oklahoma State University. Not only learning about "Pistol Pete" and touring the Boone Pickens Stadium through the Athletics department, his OSU visit also covered the Spears School of Business and the Wes Watkins Center learning more about their programs.

Of course, a visit to the Oklahoma Swiss Club in Tulsa was part of his itinerary which is a must for every Swiss Representative visiting Oklahoma. But a courtesy visit with the Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum was first on the program, exchanging pleasantries followed by a round of interesting remarks about upcoming economic developments in Tulsa and the advantages of the Swiss Apprenticeship Model applied to Oklahoma. At last, hosted by the Siegenthaler family at their lovely home in Broken Arrow, the Oklahoma Swiss greeted their new Consul General with great excitement. Peter Zimmerli responded with a toast, thanking the guests for attending and providing such a delightful reception. A dinner on the 31st floor of "The Summit Club" with panoramic view to the Arkansas River to the west and the Osage Hills to the north concluded his Oklahoma visit.

The international dignitaries included, from left, Ambassador Jose Arturo Rodriguez Diaz of Guatemala; Consul General Peter McGauran of Australia; Consul General Vasken Khabayan of Canada; Consul General Alexis Andres of France; Consul General Thomas Meister of Germany; Consul General Ioannis Stamatekos of Greece; Consul General Adrian Farrell of Ireland; Consul General Hyung Gil Kim of South Korea; Consul Rodolfo Quintan Arenas of Mexico; and Consul General Peter Zimmerli of Switzerland and Mary Fallin, Governor of Oklahoma.






Visit with Tulsa Mayor, from left, Cathy Render (Tulsa Global Alliance), André Siegenthaler (Swiss Club President), G.T. Bynum (Mayor of Tulsa), Peter Zimmerli (Consul General), Rico Buchli (Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Oklahoma).



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**Illinois: Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities**

In March of 2018, Chicago and Lucerne came together to celebrate their 20th Anniversary as Sister Cities with special events held around the city of Chicago.

20 years ago, Chicago and Lucerne signed the official sister city agreement that launched the beginning of years of collaborations between both cities. Fast forward to March 15 when Chicago Sister Cities International celebrated the 20th anniversary with Lucerne, along with those of Milan, Italy, and Osaka, Japan, (45 years) and Birmingham, UK, and Vilnius, Lithuania, (25 years), by hosting their Celebrating Citizen Diplomacy Reception at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Over 300 guests enjoyed international food and drink highlighting various of Chicago's 28 international sister cities and heard remarks from Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel about the importance of the



From left:  
Co-chair of the Chicago-Lucerne Sister Cities Committee Camille Julmy, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Swiss Honorary Consul in Chicago Joerg Oberschmied

work citizen diplomats do to help elevate Chicago's global profile. In addition, Mayor Emanuel presented the Consuls General and sister city committee chairs of the five sister cities celebrating anniversaries with resolutions passed by Chicago City Council in honor of their respective anniversaries. A special presentation of videos created by the same five sister cities were shown, where each city's mayor sent greetings to the people of Chicago in honor of the anniversaries. The audience thoroughly enjoyed Lucerne Mayor Züsli's video greeting, which was diplomatic and fun at the same time.

The highlight of the evening was when the famous carnival band from Lucerne, the Noggeler Guuggenmusig Luzern, performed for the guests in full costume. The Noggeler were invited by Chicago Sister Cities International to perform because 20 years ago, they performed at the official signing of the sister city agreement between Chicago and Lucerne.

Chicago continued to enjoy performances by Lucerne's Noggeler



Band throughout the St. Patrick's Day weekend, as they were invited to play all over the City of Chicago. On Friday, March 16th, they performed for a sold-out crowd of 700 people at the Hofbräuhaus in Rosemont, dancing to, and reveling in the music of the Noggeler. So many people approached them asking about their costumes, music, Lucerne and Switzerland. We are sure to get many tourists traveling to Lucerne after this event!

On Saturday, March 17th, the Noggeler were invited for the second time to perform and march as the official guests of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee as the only international band in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. They brought Switzerland to Chicago with their festive scarves highlighting both cities, their costumes, and fabulous music. They were asked to perform in front of the live TV cameras and played for over three minutes!

The exposure to Lucerne and Switzerland cannot be measured, as this telecast was seen via television and the internet by millions of people around the world. Ricola was passed out along the parade route to the delight of the public who couldn't get enough of the Swiss cough drops. Parade attendance was listed at two million spectators – the largest in the history of the parade. After the parade people flocked to the Park Grill Restaurant in Millennium Park under the famous Cloud Gate sculpture, also known as "The Bean," to continue listening to the band play during the afternoon.

On their last evening in Chicago, the Noggeler were asked to play in front of the United Center Stadium before the start of the Chicago Blackhawks professional hockey game on March 18th. They entertained the crowd, took pictures with people, and went inside to cheer on the Blackhawks.

During their time in Chicago, the Noggeler Guuggenmusig Luzern represented Lucerne in the highest regard, not only with their music and heritage, but with their ability to reach out to the Chicago people and make friends with their sister city. Until next time!

CAMILLE JULMY  
CO-CHAIR OF THE CHICAGO-LUCERNE SISTER  
CITIES COMMITTEE IN CHICAGO  
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March 21, 2018
May 22, 2018

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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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