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REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Dear Readers,

to my surprise, some Swiss Clubs were able to celebrate the 1st of August almost normally while others were very creative to accomplish a festive mood and share the occasion through other venues.

During our usual get away in our motorhome during the hot summer months, we were fortunate to celebrate with Swiss friends in Heber City, UT. Their chalet sits high up in the hills with a beautiful view of mountains.

The next Swiss Review with a USA insert will be published on February 11, 2021. The deadline for submissions for the Regional USA Edition is January 3.

How will we celebrate Christmas this year? I'm looking forward to find out more about the unique ways your club masters the ongoing challenge of staying connected.

I wish you a safe fall season and hope that you will be able to celebrate Christmas together one way or the other.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

Ensuring Continuity Through Giving

Giving to a cause is one thing. Giving to a cause committed to the unwavering promise to look after the needs and interests not only of those living in this present age, but ensuring a lasting legacy for the next generations, is another. Indeed, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) demonstrates that driving force while being relentlessly committed to caring for close to 800,000 mobile Swiss living abroad. Its charter, but more importantly, its steadfast commitment, its very "raison d'être" is supported by three pillars:

1. Raising awareness, representing and protecting the interests and needs of the internationally mobile Swiss vs. the Swiss living in Switzerland;
2. Functioning as central hub for internationally mobile Swiss acting as Switzerland's unofficial ambassadors across the globe;
3. Providing a center of expertise for all questions related to the international mobility of Swiss citizens

OSA's comprehensive multifaceted engagement needs to be sustainable. That is why I am focusing my energy on ensuring that our non-profit organization stands on solid footing for generations to come!

At this time, I would like to invite you to consider supporting our worthy cause in the interest of your fellow Swiss living across the globe. As a not-for-profit organization, OSA depends on each one of us, regardless of how much we can give. Every contribution counts and is greatly appreciated!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous support!
Your fellow mobile Swiss,
David

DAVID W. MÖRKER
FELLOW SWISS LIVING OUTSIDE OF SWITZERLAND SINCE 1990
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, ORGANIZATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD
U.S. MIDWEST DELEGATE, COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD
PRESIDENT, TWIN CITIES SWISS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
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Temporary Address for the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C.

The Embassy of Switzerland will undergo renovations as a part of a planned strategic project to maintain and upgrade the chancery. On September 01, 2020, the Embassy temporarily moved to the following address for the duration of the project but will maintain consular and diplomatic activities.

Temporary address for the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington D.C. :

2201 Wisconsin Ave N.W., #300, Washington, D.C. 20007-4105

Bank and postal bank account details to support the OSA are as follows:

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3001 Bern
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Purpose of payment: "Donation"

For more options to support the OSA:

<https://www.aso.ch/en/about-ourselves/support-us>

Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

Following a SASNOLA Board meeting via Zoom in early July, we decided it would be best to hold a virtual August 1st celebration this year. Our Director At Large, Ann Inderbitzen, went to work immediately to create the most fun, inviting and celebratory Evite to send to our group.



The Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta already had plans in place for a BIG virtual celebration for Swiss Clubs across the Southeastern United States. We planned a short virtual Swiss National Day toast of our own for earlier in the afternoon to allow our members to hop on over to the Atlanta celebration if they wished to do so. It gave us the time we needed to say "Hello", exchange pleasantries, and for our President, Don Schwarzenbach, to give a wonderful toast on this great day. We all made sure to have a glass ready for our collective



Past Resident Robert Stickney looks on as current President Don Schwarzenbach gives a toast on ZOOM

virtual toast to 729 years of Switzerland. It was easy to see, even from the screen of a computer, that some members were clad in red and white. I also spied several Pro Patria pins being worn within the group. We could see that homes were decked out in Swiss swag and flag

bunting. Tables were set with everything from finger sandwiches, baked bries, cheese boards, warm pretzels, to petit fours, doberge cakes, cookies, and tartes. Our president, Don, later told us, "We had a small Raclette Party at my house - no substitute for the actual gathering, though." After toasting we chatted, caught up with one



Joining the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta virtual celebration. Prost, Santé, and Cheers!

another, said our good-byes and switched over to the celebration hosted by the Swiss Consulate in Atlanta. We were welcomed by Fabienne Egli, Coordinator Public Diplomacy & Cultural Affairs Consulate General of Switzerland, and watched the speech given by Federal President Simonetta Sommaruga to Swiss nationals abroad. We heard welcoming words from Consul General of Switzerland in Atlanta, Mr. Peter Zimmerli. We enjoyed a celebration of greetings, musical performances, and fireworks, offering everybody who participated an opportunity to celebrate Swiss National Day appropriately from the safety of our homes. Although not the same as being together, in person, it felt very festive and celebratory. We had a great time!

