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REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear Readers,

I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2020! I hope that you will be able to enjoy and share your Swissness with the people you care about.

In reading the articles about the Swiss clubs' events, I'm always reminded

and happy to see how much we value our traditions and keep them alive for the younger generations.

The next regional Swiss Review will be published on March 25 online and mailed from Switzerland on April 3.

The deadline for submissions is February 24.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

Call for Heirs

The Court of Locarno-Campagna (Swiss authority) is looking for information about the heirs of:

Vincenza Agnese Giuseppina (nickname Ines) **TORRONI**, born on November 20, 1926, from Vogorno (Switzerland) last domicile Gordola (Switzerland), died on October 8, 2019, in Gordola.

The mother was Martina Torroni, born on March 29, 1903, in Humbolt, Loleta (California), died in Cugnasco (Switzerland) on October 21, 1974.

Anyone who can give information regarding the heirs of Vincenza Agnese Giuseppina (Ines) **TORRONI**, is requested to contact the Court of Locarno-Campagna by December 31, 2020. After this date the heredity will be given to the heirs who are noted.

Court of Locarno-Campagna, Via della Pace 6, 6600 Locarno (Switzerland)

Call for Heirs

The municipality of Grub, canton Appenzell Ausser rhoden (Swiss authority) is looking for information about the following person: **Giacomo Giuseppe AUGUSTONI**, (Switzerland; place of birth unknown), last residence probably in or around Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, born January 9th, 1911, son of Giuseppe Agostino Augustoni and Emma Augustoni-Sonderegger, possibly deceased.

Anyone who can give information regarding Giacomo Giuseppe **AUGUSTONI**, his possible descendants or heirs is requested to contact the municipality of Grub by December 31st, 2020. After this date the heredity will be given to the heirs who are noted.

Municipality of Grub, Dorf 60, Postfach 58, 9035 Grub AR, Switzerland (info@grub.ch)

Northern California: Monterey County Swiss-American Club

On December 14th, the Monterey County Swiss American Club met for its Annual Christmas Luncheon and Opportunity Drawings. The event was held in Gonzales, CA, at the American Legion Hall. A meal of steak or chicken was served along with a hefty portion of Risotto made by our President Wayne Gularte. Salad, roll and dessert accompanied the meal. Opportunity drawing prizes were in abundance and most Swiss Club members went home with a prize or two. Over 70 folks were in attendance. Member Sonny Sanders was a key help in our setup and takedown of the room. Our President



Wayne Gularte called out prize numbers for well over an hour to distribute the many prizes our members generously donated, or the club supplied.



President Wayne Gularte called out prize numbers for over an hour to distribute the many prizes



Member Sonny Sanders enjoying the meal and drawings. He was a key help in our setup and takedown of the room

If anyone is interested in joining our club in Monterey County please contact Renee Rianda, Secretary, for an application or view our FACEBOOK Page at Monterey County Swiss-American Club.

Happy New Year to all.

RENEE RIANDA, SECRETARY
RRIANDA@AOL.COM

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MONTEREYCOSWISSAMERICANCLUB/](https://www.facebook.com/MontereyCoswissAmericanClub/)

Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

Our Swiss Christmas cookie baking event was once again a great success under professional guidance of Martin Lagler. We are lucky to have Martin show us how to make Mailänderli, Chräbeli, Spitzbuebe and Sable perfectly. Quinn Bucher (5) our youngest baker enthusiast this year, is eyeing with anticipation to try one of the Spitzbuebe Guezli.



