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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES



Dear Readers,  
I can only hope and pray that by the time you're reading this issue, the situation has improved considerably and that the descriptions and statements from you quoted in this issue in regard to the Covid-19 virus situation are a matter of the past! Before the world came to a standstill

and we were told to stay home, many clubs were able to enjoy their events.

The next Swiss Review with a USA insert will be published on September 17 online and mailed from Switzerland on September 23. The deadline for submissions for the Regional USA Edition is August 17.

Please keep our advertisers in mind as they are trying to rebuild their businesses.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

### Staying Connected During These Difficult Times

Message from David W. Mörker, Member of the Executive Board for the Organization of the Swiss Abroad:

Dear fellow Swiss & Friends of Switzerland,

I don't think it's an overstatement to say that, for most of us, life today is not the same as it used to be. There is, without a doubt, more uncertainty, more stress, and more confusion. The recent disruptions have led to greater feelings of anxiety and fear. Whether it's concern for our health and the health of our loved ones here or in Switzerland, we've all had our normal lives turned upside down and inside out. Schools are closed, businesses have shut down, events have been canceled, and even the freedom to hug our friends and family has been discouraged.

With all of the upheavals we're experiencing, let's try the following: Let's take some deep breaths and pause before we engage with others. Let's try to be mindful to not take out our fears and worries on our loved ones. We will need to be a team to get through this with the most grace and resilience.

Let's be open about what we're experiencing. Let's check in with our local, states-side and Swiss family and friends now and so often. If our loved one's behavior is negatively affecting us, we need to let them know with compassion and understanding.

Let's remember that social distancing is a terrible name. We're not supposed to cut off our connections with each other, but rather create more physical space between us. Let's be creative in how we stay socially and emotionally nurtured during this time. Let's reach out by phone, email or social media — we really need to hear from each other! For example, the Twin Cities Swiss American Association has been hosting a weekly virtual social hour to provide its constituents with a means to check in with each other, to fellowship and to simply keep in touch.

Please let me, my fellow delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad, or your local Swiss society leadership know how we may be of assistance. We are here for you! We will get through this together!

My thoughts and prayers are with each one of you! Stay healthy, safe and sound!

In your service  
David

DAVID W. MÖRKER  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, ORGANIZATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD/SWISSCOMMUNITY  
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### Massachusetts: Swiss Society of Boston Scholarship Essay Competition

The Swiss Society of Boston is offering a \$1,000 scholarship award which is based on an essay of up to 1,000 words. The competition is open to anyone who will use it to help pay for their education. The essay can be on either one of these topics:

1. COVID-19: What has Switzerland done better that the US can learn from and vice versa?
2. Massachusetts' Big Dig vs. Gotthard: What can Massachusetts learn from the Swiss?

Please email your completed essays to [John@SwissSocietyBoston.Org](mailto:John@SwissSocietyBoston.Org). Please use SWISS ESSAY in the subject line, let us know your contact information, how you plan to use the \$1,000, and your connection to Switzerland. All entries must be received via email by June 30, 2020. The winning essay will be announced on August 1, 2020. We plan to post a link to the winning essay on our website:

<https://swissocietyboston.org/scholarship/>

JOHN F. WILLIS, PRESIDENT  
[WWW.SWISSOCIETYBOSTON.ORG](http://WWW.SWISSOCIETYBOSTON.ORG)

### Nevada: Swiss Club of Northern Nevada

Looking back at a happier time and looking forward to the next one.



OTTO KLAY, PRESIDENT  
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## Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

Mardi Gras Season began on King's Day, January 6, and ended on Mardi Gras Day, Fat Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Members enjoyed multiple facets of the season from nighttime balls, supper dances and took to the streets in various locations of the city to enjoy parades with friends and family. It is such a unique celebration unlike anywhere else in the world. At the time Mardi Gras took place in New Orleans, there was no indication from the CDC that there was any reason that it should have been canceled.



Crawfish Family, Jean, Brendan, Charlie and Sarah Murphy Mardi Gras day on St. Charles Avenue, February 25, 2020

Since Mardi Gras, like most of the country and large parts of the world, we have been "sheltering in place" as directed in hopes of "flattening the curve", a term we've all become familiar with.

