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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

how great it was to celebrate the 1st of August under almost "normal" circumstances. At least, that's what I got out of the many articles I received. It wasn't an easy task to edit the detailed descriptions of the events to make them all fit in these pages. Most Swiss clubs have a website or a facebook page where you can see many more photos.

Another big event were the meetings of the delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad as featured below. For more info and videos of the meetings, go to <https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/offers-events/98th-congress-of-the-swiss-abroad-2022-in-lugano>

Just a quick reminder how the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) works on behalf of us all around the world:

- The CSA represents the interests of Swiss citizens abroad vis-à-vis the authorities and the public in Switzerland.
- CSA members all over the world fight for the rights of the "Fifth Switzerland".
- The CSA meets twice per year to discuss Swiss Abroad policy questions as well as current political topics concerning the Swiss Abroad. They make decisions and determine opinions and resolutions which are then submitted to the competent authorities.

The December issue does not have a USA edition. The deadline for articles for the issue with a USA edition published on January 27, 2023 is December 19, 2022.

I wish you a pleasant fall and peaceful Christmas season.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

## 98th Congress of the Council of the Swiss Abroad August 19-20 in Lugano, Switzerland

On August 19-20, the Council of the Swiss Abroad, with 140 delegates from all over the world, representing the Swiss living abroad, met in Lugano/CH. The US team was there with their full contingent of 9 delegates (incl. Jacqueline Siffer who represents the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad YPSA on the Council of the Swiss Abroad). A first in-person meeting in three years, the positive energy and joy to meet again was on full display.

On Friday's agenda were long-running issues such as

- e-voting,
- cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs,
- the free movement agreement with the European Union, and newer topics like
- the introduction of an electronic identity.

After a first attempt to set up an **electronic identity (e-ID)** failed at the polls in March 2021, a consultation process for a second attempt is now underway. A digital passport is now to be issued by the federal government and not by private entities, as was originally planned and much criticized. OSA (Organization of the Swiss Abroad) President Filippo Lombardi outlined the arguments for an e-ID from the point of view of the Swiss Abroad: "This is a prerequisite for e-government services such as taxes, health care and administration. E-Voting is easier to do with an e-ID. It may also improve access for the Swiss Abroad to Swiss banks."

*We voted unanimously to support this revised initiative.*

Not surprisingly, the subject of **e-voting** provoked the most discussion among the delegates. It has been at the top of the agenda for years, and in the eyes of the 'Fifth Switzerland', e-voting is the only way for reliable participation from abroad. Almost 800,000 Swiss live abroad, and just shy of a quarter of them would like to take part in elections and votes, but the mailing of ballots to/from is unreliable. "We know that we will eventually have an e-voting solution with Swiss Post", noted OSA President Lombardi, "however, such a system is unlikely to be ready for the federal elections scheduled for next year! In the meantime, we need to continue to pressure our respective cantonal authorities to send out the voting ballots at their earliest possible time."

The Swiss **health insurance** system also led to renewed discussions. Citizens give up their Swiss basic insurance when they move abroad. Many have difficulties in taking out private health insurance or being able to maintain it, especially with older age or pre-existing conditions.

A panel discussion with top-ranking Swiss politicians was dedicated to the relationship between **Switzerland and the EU**. We passed another resolution, re-enforcing our support and expectation for a full retention of the **'Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons'** to protect the rights of the Swiss living in an EU country and all those who want to settle there in the future. The OSA has continuously and strongly been supporting this agreement, which enables Swiss citizens to settle and work freely in Europe.

98th Congress of the Council of the Swiss Abroad August 19-20 in Lugano, Switzerland (continued from page I)

## The Challenges of our Democracies

On Saturday, following an opening address by Swiss President Ignazio Cassis, the lively discussions continued at the plenary session as well as in individual workshops. Democracies need continuous care and development to progress! Central topics were the (E-) Democracy, the expansion of political rights and the diversity of the electorate. What impressed me was the discussion that compared/contrasted the political rights of the “twin siblings”, the Swiss who live abroad and the foreigners who live in Switzerland.

Filippo Lombardi in turn also used the opportunity to present Cassis with a wish list for the Swiss Abroad: He stressed the importance of future relations between Switzerland and the European Union, he highlighted the need for the expat community to be able to take part in regular votes in Switzerland by introducing e-voting, and he appealed to the government and parliament to resist potential temptations to cut financial support for the strong Swiss Abroad community.