Lolita Buryak (Membership Director) and Martin Lagler



A delicious smell welcomed us, as we started to set-up for our Samichlaus event held in the community room at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church in Chicago. We had 10 children this year awaiting



Martin, James, Patrick, Jason, Nico and Elena came to see Samichlaus (Horst Zemp, President) and Schmutzli (Kevin Sujdak)

the arrival of Samichlaus who travelled all the way from Switzerland with his Schmutzli ... so the story goes. The kids were quite anxious when they heard: "Ho Ho Ho ... Dä Samichlaus isch do". A few kids

were a little shy at first, but Samichlaus knows just what to say and quickly the kids' faces lit up with a big smile, especially when Samichlaus had a goody bag and Schmutzli an Advent calendar for them. The cutest story a mom told us once: they were in Switzerland the year before and when her little son saw Samichlaus, he said to her: "That's not the real Samichlaus, the real Samichlaus is in Chicago at the Swiss Club".

Our 2019 events conclude with the Annual Meeting & Fondue evening on February 1, 2020. Once again, we'll have a Raffle with exciting prizes to win and everyone loves a Fondue on a cold winter evening. If you are in the area, please come and join this fun event.

To find out more about activities of the Swiss Club of Chicago, please check out our web-site: www.swissclubchicago.com.

ELKE DIETZ SUJDAK
VICE PRESIDENT

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

Greetings from beautiful Sarasota! Renowned for its cultural and environmental amenities, beaches and resorts, our Siesta Beach, often rated as the #1 beach in America, is famous for its pristine water and white quartz sand...in short it's paradise.

On October 6th, after the summer break, our Club reconvened and hosted the first of six annual picnics which take place at the Oscar Scherer State Park. Although, we were technically in the middle of hurricane season, the weather cooperated, and the sun shone beautiful and warm. Our Grillmeisters René and Hans treated members to a delicious lunch of bratwurst, salads, coffee and desserts followed by the customary game of Tombola. The event was made livelier by our Jack Adjani who amuses everyone with his upbeat sense of humor. Also in October, several members got together and attended an Oktoberfest celebration organized by a local German restaurant. Under the big tent beer, wine, sausage and Schweinshaxen were favorites as were the Dirndls, Lederhosen and foot-tapping Bavarian music, for a moment we were transported to Deutschland.

On December 18th, we celebrated our Annual Christmas Party at the University Park Country Club. The unbeatable duo of Heinz and Sepp provided the entertainment with original Swiss music that transported the audience across the ocean to their beloved homeland. The Board recognized several volunteers for their contribution to our events with a gift card, recipients were René Purro and Hans Egg our Grillmeisters, Dorli Hausermann and Bill Ehrsam for coffee and dessert service. Missing was Jackie Baur who for many years took



Hans Roth and his daughter



Hans Egg, Daniel Schaufelberger

care of the picnic tablecloths. Her gift is being held until our next event.

At the last Board meeting on October 29th, our President Primo Bader and the Entertainment Chair Stan Abshier announced their resignations from the Board. We thank them for their many years of tireless service and dedication to the Club and the many milestones they helped achieve. The new Board gets elected at our Annual Meeting on January 19, 2020.

We would like to extend the warmest of wishes to our Sister Clubs in the US. We hope your Christmas was merry and that 2020 will bring health and happiness to all! We encourage anyone who is interested, Swiss nationals or friends of Switzerland, to come join us and contribute to our continued success. We are a fun and welcoming group who firmly believes that "a vibrant membership is the heart and soul of any organization".

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS
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Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

The Oktoberfest takes place in New Orleans at the Deutsches Haus



L to R: George Mahl, Rolf Inderbitzin (holding Marcel, age 4), Ann Mahl Inderbitzin, J.P. Inderbitzin (age 7), Kathy Mahl (Ann's Aunt), Michele Mahl Plaisance (Ann's sister), and Darrin Plaisance (brother-in-law)

every Friday and Saturday for three weeks in October. After having been there in August to celebrate Swiss National Day, members returned throughout the month to enjoy authentic German food, drink beer, perhaps do some shots, participate in

the "Stein full of beer holding" contest and to do the ever so popular "Chicken Dance".