We have corresponded via email and by phone to hear that our SASNOLA members are doing well. Following are just a few responses from some of our members:

"Nice to hear from you. Thanks."

"Staying home in Lake Vista now for the past 10 days. Still very active with my Executive Task at Pennington Biomedical in Baton Rouge. Had a great experience with grocery delivery from Win Dixie through InstaCart. Highly recommended to avoid trips to the store. Selection much easier for me who has sometimes difficulty to find items."

"Hello! Hope you are doing all well. Yes, difficult period and also rough to hear what is going on in Switzerland. We cannot stay home as we are both physicians. I work at Ochsner in the Clinic where we have a COVID testing drive through, also doing telemedicine visits. My husband is Cardiologist at Tulane. We try to be careful. As you say, Jean, staying home is the best option. Physical distancing, hand hygiene, eating well, plenty of rest, remaining active (outdoors is great!)... and I would add yoga, meditation, breathing... whatever may decrease the stress level. Thanks for this mail, Jean, this is helping too. A lot! If I can be helpful in anyway, let me know! Please all stay safe. STAY HOME if you can."

"We are well, busy in our closed "resort" and hope the same of you all. Be safe and hopefully we soon can meet again."

"Keeping our fingers crossed that the situation will normalize and everyone stays healthy."

"Glad ya'll are laying low and doing okay. We're just fine!"

"Thanks, doing what we can to stay well."

"Afternoon Jean, we are getting bored, but otherwise in good health. Looking forward to society opening up again."

"Thanks, Jean, for the news and especially doing your part to help. At Pennington, we have sent quite a lot of masks and other PPEs down to NOLA. We have also provided 17 hospital beds to OLOL in Baton Rouge. We may also open our own 10 inpatient hospital room to hospitalize non-COVID critical patients at the Pennington. My older son was infected in Geneva and is doing well. He published a letter to the Journal of Obesity regarding the extra risk for patients with obesity. My second son who is a doctor in Richmond has a pregnant

wife who is a critical pulmonary doctor who intubated a patient who was later diagnosed with COVID. It took her 6 days to get a negative diagnosis on herself. Since she is on the forefront she decided to go back to work despite the advice of her OB/GYN."

"I am doing well. Thank you for asking."

"Thank U for checking. So far ALL is ok. We are enjoying slow life. We just pray for ALL to be well - hope to see U all soon again."

"I'm ok. A little stressed, as we all are. Love seeing the posts of your cute girls. Of course, you can forward updates from me. I haven't had any recently."

"In regard to SASNOLA business, I think I will just wait and send it later after things settle down and hopefully get back to a sense of normalcy. These are strange times for sure....I am praying for everyone's health and safety during these trying times. Please take care and hope to see everyone sooner than later."

One of the most notable losses to the Jazz world but mostly our city, and to our friends was the death of Ellis Marsallis Jr. Ellis was the patriarch to The Marsallis family. Not only was he an extraordinary pianist, but he spent his life as an educator, teaching and mentoring some of the world's great musicians. One of the saddest things about the passing of the people who have died is that those who love them can't be together to celebrate the lives they led and to mourn their passing. No typical jazz funerals for now. Someday though. Jazz funeral when Ellis's wife Dolores passed away a few years ago.

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.buzzfeednews.com/amphml/clarissajanlim/ellis-marsallis-wallace-roney-jazz-musicians-coronavirus>

So, as you can see, we are probably experiencing much the same as others all across the globe but hanging in there, nonetheless.

Our Governor, John Bell Edwards recently extended our "shelter in place" orders through May 15 in Louisiana. Mayor Latoya Cantrell of New Orleans recently announced that all festivals and sports events that had originally been postponed have now been canceled. Although tough to hear, fans, festival goers and artists alike agreed that it was the right thing to do.

Stay well, be safe and hopefully things will be looking up by the time of our next submission.