Once again, we are participating in the Gulf Coast Bank and Trust "Auctions in August". Auctions in August is a wonderful fundraising opportunity that the bank sponsors to benefit nonprofits each year. Participation takes very little effort and the Swiss American Society of New Orleans benefits 100% from the sale of any auction items sold that lists Swiss American Society of New Orleans or SASNOLA as the beneficiary of the donated item(s). This is our third year participating.

While Louisiana had made earlier progress in our efforts to contain the Coronavirus, we have since seen a surge in cases. As of August 4, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards announced: "Louisiana will keep current phase two restrictions, including mask mandate and bar closures through August 28 to slow the spread of Covid-19. Louisians is beginning to see the positive impact of the mask mandate in its Covid-19 data, including a decline in the numbers of people who are reporting to emergency rooms with Covid-like symptoms, decreasing new cases across the state and declining or plateauing hospitalizations in many regions of our state. Still every single one of our 64 parishes has high COVID incidence".

Some schools in our state have opened and welcomed students back into the classrooms, while other schools have opted for distance learning, some have chosen to do a combination of both and some have chosen to delay the start of the school year until after Labor Day.

We look forward to the day when we can physically be together again to raise a glass to nothing more than being together!

Until that time, be well, stay safe and share some love and kindness.

JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY
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Pennsylvania: Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the traditional Swiss National Day celebrations of the Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh. However, the cancellation did not prevent a small group from gathering for the afternoon at North Park. Our next scheduled event is the Christmas Luncheon on December 5 at Teutonia Männerchor. Additional information can be obtained by contacting president@swisspittsburgh.org



LYNDALL HUGGLER, PRESIDENT
[PRESIDENT@SWISSPITTSBURGH.ORG](mailto:president@swisspittsburgh.org)

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Like most other Clubs we haven't had – for obvious reasons - any events since our Annual Meeting which took place on March 8. Unfortunately, the celebration of Switzerland's birthday on August 1 also fell victim to the current crisis. We had secured a very nice venue for this traditional event, but the owner, a private Club, did not allow any guests there and even if they did, we couldn't have possibly followed the social distancing rules. Therefore, the Board decided with a heavy heart to cancel it. While just about everybody regretted the decision, most members fully understood and gave us positive feedback. This situation did not prevent us from ordering the excellent OLMA-style Bratwursts from our usual supplier so that the members were at least able to celebrate the 1st of August at home with a traditional Swiss specialty.

Given the situation particularly here in Florida, we have decided not to schedule/organize any events for the time being since many of our members are in the "high risk" age group.

At the best of our Board's knowledge, none of our members has contracted the Virus, which is at least one piece of good news.

If you like to know more about our Club, please visit us at www.swissamericanclub.com, new members are always welcome. Let's hope that we can start having events again before too long so that the next report is a little longer than this one! In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

JOE HUBER, SECRETARY
WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society

Despite the difficulties of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the members of the New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter, were able to celebrate their Swiss National Day on August 1, 2020 on the beautiful grounds of the Holcombe Jimison Farmstead in Lambertville, NJ. 50+ members brought their own tables, chairs, pop-up canopies, food, drinks, games and decorations to make the afternoon very special. All were eager to



see each other and share stories. Although we kept the required distance from each other, we were able to celebrate in style. Mitzy Amman was thrilling everybody with her impressive yodeling talents and Don Bitterlich and his lovely wife Michelle kept all happy with their fun and uplifting play on the



accordion. Everybody was excited to see the kids in the Lampion Parade, the bonfire was crackling away, and the evening came to an end with many smiles and happy hearts.

Having some normalcy back for a couple of hours felt wonderful and we will always be thankful to the members of the Holcombe Jimison Farmstead for opening up their grounds and allowing us to celebrate Switzerland's 729th Birthday. If you are in the Lambertville area, where the Delaware divides PA from NJ, make sure to stop in and check it out for yourself. www.holcombe-jimison.org



DANIELA K KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT
NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY, PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER
WWW.MYSWISSCLUB.ORG

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

After much deliberation...reservations...cancellations, our 1. August luncheon celebration took place at Roessler's Restaurant. 26 members were in attendance and we thank them for their contribution in making this occasion a memorable one...it will definitely be one for the books. Not since the 1918 pandemic of the Spanish Flu, has the world experienced a crisis of the magnitude of Covid-19.