To commemorate All Saint's Day on October 28, as in years past, members were invited to visit Greenwood Cemetery on Canal Blvd in New Orleans to place flowers on the Swiss American Society Tomb and to pay respect to the more than 100 Society members and members of their families who have been buried in the tomb since it was erected in 1879.

Swiss Touch, a traveling exhibit, sponsored by the Swiss government, partnered with Green Light New Orleans to participate in "FORESTival" held at "A Studio in the Woods" on November 16. Swiss Touch led by Swiss representations in the United States connects Switzerland and the U.S. The centerpiece was the large interactive "Swiss Touch Table" made of Swiss ash from the base of the Matterhorn. Rain barrel painting and a round table discussion "Art as a catalyst: Can art help save the planet?" were all part of the Swiss Touch campaign. The water management in New Orleans aims to display Switzerland's uniqueness in terms of innovation and tradition.

Moderator Alexandra Mora, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans, was joined by Peter Zimmerli, Consul General of Switzerland



Young SASNOLA members Jean and Charlie Murphy making natural crafts at FORESTival

in Atlanta, and fellow Swiss citizen, SASNOLA member and founder of Green Light New Orleans, Andreas Hoffman. Speakers included local artists Miro Hoffman, Michel Varisco, Hannah Chalew, and Anne Blenker. It was a terrific interactive experience and a wonderful day of outdoor activities, food, and music for the whole family.

For more information on Swiss Touch USA visit <https://www.swisstouchusa.org/swiss-touch> and Swiss Touch with Green Light New Orleans at FORESTival <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF-266yRJSk>

On December 2, we gathered at The Columns Hotel on beautiful St. Charles Ave. in Uptown New Orleans for our annual "SASNOLA Holiday Jazz Brunch". Members were given red and white "jingle bells" on red and white satin ribbons to kick off the festive celebration.

The Swiss colors lend themselves so well to the Christmas theme. We enjoyed spirited conversations over coffee and morning cocktails of Bloody Mary's and bottomless Mimosas while enjoying the jazz sounds of Chip Wilson. Brunch began with starter options of seasonal gumbo, crab and corn bisque, spinach salad or The Columns House salad. The entrée choices included shrimp and grits, huevos rancheros, eggs Benedict, Grouper, blackened salmon or a New York Strip. For dessert, we enjoyed our choice of bread pudding with Bananas Foster sauce, creme brulee with fresh berries or a calas rice beignet with blackberry cane syrup and fresh berries. Prior to lunch being served, our President Robert Stickney welcomed us. He made brief comments concerning society business and introduced one of our newest members in attendance, Harley Bourgeois.

Santa and Mrs. Clause paid their annual visit to the home of our President Robert and his wife Jean Stickney, our Secretary, on December 14. Their sled was at the streetcar repair shop in New Orleans for the annual maintenance. The sled is hand forged in similar



Joey Luder, Nicole Luder, Santa, Mrs. Clause, Jacob Luder, David Luder

ways as our beautiful antique streetcars are, so New Orleans is the only place that can repair an old sled. Santa and Mrs. Clause asked if they could visit while repairs were being done and meet some of our young friends and family. SASNOLA Members with young children were invited to come and have a picture taken and share some hot chocolate and a cookie or two with this dynamic duo.

At our annual January meeting, a new slate of officers is presented for approval. Celebrating the ten-year anniversary of the Saint's Super bowl win in Miami, we are also hoping for an encore performance.

JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY
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Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

The Swiss Benevolent Society and the Twin Cities Swiss American Society take turns organizing the annual joint fall event. This year, it was the Swiss Benevolent Society's turn to be in charge of the event. 23 members and 12 guests from the TCSAA together with 21



members and 14 guests of the Swiss Benevolent Society of St. Paul gathered on a rainy Sunday at Suzy and Max Frei's wonderful chalet. The plan was to have some activities outside, but the rain forced

us to assemble in the garage. Since it was rather crowded, we took advantage of the social time to meet members of both clubs. Rene Vanoni of the TCSAA was one of the grill masters in charge of grilling the brats. Since every family brought a dish to share, there was plenty of food. After the feast, the presidents of both clubs and Pius Eigenmann (our Honorary Swiss Consul) gave speeches and updates for upcoming events. Finally, Julie brought out prizes for the drawing.