Empty street,  
St. Charles Avenue,  
Sunday, April 19, 2020

JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA](https://www.facebook.com/SWISSNOLA)



**Arizona:** Arizona Swiss Society

What a wonderful annual meeting at the Arizona Italian American Club we shared back in February. Thank you to the forty-six Society members that were in attendance and the great staff at the Club that provided such a delicious buffet lunch. Past President John Thornton opened the meeting one final time and started his report with interesting news and some official business.

Congratulation to all the Board Members: President Anthony Haechler, Vicepräsident Viktor Stuart, Treasurer Sibylle de Marignac, Secretary Victoria Stuart-Haldeman, Activity Chairs Susan Oak, Amaelia Haechler and Jason Price, Membership Chairs Helene Block and Philippe Reichen, Past President John Thornton.

John Thornton thanked the board members who have retired, for their tireless efforts over the past few years and presented an envelope with gift cards to Kurt Schittli, past Activity Chair member and Fred Kohler, past Treasurer, and member of the Investment Committee. We all thank the Board for the hard work they are doing during the year for our AZ Swiss Society!

Following the official part was raffle ticket time, with lots of great prizes to win and chose. Afterwards, John Thornton did an outstanding job in motivating members to bid for various great pictures, special cookies, a Swiss cow bell and a handmade blanket. An auction to remember. We had such fun! The revenue goes to the Swiss Foundation.

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**Massachusetts:** Friends of Switzerland (FOSI)

Here in Boston, Winter never really came. Quite strange. Not once did a blanket of snow cover us as in years past. And here in our homes, we now seem to be missing Spring as well. Watching it happen through our windows, out there somewhere, is small consolation. Earth rejuvenates ... we hibernate.

It is against this backdrop that we reach out to our FOSI community, both here and in Switzerland, with well-wishes and a hopeful message. This is certainly a time that taxes us as individuals, as families, as countries and states. That demands that our better instincts bring and hold us together as a global family. That relies on our innate humanness to rise and pull us through. Indeed, as we distance socially, we cannot afford to distance ourselves globally.

But it is also a time we see people rising to the occasion and helping each other. Helping each in their own way. The reaching out we see in our communities around us - and the Swiss community is no exception - provides a great deal of hope.

That said, we look back on a very successful recent season of FOSI activities and look forward to future events that will pull us together virtually. Last November we awarded to former Swiss Ambassador Martin Dahinden, the distinguished 52nd Annual Julius Adams Stratton Prize for Intercultural Achievement during an elegant evening at Boston's Hampshire House. And at the same time, we announced the Ambassador's selection of Christophe Farquet to receive FOSI's 2019 Stratton Fellowship Grant. Come December, we gathered for our honorary Roman Totenberg Stammtisch Luncheon & Speaker program, featuring the Music Director of the Boston Ballet, Mischa Santora, a Swiss. In February we were treated to a talk and delicious cheese sampling with owner of the Boston Cheese Cellar, Adam Shutes ... this at our annual Stammtisch honoring FOSI founder, Dr. Freddy Homburger.

And then came the Covid-19 shutdown. In response, we will be holding an online Stammtisch in early May. Our speaker will be Paul Arthur Berkman, Founding Director of the Science Diplomacy Center at Tuft University and Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. His talk, a very timely one, will focus on the role of science diplomacy in a pandemic. For anybody interested in hearing this presentation, please let us know via the email below.

As we move forward, FOSI will continue to engage Swiss, Swiss American, and Swiss-interested people to meet, network, and connect. In addition to the Stratton Prize, FOSI sponsors a Stammtisch Luncheon and Speaker Series, and other interesting events. FOSI is for anyone who appreciates Swiss Gemuetlichkeit and the chance to activate or reactivate their connections. For any interested in learning more, please visit our web site.

LARRY GROB, PRESIDENT, FOSI/BOSTON  
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### Cancellation

The Los Angeles Swiss Singing Society "Harmonie" has made the tough decision to cancel the 30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival in June.



## Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

*"The sense of community and belonging is founded in our shared cultural heritage!"*

On March 1st the Swiss-American Club of Sarasota (SAC) held their first picnic of the year, participation exceeded expectations. Eighty members attended and the time was spent with friends reconnecting before sitting down for lunch. René Purro and Hans Egg, in charge of the event, had the brats sizzling on the grill, several delicious salads and for dessert, Fasnacht Kuechli, in honor of Mardi Gras. Swiss music added to the atmosphere and Tombola master Jack Adjami, as usual, got members in a festive mood. The pot was split equally between the winner and the SAC (our share goes towards subsidizing social events).