René Purro, our events coordinator, did a magnificent job in organizing our event at Roessler's, a beautiful restaurant in a bucolic setting along a tranquil pond. Keeping in line with the necessary precautions and to insure social distancing, the dining room was set up with tables of four and attendees were asked to keep their masks on until seated.



From left:
Beatrice Schultes, Eve Watson, Elsbeth Connors

Conversation flowed (despite the colorful masks) enhanced by the sound of Swiss music flowing softly in the background. Our President, Nelly Camardo, welcomed the guests and, after asking everyone to stand respectfully for the Swiss Anthem, she played a video message to the Swiss Abroad from Simonetta Sommaruga, President of the Swiss Confederation.



Lunch consisted of a Vichyssoise, Organic Field Greens, and a main course choice of Seared Gulf Shrimp or Veal Marsala...to sweeten the palate a chocolate mousse followed. Hans Egg provided the favors, a "1. August-Weggen" for everyone to take home and enjoy for breakfast on Sunday morning.

Klaus Roessler, the Chef-Owner of Roessler's, was the perfect host and did a magnificent job making sure that this luncheon will be one that will be long remembered by our Club members.

Prost...Cin-Cin...Cheers...Santé to our beautiful Switzerland!

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS
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Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association

Just like many others, the TCSAA needed to adjust to the new situation. Instead of having meetings or events in person, we have been meeting virtually. This means that instead of a Happy Hour we now have a Virtual Happy Hour; instead of the Annual General Meeting we had our first Virtual Annual General Meeting. The current situation has forced us to continuously learn all the time, especially as we set times for virtual meetings.

The new type of meeting was reflected on June 14, 2020 when we held our Annual General Meeting and we had members participating from as far as New Hampshire. The benefit of a virtual meeting is that everyone can participate from home or wherever they happen to be.

For one of our signature events, the August First Celebration, the board decided with heavy hearts to cancel the event. This was based on the current situation and the advanced age of many of our members. We were sorry to miss the company of our fellow Swiss on our national holiday, but given the risks, we had no other choice. On a positive note, since we would have offered our sausage sale during this event, we made the decision to give each active member family a package of brats or cervelats for free. One of our board members, Rene Vanoni, offered to pick up the sausages from New Glarus. It was a good thing that he doesn't drive a small car, since we had a large order. Of course, that didn't replace the real party and the bonfire, but it brought back everyone's memories of Switzerland or past celebrations.

For some time now, we have been hosting a virtual Happy Hour on Zoom every Thursday afternoon. It helps us feel connected to our fellow members. Now every participant of the Happy Hour can be at home and have a drink and great conversation. However, we are looking forward to meeting again in person.

Since everyone has more time to spend at home, we redesigned our website and unveiled it on August 1st. Many pages were updated, and the regional Swiss Review submissions are now available in the Members only section.

The future is uncertain as we can't plan events in advance with all of the restrictions that are still in place. We are analyzing the situation, and I'm sure that many of our members are missing the gatherings with compatriots. I think many of the other Swiss clubs around the world are in the same situation of not knowing when we can go back to "normal". However, as I see it, there are so many great ideas to be considered by other Swiss clubs all over the country. Let's keep in touch either in person or virtually and send us your ideas!

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT
WWW.TCSAA.US

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Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

1. August 2020 - Pick-up "Event"

We can't let our Swiss National Day go by without doing anything, right? Thanks to the COVID-19 Pandemic and social distancing regulation, our regular event had to be canceled. So, the Board of the Swiss Club of Chicago put their heads together and came up with a Swiss National Day Package to order through our web-site: Swiss lampions and napkins from Esther @ Esther's European Imports in New Glarus, WI (www.shopswiss.com), cheese variety from Tony @ Alp and Dell in Monroe, WI (www.alpanddell.com), Rivella from Reto @ The Swiss Bakery in Springfield, VA (www.swissbakery.com), Jass set (French or German) from our online store @ swissclubchicago.com, Cervelat and Brats from a local butcher and of course ProPatria 2020 pins. Our idea was very well received and lots of orders were placed.



The Swiss Club of Chicago Board is ready!

The weather was perfect and so we pitched our tent and got ready for our Swiss National Day Package Pick-up "Event". It was very gratifying to see a lot of happy faces and receive many "Thank You"



Peter Keller is picking up his order in style in his beautiful Ford Mustang

when we dropped their package in their cars. We also made a few deliveries to Swiss Seniors who live in nursing homes, since they were not allowed to leave their homes. It was a perfect day, albeit the new normal social distancing and wearing face masks.