Every year around the December 6th ("Samichlaus Tag") we celebrate with a Christmas brunch and a visit from Santa. This year's event took place on December 8 at Lord Fletcher's in Spring Park and over 70 members showed up. The buffet offered a variety of food, sweets and fruits. It was also a perfect opportunity to socialize with long time members and new members. It is great that we are able to attract many new members for our club, and they are of course all welcome. We have one member who likes to wear the



Santa Claus suit and many of the children asked their parents why Santa knows so much about them. Some of the children were very shy, others enjoyed sitting on Santa's lap and

hearing what he had to say. Each one of the children got a beautifully decorated burlap bag filled with cookies, Toblerone chocolate bars, and nuts. Children under 3 were given a small stuffed animal. Before Santa left, we all sang some of the traditional songs in English, French, and Swiss-German. Many thanks to all members who made this event so special.

Our next gathering will be the quarterly Happy Hour in St. Louis Park. That event is followed by our very popular Carnival/Fondue party on February 22, 2020. Check our website www.tcsaa.us for upcoming events.

New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York (SBS) celebrated its 173rd annual holiday party on December 11 at the Vanderbilt Suites in the MetLife Building in New York. Over 100 members and guests attended the festive luncheon which featured live music, beautiful table



decorations, and gift bags filled with delicious Swiss treats. The Consul General, Adrian Egger gave an uplifting speech and Holiday greetings. The atmosphere was outstanding, and the highlights of the year were presented in a slideshow.

The SBS offers a variety of daytime activities and always welcomes new members. We help people of all ages live more active, independent,



safer, healthier and happier through social service programs. The SBS has offered various scholarships and grants for education post high school level since 1979. All programs are available for US students of Swiss heritage living in the NY tri-state area, Pennsylvania and Delaware.



If you are interested in applying for a scholarship or grant, please visit our website for more information: <https://www.sbsny.org/scholarships>.

CHRISTINE HUBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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On behalf of the TCSAA board, we wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2020.



MARKUS HOESLI
BOARD MEMBER TCSAA
WWW.TCSAA.US

Arizona: Arizona Swiss Club

We had a spectacular Swiss Fall Fest in October in Fountain Hills, AZ, with 115 attendees appreciating great food, joyful company,



entertaining music, and scholarship presentations. I was delighted to introduce the Honorable Thomas Schneider, Consul General of Switzerland to San Francisco who in turn introduced us to our new Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Phoenix, The Honorable Dr. Werner Bonadurer. Dr. Bonadurer (a professor of finance at Arizona State University) introduced his wife Irène to our happy group.



We fêted, ate raclette, enjoyed music, ate raclette, decorated pumpkins, ate raclette, enjoyed bratwurst and cervelas, ate raclette, and enjoyed a few glasses of Peroni over more raclette. Salads, dessert and coffee to top it off. Max Haechler presented the four scholarship winners or their parents with this year's awards. Finally, we sang "Happy Anniversary" to Max and Elsbeth Haechler on their 57th wedding anniversary. So, all in all a fantastic and successful event.

On December 8, we had a spectacular Christmas party at the Paradise Valley Country Club (PVCC). We were about 127 of us in all



with the best behaved, sweetest and most adorable children in Arizona! We set up a kids' crafts table and John Thornton performed a magic show. Santa and Schmutzli appeared and handed out stockings with gifts to the children. We sang Christmas carols and were

treated to a fantastic buffet lunch including sticky buns, salad, fruits, salmon, scalloped potatoes, two carving stations, and a dessert station.