On February 9th the 92nd Academy Awards (the Oscars) were held in Los Angeles. Swiss-American actress, Renée Zellweger rightfully won the coveted award for Best Actress. Renée is the daughter of our members Emil and Irene Zellweger and the SAC has good reason to be proud.



This year started with many great hopes and the newly elected Board was looking forward to a dynamic year with a series of planned events ...that is until the Covid-19 pandemic hit our world at dramatic speed. Functions had to be canceled and the quarantine has taken over our lives. In Sarasota, the beaches and State Parks are closed as are restaurants, bars, theaters, and all non-essential businesses. Supermarket shelves are bare, and it is obvious that people are panicking. We hope that these shutdowns and social distancing come to an end soon.

Our President, Nelly Camardo, has sent a letter to the members to let them know that all events are canceled until further notice, which probably will not happen before May 1st. Thankfully we have no reports of any of our members having been infected by the viruses of this writing.

We wish all members of Swiss Clubs, in the United States and beyond, Godspeed...stay home...stay safe...stay healthy.

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## New York: Swiss Society of New York Swiss Ball 2020

We feel truly lucky to have been able to host such a special event and connect with our sponsors, members, and friends of the Swiss community right before the unfortunate developments and global impact of COVID-19.

Three hundred guests attended the Swiss Society of New York's annual black-tie event, the Swiss Ball, which was held in Manhattan at the historic Cipriani on February 29th. This year was extra special due to the start of a new decade and the involvement of artist extraordinaire, Daniele Finzi Pasca and his team at La Compagnia Finzi Pasca. Daniele is an internationally renowned creator, artist and director, best known for directing the ceremonies of the Torino and Sochi Olympics, as well as three beloved productions for Cirque du Soleil, Corteo, Nebbia and Luzia. This past summer he and his company created a unique arena production for the Fête des Vignerons, a rare celebration which takes place four times a century in Vevey, recognized by UNESCO on its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. A compilation of his work can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/378741387/9379dfd44c>



The celebration was organized by the Swiss Society of New York (SSNY) in partnership with the Consulate General of Switzerland, and generously supported by numerous sponsors. The Swiss Ball serves as the society's annual fundraising event. Ambassador, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, Markus Boerlin provided an address to attendees. The Guest of Honor, Daniele Finzi Pasca was awarded the annual Swiss Society Fellowship Prize, a financial grant in his name. The beneficiary of the grant is the Under One Sky Foundation in NY, which will raise funds for major artistic productions harnessing creativity and technology to highlight the global issue of sustainability under Daniele Finzi Pasca's patronage.

For more information about La Compagnia Finzi Pasca visit: <https://finzipasca.com/en/> or contact Sharon Kim-Dion (skd@skdinternational.com).

For more information about the Swiss Society of New York, visit [www.swissociety.org](http://www.swissociety.org) or contact Jeffrey Paul (jeff@swissociety.org).

DANIEL SCHAUFELBERGER, PRESIDENT  
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### Northern California: Pro Ticino Nord California

Little did we know that our luncheon at Lugano Swiss Bistro in Carmel, CA, would be our last Pro Ticino meeting for many months, and maybe longer. A group of 27 members of our club from the Salinas valley area met for a midday “pranzo” on February 23 and two weeks later the world as we knew it started shutting down with the spread of the corona virus. The lady in the pink sweater is Dorothy Baumann, 98 years old and still enjoying the company of fellow Swiss. Our president Carla Twitchell and husband Doug had to postpone a trip to Bellinzona when the international Pro Ticino Delegates Assembly was canceled due to the pandemic. The Swiss abroad are encouraged to stay home until the pandemic is eased around the world.