Family picking up their order

We hope everyone enjoyed a fun Swiss National Day celebration at home and let us be positive to get-together again for our traditional event in the coming year. Stay tuned and visit our website at www.swissclubchicago.com.

ELKE DIETZ SUJDAK, VICE PRESIDENT
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Southern California: Colonie Suisse Romande

We are the Swiss French-speaking Colony of Los Angeles and surroundings, and we meet regularly over the year. Usually.....

Little did we know that our last group gathering would be on Sunday February 23, stirring our pieces of bread together in a delicious fondue prepared by our President Lucette Flygenring. We were a lively bunch of 24 at the Flygenring home in Northridge. I am sorry we don't have any pictures to show for the event, we were all too busy enjoying food and conversation.

Then a pandemic reached our shores, and we have had to cancel our Choucroute reunion at Family Balmer home in May, the August BBQ-pool time and we're not yet sure about the Raclette planned for October 25 at the Family Friche residence in Redlands.

We must play it safe and do what is needed to make that curve of COVID-19 go down and flatten. We all had to cancel our visits to Switzerland, we're all worried about our families back there and them about us in the USA, and very sadly, we even have to lose some members, temporarily we hope, because of increasing visa issues.

We will be patiently looking forward to our next possible gathering because there is nothing like being able to speak one's language with other expats and talk about almost anything. It is always heartwarming to hear our Patois with the different Romand accents, from Genève, Vaud, Fribourg, Neuchâtel, Jura, and Valais. And even if accents get lost, or if the new generations have more of an "Anglo" accent in their French, at least it's great to hear them try, and it's good for them to meet with the elders and others sharing stories and preserving some cultural traditions in a distant land.

For information about our club, please contact Lucette at lucfly@aol.com or myself at jylougheed@charter.net. You can also check out the facebook page called "Suisse Romands de Los Angeles et environs".

To all our members, and readers of the Swiss Review, we send our best wishes to stay safe!

JACQUELINE FISCHER-LOUGHEED


+


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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

When we celebrated our Raclette Event at the end of February, we were all looking forward to a great year full of activities, festivities and celebrations! Well, we all know what followed: our events had to be canceled and plans became obsolete! However, after the lock-down in May Nicole Unternaehrer stepped forward and said, let's organize a car rally. On May 31st, a good 30 participants including the children came out on this perfect day and we all enjoyed the company of our compatriots. The car rally had nothing to do with speed or racing - it was a treasure hunt with 25 questions to be answered following the directions given on a sheet of paper. Every family or team was in their own car and at the 'end' the park provided enough space for social distancing. Interestingly enough, we had a team which was very fast and came home in 1.5 hours and Olga's team had all questions correct. Some came for the fun and enjoyment of a day out in nature. People were surprised how many amazing sights there were they did not know about, even having lived in Miami for so many years. The next Rally is already set up!



The Champions

the fun and enjoyment of a day out in nature. People were surprised how many amazing sights there were they did not know about, even having lived in Miami for so many years. The next Rally is already set up!

The board of the Swiss Club Miami planned our Swiss National Day well in advance since this is our biggest and most popular event of the year. Due to the Corona crisis our planning had to be changed weekly. With a smaller event foreseen for August 2nd, Hurricane Isaias blew all arrangements away and we were busy preparing for the Hurricane to arrive. The Government placed a total lock-down for Saturday and Sunday. Say no more!

However, every 1st Wednesday of the month we have our monthly Stammtisch at Fritz & Franz where we meet, and I brought some Lindor's to the event which were sponsored towards our Swiss National Day Celebration. You cannot believe how happy everyone was. They



were posing with the Lindor bars and everyone was so happy to walk home with a bag filled of Lindt chocolate. So, from now on, the Lindors will be a fixture of our regular gatherings until we'll have run out.

In Miami, Swiss National Day was celebrated with delicious meats, cheese fondue, bread, wines, schnapps, berries, cake and chocolate, along with Swiss flags and a Harmony Strand pulled up into the sky with a drone! The H.A.R.M.O.N.Y project by Swiss artist Cynthia Fleischmann brings messages of peace, considerate actions, unity, harmony and Ubuntu into the air as a reminder that we are all

connected on this beautiful planet. As an environmental alternative to fireworks, the Harmony Strand dances elegantly in the air for "Humans, Animals, Respect, Movement, Oneness, Nature & (You)th", all of which could use more love and attention for a better future. Check out this little video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBoIPfLCURQ&feature=youtu.be>
www.harmonystrand.com
www.facebook.com/CynthiaFleischmann



Photo credit: Olga Riedi



BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT
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Maine: How about a game of Maisloch (Cornhole)?