We contributed 75 toys to the Toys for Tots program, a tremendously generous number and an extraordinarily high percentage of participation considering we had about 70 family units making up the 127 attendees. I am also pleased that without advance notice, the Arizona Swiss Foundation for scholarships took in donations from envelopes on the tables.

I'll close with the first paragraph from the invocation: "We give thanks for our Swiss traditions, heritage and values which we keep alive in our hearts and honor today. Let us cultivate those values in ourselves, our families, our communities and our beloved United States of America."

Happy New Year from the Arizona Swiss Society.

JOHN THORNTON, PRESIDENT
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Arizona: Tucson Swiss Club

The Tucson Swiss Club celebrated its annual Christmas party at The Highlands at Dove Mountain. We had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Werner Bonadurer (the newly appointed Honorary Swiss Consul in Phoenix, Arizona) and his wife Irene to the holiday celebration. It was great meeting several visitors from Switzerland who are spending some of their holidays in Southern Arizona. Pictures from the event can be viewed on the club's website at www.TucsonSwissClub.com.



L to R:
Dr. Werner Bonadurer,
Honorary Swiss Consul in
Phoenix, Arizona,
his wife Irene,
Walter Gassser



L to R:
Gino Zampini, Eddy Schaefer,
Dr. Werner Bonadurer

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Virginia: Swiss Club of Southwest Virginia

The newly formed Swiss Club of Southwest Virginia held its first Raclette evening in November. Gracious hosts Marietta and Conrad Grundlehner opened their lovely home to a large attendance including Swiss Consul Leo Kalberer and intern Iko Volker.

The hosts and club president Rene Reiner prepared an incredible feast. It was obvious how much work and loving care went into planning and preparing the event. The attendees mingled while snacking on a huge selection of appetizers, toasting with Swiss wine, then sat down to a traditional raclette dinner. Impossible to find in the US and rare treat - Vermicelle - was served for dessert. A great time was had by all with fantastic food, companionship, and Swiss traditions.

In December, the Swiss Club of Southwest Virginia gathered for their first annual cookie exchange. Each member brought their



favorite homemade Swiss Christmas cookies, and although the turnout was a little smaller than the November gathering, the cookie selection was vast and delicious. While sipping Glühwein, malted cider or coffee, the cookies were taste-tested, and all deemed excellent. The hosts' 3-year-old son Piers added to

everyone's joy with his cute antics and excitement of the season.

After much laughter and general merriment, the members exchanged cookies to take home while brainstorming upcoming club events. In this busy season, it was wonderful to slow down for an afternoon, be among friends, and celebrate in Swiss style.

For information about this newly founded club and its events, please email Rene Reiner at rene@myroanokehome.com or call 540-793-4095. You can also connect with us on Facebook under Swiss Club of Southwest Virginia.



RENE REINER

Greater Washington, D.C. Region: Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.

Except for the first of August festivities, November and December are traditionally the most popular and well attended events of the



L: Lynn Zipf, President

R: Bernard Unti, Past President

Swiss Club of Washington, DC. Every November the club holds a Raclette Dinner and Swiss Benevolent Society Auction. The quickly sold out event attracts over a hundred cheese lovers. It featured a fun auction, both silent and live, of donated Swiss and specialty items for the benefit of the Swiss Benevolent Society. It is well supported to raise funds for SBS scholarship and Swiss-in-need programs.

A most popular and fun event was the Annual Grüttibänz bake off on December 1 with 40 young bakers. We are fortunate to have the Swiss Bakery close by. Under the leadership of owner and master



baker Reto Weber and his wife Laurie, they not only provide a taste of home but show the youngsters of all ages how to shape the funny looking men and how to

let the dough rise again before baking. It is interesting to see the creations kids come up with. All seem to have a fun time and leave the bakery with several examples of their own creations.