Left: Neal Rianda, Josie Baumann, Dorothy Baumann  
Right: Mike Franscioni, Wendy Franscioni, Renee Rianda

CARLA TWITCHELL, PRESIDENT  
TWITCHELLCD@COMCAST.NET

### Miami Beach, Florida: An Unfolding Tragedy -- A Paralyzed World -- Dolphins in Venice, Italy? -- An Upside-Down-World -- Human Beings Confined in Paradise

We were strolling down Collins Avenue, my husband Andreas and I, when a red Cadillac passed by and the roaring sound of its motor cut through the ghostly silence and the eerie emptiness of the street, before disappearing behind the Art Deco buildings – a scene that truly seemed to be from yesterday, of a different time, when the world was vibrant and young, full of laughter and without any worries.

The surreal scene took place not just in the midst of Spring Break, the traditional month for US students and partiers to descend on South Florida, but it was also St. Patrick's Day, an additional reason for “invincible humankind” to celebrate and party in bars and clubs.

Amid the unusual silence and emptiness around us, Andreas and I continued toward our much-loved place, “The Betsy Hotel”, where we used to sit down during the twilight hour listening to jazz and enjoying the unfolding scenes of pure enjoyment of life in front of us. Of the 10 places, 0 was occupied: no laughter, no music, just the concierge greeting people in the usual friendly way, trying to ignore the day, and acting as if it were still yesterday.

We sat down and listened – instead of to music, now to the birds chirping, and instead of observing the joyful youth, we watched fearful people rushing by trying to keep an adequate distance – the so called “social distance” – from one another, and once in a while a jogger with earbuds. Silhouettes of yesterday.

### Southern California: French-speaking Group in San Diego

Our tight-knit French-speaking group in San Diego has been meeting for ten years now, and we are determined to keep going, coronavirus pandemic or not. Like much of the world, we have been turning to the Zoom online meeting app to maintain contact. And while it's not the same as seeing each other in person, it's been reassuring to see the familiar smiling faces.

Our nine members are scattered in different parts of San Diego County, as well Orange County just to the north. Our newest member, Rene Werder, has crossed the border from Rosarito Beach, Mexico, to attend our Sunday pot-luck gatherings. Before the pandemic hit, we celebrated 2020 with our traditional raclette in February at Dominique Lenoir's house. In early March, Clementine and Joe Whelan hosted us for the annual fondue.

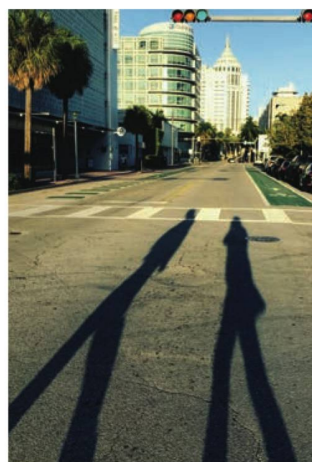
In times of uncertainty and isolation, we are finding that the bonds we have created matter more than ever.

If you would like information about our Swiss-French group in San Diego, CA please contact Brigitte Noel at [brigitte Noel@cox.net](mailto:brigitte Noel@cox.net)



This happened on March 19th, 2020, the day after my birthday, when we had enjoyed a bright sunny day at the beach, ignoring age and time and everything around us by celebrating life.

We arrived in Miami Beach on February 1st and were planning to return to Switzerland on May 10th, 2020. If Swiss can fly and the travel ban has been lifted, we are probably going to return earlier,



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## Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The rapid spread of the Coronavirus has rattled the world, particularly the great City of New York. I dedicate this 1000 piece puzzle of Manhattan, which I did during my isolation time at home, in support and showing solidarity with New York in general and our Swiss Club friends in New York City in particular. Roland Bandelier, Vice President, Swiss Club Miami



This is my fourth week of the quarantine in Coral Gables, Florida.



My days went fast because I was very busy between my garden, cooking, sewing masks for friends, embroider, cleaning and Skype with my family in Europe. I have a daughter in Luxembourg, a son in London, a son at "Les Roches" in Crans Montana but on an internship in Portugal and my parents, both 86 years old in Ticino. Thanks to technology I was able to see that they are ok. Stay safe everybody. Nicole Unternaehrer, Member of the Swiss Club Miami

In times of COVID-19 you want to be around your family. Not everyone has that luxury because we are wanderers in between two worlds and our families are often spread all over the globe. Our son studies in Luzern and called us on a Friday saying that his online classes are working fine and if he could therefore come to Miami! Action taken and the next day Lufthansa/Swiss brought him to Miami!