Jay Meyer from Falmouth put his energy to good use for a lovely summer project.



JAY MEYER
FJAYMEYER@GMAIL.COM

New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

As most of the First of August celebrations in the U.S. were scaled down or canceled during the pandemic of 2020, a small group of Swiss Benevolent Society members and Swiss friends at Cedar Crest Retirement Community in Pompton Plains, NJ, decided to celebrate, nevertheless. Coordinating with the Consulate General of Switzerland in NYC, tote bags filled with Swiss "goody" items were sent to this group to give their celebration a little boost from the homeland.

Although our members historically were able to attend our Swiss National Day celebration in NYC, this year was different because of the social distancing mandate. We, however, brought Swiss National Day to them by providing links to YouTube performances of the Swiss National Anthem, links to the Swiss President's Simonetta Sommaruga's speech and address to the Swiss Nationals Abroad.

COVID-19 has had a powerful impact on our membership. Although they are resilient and resourceful in the way they have coped, the overall sense of loneliness perpetuates. Because of our long relationships with our members, we have been able to alleviate some of the loneliness by our Social Workers calling our members regularly, as well as sending out weekly Newsletters providing relevant information, topics of Swiss interest and links to cultural performances.



ELISE KARRAS, LMSW
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New York: Frederick E. Von Burg, Author and Publisher

Being born in Biel, Switzerland, an automatic American citizen is not hard to do if your father was naturalized in New York. But there's the problem of language. Fred learned, and forgot, English first, because his mother had been sent to London by the watch manufacturer Alfred Kurth. It was eight years before she could join her husband, and in that time the youthful Frederick abandoned the English language for a more useful Schwyzerduetsch (Swiss-German). But in New York the IHM nuns brought him back to English so effectively that he later became an English teacher.



As an author and later publisher, he banked on his experiences being a scoutmaster, a basketball coach, a baseball coach, a camp counselor, a religious novice, a college physics major (would be) and a public school English teacher. He's still open for whatever the good Lord sends.

As a novelist and how-to writer, he relied on his Swiss background (Hope's Triumph) and knowledge (J. Piaget in Raising Your Future) to impact the mature reading public. He also wrote for his YA (Young Adult) audience about science (Evolution and the Bible) and youthful trends (Surprise at Dawn). On July 3rd and 4th, 2018, his novel, The Last Torpedo, hit number one on the Amazon best seller list.

For more information on his books go to [Frederick E. Von Burg](#)

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Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

In this different and special year, the Swiss-American Society of Houston celebrated the Swiss National Day on Saturday, August 1 in a very unique and creative way.

Following the local authorities' safety guidelines for Covid-19, instead of holding our traditional gathering with food and music, the Swiss-American Society of Houston hosted a morning Drive-Thru in front of the beautiful circular driveway of a generous member's home.



All members of the Society who came were treated with one loaf of the traditional August 1 Weggli, a Pro Patria pin, a beautiful photography book, the latter graciously donated by our Honorary Consul of Switzerland and artist, John Bernhard, and the opportunity to win one of our many raffle prizes.

The Weggli were specially baked by Roland Swiss Pastry and Bakery in Houston.



It was a special celebration with members and their families, some coming from many miles away, parading through the driveway and staying safely in their cars, many decorated with Swiss flair and colors. They were greeted with the sound of cow bells and waving Swiss flags by board members of the Society, volunteers, and our Honorary Consul John Bernhard.

After so many months of not seeing each other in person it was certainly a special and exciting moment that reminded us of the strong bond of friendship we are gifted with the Swiss-American Society of Houston.

To further celebrate this special Swiss National Day the Swiss-American Society of Houston created a special "Swiss National Day" section on our website (www.swissamericanhouston.org). We uploaded the Swiss National Anthem music and wordings in our four national languages, for our members' enjoyment. In addition, we included recordings of greetings and well wishes from the President of Switzerland, Simonetta Sommaruga, from the Swiss Honorary Consul in Houston, John Bernhard and from the president of the Swiss-American Society of Houston, Maura Ferrero-Baroni.

Our society also participated in the joint virtual celebration with the Swiss General Consulate of Atlanta and other Swiss Societies of the Southeast at 4 pm (CT). We were represented by one of our members, Mrs. Dolores Bauman, with a delightful musical recording and by the president of our society Maura Ferrero-Baroni with greetings and a picture slideshow presentation of special moments from the previous year.



It was certainly an exciting and unique Swiss National Day Celebration!

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, PRESIDENT
WWW.SWISSAMERICANHOUSTON.ORG

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