On December 15, over 150 club members took part in the annual Samichlaus dinner and party at the Swiss Embassy. The children anxiously awaited the arrival of Samichlaus with songs and poems. They were rewarded with a bag of nuts, chocolate, and clementines for their patience and good behavior. Adults enjoyed the afternoon with traditional dishes like Schinken im Teig and Buche de Noel.

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Southern California: Matterhorn "Young" Swiss Club

Holding a Samichlaus party has been a MYSC tradition since its founding, when everybody was young, and about 30 years ago I took over organizing this event. A Swiss Samichlaus differs from a Mall Santa in several ways, especially since he arrives on December 6, "Samichlaustag" and he REALLY KNOWS! Opening his big RED BOOK he will express his sympathy to a little boy over the death of his cat "Patches". He congratulates a boy scout on the many badges he has acquired, praises one child for being the top scorer on her soccer team or being the lead angel in a Christmas play. Another child needs to be reminded to try to eat more vegetables, to play more with her younger brother, to share his toys and to remember to feed the family dog, and of course just about every child will have to be reminded to pick up his or her toys.

We were very fortunate to have as our Swiss Samichlaus no other than Fred Burri, our very own Disneyland Yodeler. His lovable personality made him the perfect person for this job, and he, by the way, just celebrated his 93rd birthday on December 2nd.

Once my son Andy had to fill in and he did a good job, except that his shoes gave him away to his niece. Larry Meyer also helped out a few times and he too made a great Samichlaus and his wife Isabelle was a super help, organizing the crafts and keeping the children busy until the arrival of Samichlaus. Only once did we strike out with a not so great Santa. Following the recommendation of some well-meaning friends, we engaged an American Santa, who unfortunately had no clue, and had not been told what we expected of him. What a disappointment, not once did he glance at the notes and the names of the children that were in the RED BOOK.

Of course, attendance varied from year to year, some children were getting too old, but soon they would be replaced by new babies and toddlers. At times we had 4 generations attending this lovely get together, all in a Holiday mood, having lunch together, waiting for Samichlaus to arrive.

After Freddie's retirement we were lucky to find Urs Pesko, another perfect Samichlaus, who has been able to come up with just the right words to impress our children and to want them to return year after year. That brings me to two boys who are now 15 and who have been attending this event every year until about the age of 12 as believers?



Kent and Brendan at 7

and
now
at 15



And now keep coming back to help with the children. Another loyal attendee is Samichlaus' daughter Avery who has grown from a cute baby into a lovely young woman.

Our afternoon concluded with the cookie exchange, and lots of fond memories to take home. Happy New Year!

LILLO HOLZER
LILLOHOLZER@ATT.NET

Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The Swiss Club Miami wishes you a Happy New Year and here is some news of what was going on.

In October it was Standup Paddle time. Fun, fun, fun, even for the little ones! Christian Gschwind is our active event organizer and comes up with the most amazing ideas.



On Halloween, 22 Swiss Witches met for the 7th annual Witches luncheon on Lincoln

Road in Miami Beach. The tables had a spooky decoration and people



stopped at the scene to take photos of the witches' reunion. There was a short fashion show to determine the best dressed Witch. With the Paparazzi taking photos, the idea came

up to collect money to donate to an organization looking after stray animals in Miami Beach. We received \$100. Woowhooo!

Our Christmas Party took place on Sunday Dec 1st at the Intercontinental Hotel, Miami. The venue was amazing with the view over the bay where we could watch the cruise ships pass by. Over 100 guests came to this festive event and the Christmas decoration was just right to get that special 1st of Advent feeling. The youngest member was 2 months old and the oldest over 90 years. Everyone had a good time and my helpers Victoria and Diana (kids of our Board members Christian and Patrick) had a hard time telling the guests to sit down for the fabulous brunch the Interconti prepared for us. It started with a big Thank You to our sponsors Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors and VILLIGER Cigars. Without them we could not have set up such a great event. The highlight of the day was the arrival of Santa for the kids (as well as the adults....), and our photographer Olga Riedi made the event memorable as you can see from all the photos on our web site. A big thanks also goes to all the Board members.



BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT
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Pennsylvania: Swiss Club of Delaware Valley (NHS)

The annual Christmas Fondue party organized by the New Helvetic Society of Delaware Valley, was attended by 173 members including their families and friends. A Raffle was organized by the board members of The Swiss Benevolent Society (PA Chapter) and funds were



raised to benefit college education and other programs. The hall was beautifully decorated to set a perfect Holiday mood, with Holiday music playing in the background. The Fondue makers and their helpers

did a wonderful job in making the most delicious Fondue one can ask for. Mr. and Mrs. Claus showed up with goody bags and the smiling



faces of children lit up the hall with excitement. The festivities concluded with singing of Christmas Hymns by the children together with the grown-ups. The event was well received by all the attendees and they look forward to attending upcoming events like Winter/Ski Weekend

Getaway, Fathers Day Picnic, First of August Celebrations, hiking and Jass to name a few.

To find out more about the activities of the New Helvetic Society (NHS) and The Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS Philadelphia Chapter), please visit our websites: www.myswissclub.org and www.sbsphiladelphia.org

DAVE SINGH, NHS BOARD MEMBER
REC-SECRETARY@MYSWISSCLUB.ORG

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Except for the two Summer months July and September, our club is keen to have an event each month. On October 3, a good two dozen members gathered at Mr. Tom's Spirits, a distillery devoted to the craft of distilling and creating the best spirits possible where we were given a very interesting 45 minutes tour of the facility. After tasting some samples, we walked across the street for a traditional Oktoberfest lunch at Restaurant Sasse's owned by chef Josef Zimmermann, a native Bavarian himself.

Then on November 9, almost 40 members, including 4 guests from Switzerland, came together for a Sunset Cruise in Fort Myers Beach. Although it rained heavily in the morning, the day eventually turned into an absolute beauty weather wise. Besides the dolphins that followed our boat, we also saw many bird species, and the sunset on the Gulf of Mexico was just what we were looking for. After the cruise we all went for a dinner in a restaurant by the water.

SWISS REPRESENTATIONS:

Addresses of all Swiss Embassies and Consulates can be found on the following web-site: www.eda.admin.ch Click on "Representations"

Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

Members and friends of Switzerland of the Swiss-American Society of Houston met for a great turn out and splendid annual Swiss Christmas celebration at the Alliance Française de Houston. The attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet of dishes and a beautiful array of Swiss Christmas cookies and cakes. The President of the Swiss-American Society, Lilian Tade, welcomed the members, the board, and the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Houston, John Bernhard, and announced the visiting tenor and the talented Swiss members of carolers, piano, accordion and recorder players. The evening's highlight was the unexpected visit from the North Pole. Santa Claus' OhoOhHoooo resonated amidst the surprised looks and laughs. He had an important role and mission since he carried the gifts for the lucky raffle ticket holders! He was showered with many accolades, hugs and kisses from the winners!



We take this opportunity to send to all of you our best wishes for the New Year. We hope that the Swiss friendships and traditions continue to flourish and spread in Texas, North America and Canada.



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On December 7 more than 40 members and guests celebrated the traditional "Chlaushock". We were able to use a very nice Clubhouse in the Silverlakes community in Fort Myers where our members Markus and Patricia Albrecht reside. Thanks to them we got access to this facility. The very nicely decorated room and tables put everybody in a festive Christmas spirit. As is tradition for this event, a hot "Fleischkäse" was served together with potato salad and bread. We were all looking forward to the New Year's brunch at The Cypress Woods Golf Club in Naples in early January.

We can look back to an active year. We were also able to increase our membership by 5 single members, two couples, and one family. We always warmly welcome additional new members. For more detailed information about our club, please visit us at www.swissamericanclub.com

A happy and healthy New Year to everyone.

JOE HUBER, SECRETARY

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