Seven passengers in Economy Class! Upon his arrival he/we home quarantined ourselves for 14 days. Some days felt like spending holidays together in the early days. Remember 1973 when there was the Sunday driving ban... with the current curfew

it almost feels the same. Going to the supermarket and everyone wearing a mask feels like in an apocalyptic movie, but at least back at home it all feels normal. However, our future life will change and maybe for the better! Bea Schmied, President, Swiss Club Miami

I never leave my home without a camera. Nature and animals are my passion and I walk hours enjoying the beauty of the place I'm in. With staying at home, I walk my neighborhood and it's fascinating how much beauty I can capture with my camera. Olga Riedi, photographer and member of the Swiss Club Miami



Dinner parties are not on the agenda anymore, so I modified my dinner table to serve as the temporary NORQAIN US office with a desk and watch atelier. Swiss watches are still in demand in the US, albeit less than before, and the whole industry has shifted from stores to the internet for the moment. I can't wait until this is over and we can meet our customers face to face again. Emmanuel Bütler, member of the Swiss Club Miami



4 1/2 weeks in self-Isolation! Most of my time is spent trying to figure out online things I never needed to know before. I keep in touch with family and friends whom I miss terribly, especially the grandkids!

I keep myself informed online and on TV as to Covid-19, choosing facts and realistic reporting. For many of us, Mani/Pedis are a thing of the past; I can't do my own, as my fingertips somehow always show more nail polish than the nails... Tried a pedicure, which required some band aids... I do 30-40 min. WALKS inside my home, and practice YOGA whenever possible. It is still possible to ban 'dark times' and have HOPE, which means 'Tomorrow is another day'. HOPE and attending Mass online help. As to the future -- that's where the HOPE comes in! Vreny Arnold, member of the Swiss Club Miami



My golf clubs are stuck at the golf club, but I do have a hickory set,



made some two hundred years ago. With the soft golf balls, I am able to chip around in the apartment off the yoga mat! Who said a yoga mat wasn't versatile during these times of home office! From our Golf Pro in Miami Olivier Gilmartin.

Quarantine has been quite a blessing in my life. It feels great to be stuck in my new little home in Coconut Grove with time to connect to self and the wild animals around me, especially the lizards. If life were normal, I would be teaching an art-photography class at the University of Zurich, CH, called 'Ephemeral Art Photography'. Due to the virus I am teaching the class online. My other jobs to paint a mural in a Brewery in Boston, MA, and paint people for 'bodypaintography' have been postponed. I started feeding the wild lizards who hang around my back porch. They were shy at first but now a handful of Anole lizards jump onto my hand to feed and hang out without hesitation. Their names are 'Oscar' (biggest male), 'Ziggy' (bent tail), 'Growing-It-Back' (lost tail growing back), 'Junior' (little guy) and 'Little Dude' (front entrance). The concept of growing a body part back fascinates me because I am an above knee amputee since 2015. What if humans could grow body parts back? I toy between the idea of wanting that for myself and feeling afraid. Cynthia Fleischmann, Artist from Miami



Family life during quarantine has much more quality time. The kids are super happy, and for the parents, happy hour happens more often. Combining online schooling for 3 kids, home office for the husband and organizing all meals needs good management!! But most important is to do exercises – we fill the time we have with table tennis, soccer, training the dog, and golf. We connect with friends and family online – even dancing! Petra Holzer, Swiss Club Miami



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### New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

The COVID-19 epidemic hit the New York area very hard and the highest priority for the SBS staff is to monitor the well-being of both the frail and healthy members. All events for Spring 2020 have been canceled and the Annual Meeting has been postponed.

Our Swiss Benevolent Society of New York members have shown great resilience during this uncertain time of social isolation. During this difficult time, the SBS remains committed to the safety and well-being of all members by providing weekly updates, resources, information, and ways of keeping busy at home by visiting virtual activities and providing direct phone lines to our social workers. For more information, please visit our website: [www.sbsny.org](http://www.sbsny.org).

Because of our connection to the medical community, we are proud to report that we were able to help the Swiss chocolate company, Läderach USA, Inc. to identify the staff of COVID-19 unit of the Mount Sinai Hospital as the recipient of an abundance of their freshly made and delicious chocolate. It is reported that they received so much that they were able to share it with other hospital units. The Swiss community is very happy and lucky to have the Läderach Chocolate Company in NYC and appreciates their quick response to the medical community in our city.

Although the situation is difficult at this time, we look forward to coming together soon with our SBS community. We know there are better times ahead!

The SBS Team.

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### Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On Sunday, March 8 our Annual General Meeting took place at the Magnolia Landing Golf & Country Club in North Fort Myers. President Maria von Atzigen opened the meeting by welcoming 49 members and 4 guests in the main dining room of the Club which was nicely decorated with Swiss and American flags. As a few days before the Annual Meeting the COVID-19 crisis began to influence our daily lives, two members understandably canceled their attendance in the last minute for obvious reasons. First off, Maria introduced all her fellow Board members and thanked them for their hard work during the year. After reading the minutes of last year's meeting, Maria presented the Annual Report of the President, followed by the Treasurer Report. Vice President Hans Wenger presented the findings of his thorough research on a subject that was raised at the 2019 meeting which was our declining membership. The bottom line of his report is that the declining membership is the natural result of a lot of people having moved back to Switzerland. Also, some members passed away and the number of new people moving to SW Florida is limited. Hans also mentioned that we are looking for one additional Board member to replace a member who resigned after last year's Annual meeting. It was also decided to leave the membership dues unchanged.

After the meeting we enjoyed dinner with a traditional Swiss Dish: Zürli Geschnetzeltes (veal) with Spätzli, especially prepared for us by Maya Olstynski, the Swiss born Executive Chef of the Magnolia Landing Golf & Country Club. We all enjoyed the evening.

### Northern California: San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club (SJVSC)

The SJVSC had a Schwinger dinner and dance in early March. This dinner is held annually to support our Schwingfests for prizes and awards and has supported our Schwingers attending the Eidg. Schwingfest in Switzerland. We acknowledged our Perpetual Trophy Winner - the Schwinger who accumulates points throughout the year at all the Schwingfests in the West Coast they attend. Andrew Betschart of Modesto was our 2019 Perpetual Trophy winner. We also acknowledged the four men sent to the Eidg. Schwingfest in Zug in 2019 and they were: Andrew Betschart, Jakob Schallberger, Steven Widmer represented SJVSC and Dustin Gwerder represented Sierra Swiss Club-Truckee, CA. Jakob Schallberger was able to wrestle 6 rounds, competing on the 2nd day. Upcoming fun events: Kids Swiss Camp on July 25th - this is an organized camp introducing traditional Swiss baking, arts and crafts, singing, dancing, Steinstossen and Schwingen along with other activities. This will be the 3rd annual



Dustin Gwerder, Jakob Schallbergerr, Steven Widmer, Andrew Betschart

camp that takes place during the day with our annual membership BBQ starting at the end of the camp. It is a wonderful day to meet new friends and share social time at the BBQ.

CHRIS SCHALLBERGER, SECRETARY  
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It turned out that a few days later all restaurants and bars in Florida and most of the country were closed so we were "right on time" for having the Annual meeting then.

Our next event, a tour of the WGC/PBS TV Studios at the Florida Gulf Coast University, followed by lunch, was supposed to take place on April 16. Given the current situation we were forced to cancel it. At the time of writing this report it was not decided yet whether or not we will have the next event, a Golf outing planned for Sunday May 3 at the Myerlee Country Club in Fort Myers.

If you like to know more about our Club, please visit us at [www.swissamericanclub.com](http://www.swissamericanclub.com), new members are always welcome. Let's hope that we will get out of this crisis situation rather sooner than later. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and follow the rules and directions given to us by the people in charge.

JOE HUBER, SECRETARY  
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## Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

In these unprecedented times our thoughts go to all Swiss societies and clubs all over America and around the world.

In compliance with the recommendation of our local authorities, all Swiss-American Society of Houston in person activities were canceled for most of the month in March and the entire month of April. As we all know, events are at the heart of each association's activities as they provide valuable service to each Swiss member, but also to their friends and the community.

Fortunately, in order to keep our members engaged and offer support, the board of directors was quick to act by pro-actively reaching out, in March, to all SASH members via phone to offer support or just a friendly voice. Additionally, a special section was created on our website with links to fun activities: museums virtual tours, movies (even Swiss movies), instructions on how to make masks, resources for those in need, and ways to give back to the community.

To adjust with the current times, the previously scheduled April activities have been moved to an online format. The board of directors had its first online meeting and it was a success! We held our first virtual Happy Hour on April 15th, where cheers, personal stories and good spirited laughter were exchanged.

We have also planned a Ladies and Gentlemen morning coffee and are looking into offering online Jass games and/or instructions, while our members are safely sheltering at home.

Like many other communities around the world the city of Houston has been greatly affected by this pandemic. Food pantries and local charities are currently low on resources to support the most in need therefore, the board decided to help out and contribute on behalf of our Society to the Food Bank of Houston.

We take this opportunity to wish all of you to stay healthy and safe in your respective state, and most importantly, we wish to all societies to be able to safely get together soon and enjoy once again what we are all about - our heritage, community and friendship!

Warm regards,

Lina Corinth,  
VP Communication/Relations (R)

Maura Ferrero-Baroni,  
President (L)



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## Contributions during COVID-19 by Swiss Artists in the U.S.

Gabriela Martina, vocalist, composer, voice teacher, had to cancel her scheduled concerts and came up with an idea: Dinner with my neighbor: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsBUur-JHC7WUHiFskVu04g>

<http://www.gabrielamartina.com> <http://www.redvelvetsounds.com>

## Umzüge während Covid-19

Umziehen in dieser speziellen Zeit ist eine Herausforderung für alle Beteiligten. Nicht nur, dass die Kunden kaum Flugmöglichkeiten haben, auch die Umzugsmannschaften müssen die Abstandsregeln während dem Umzug einhalten. Die Fahrt zum Kunden ist die erste Hürde. Es sollten nur noch zwei Personen mit den Umzugswagen fahren. Somit kommt ein Teil der Umzugsmannschaft mit einem separaten Personenwagen. Verpacken von Umzugsgut ist noch relativ einfach. Jeder Packer arbeitet in einem separaten Zimmer, dann werden die Abstandsregeln eingehalten. Beim Beladen wird es dann schon schwieriger, wenn zwei Möbelträger am selben Möbelstück anfassen müssen. Aber auch dies ist zu bewältigen.

Der weltweite Versand von Containern läuft eigentlich soweit wie gewohnt. Im Verkehr nach und vom Fernen Osten wurden die Transportkapazitäten durch die Reedereien massiv reduziert. Somit muss im voraus Platz reserviert werden. In den Europäischen Häfen lagern immer mehr Container, da viele Firmen diese nicht abnehmen können, da die Geschäfte nicht geöffnet haben und somit nichts verkauft wird (z.B. Kleidergeschäfte, Warenhäuser etc.) Da einige unserer Kunden nicht mehr reisen konnten, mussten wir ihr Umzugsgut in unserem Möbellagerhaus oder im Lagerhaus unseres Agenten am Bestimmungsort zwischengelagern, bis die Kunden dann am Bestimmungsort einreisen können. Anschliessend müssen diese unter Umständen auch noch eine Wohnung oder ein Haus finden. Einige Umzüge wurden auf einen späteren Zeitpunkt verschoben bis sich die Lage wieder normalisiert hat. Zum guten Glück hatten wir kaum Annullationen.

Planen Sie auch einen Umzug? Gerne sind wir für Sie da, sei dies jetzt oder später.

Jürg Naumann, Swiss Moving Service AG

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Andreas Werner put together a video with the help of many of his musical friends to entertain everyone who's holed up at home: Quarantino Soul Revue <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQNO0ReUFbkxFOzWix7Jjakg>  
[www.CrazyChesterRecords](http://www.CrazyChesterRecords)

### SWISS REPRESENTATIONS:

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

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