JEAN-PIERRE MITTAZ ON BEHALF OF THE US DELEGATION  
ON THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD



The US Delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad were there with their full contingent of 9 delegates (incl. Jacqueline Siffer who represents the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad YPSA on the Council of the Swiss Abroad)

From left to right: David Mörker, Margrit Young-Zellweger, Tom Neidecker, Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer, Felix Egli, Swiss President Ignazio Cassis, Daniel Rahm, Jean-Pierre Mittaz  
Not pictured: Robert Lensch, Franco Zimmerli, Jacqueline Siffer

Picture: Courtesy of Benjamin E. Mörker

## Ambassador Niculin Jäger at the Helm of the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York

We welcome Ambassador Niculin Jäger as the new Consul General of Switzerland in New York. After his 4-year posting as Ambassador of Switzerland to Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia, he is succeeding Ambassador Markus Börlin, who left for his next posting as Ambassador to Luxembourg.

Niculin Jäger arrived in September. He brings dynamic ideas and an enterprising spirit to uphold and foster Swiss impact in the New York Tri-State area and our other Consular Districts. It remains cardinal for the Consulate General to maintain our sought-after services for the Swiss community. Another of Ambassador Jäger's priorities is to reach our public diplomacy goals by publicizing Switzerland's achievements in innovation, sustainability, culture and business, and by supporting U.S.-Swiss business relations.



Copyright SwissCGNY

2022 marks a very particular year for our Consulate; we are celebrating 200 years of official Swiss presence in New York!

It's impressive to see how big Switzerland's influence has been in New York over the past 200 years. Did you know that the legendary George Washington Bridge and the graphic identity of the iconic New York taxis were designed by Swiss citizens? We invite you to discover other surprises gathered for you in this anniversary brochure and our video about the Swiss impact in New York.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN NEW YORK  
ROSINA COLAZZO-FRANZESE  
LEAD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Anniversary Brochure  
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/usa/en/home/representations/embassy-washington/consulate-nyc/200-years-anniversary.html>



Swiss Impact in New York Video  
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## New York: Swiss Society of New York

In July we held our annual meeting where the newly appointed leadership team was unanimously elected by our members. It also marked the end of Daniel Schaufelberger's presidency of the Swiss Society of New York. In his four years as our President, he successfully managed a very difficult period during the pandemic. However, through his strong personality and leadership the Swiss Society of New York is in a great condition and his successor Jan Furrer will carry on his legacy into a new era as the newly elected President.

With the momentum of our new leadership team, we hosted a very successful Swiss National Day event at Tavern on the Green in beautiful Central Park. Grammy-Award winning jazz musician Linus Wyrsch and world-renowned singer Alexia Gardner delighted our guests with their wonderful music.

Before the warm weather is coming to an end, we are heading upstate for our next event to hike around the beautiful hills of Cold Spring. To offer different types of events, we are planning our next Fondue night as well as a Swiss Gala which will be a more upscale evening. Further details to follow on our website

[www.swissociety.org](http://www.swissociety.org)

JAN FURRER, PRESIDENT

## New York: New York Swiss Gymnastic Society

### Spring Outing 2022

It was a pleasant day, ideal for being out in nature when we visited the Hudson Highland Nature Center near Cornwall, NY. What a wonderful place for a leisurely walk among the many meadows with blooming wildflowers or through lovely woods. The property includes numerous picturesque ponds with elevated viewing platforms to observe the flora and creatures.

After a couple of hours, we were ready for a cool drink at our favorite place nearby: The Canterbury Brook Inn, Cornwall, NY. Hans Baumann, the Swiss chef and owner, served us a delicious dinner, including the famous "Roesti". And, who wouldn't like apple fritters with vanilla sauce and ice cream for dessert?

Everyone was happy and content to have spent an afternoon with friends in an amazing countryside.

PETER GERMAN



## Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter

### Young Adults Advisory Committee



For the first time, the Young Adults Advisory Committee of the New Helvetic Society-PA Chapter, charged with fostering engagement in the younger generations of Swiss and those of Swiss descent, organized a tubing event floating down the Delaware River. The 21 attendees had a fantastic time floating down the river on tubes from Frenchtown to Point Pleasant on the Pennsylvania side. Everyone tied up to form a formidable flotilla and enjoyed chit chatting during the 3-hour tube ride through small rapids, soaking up the marvelous weather. At the halfway point we all stopped at a well-known way point, a floating hotdog stand in the middle of the river, and had a little snack. Wet dollars? Not a problem for them. At the end of the trip, we all went for a pizza gathering to celebrate an exceptional day with friends and agreed that this would definitely become an annual event for the club.

ADRIEN SALOMON

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# 1st of August Swiss National Day Celebrations across the USA

## Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

Greetings from Sarasota and beautiful Siesta Key, the paradise we are lucky to call home. Famous for its pure white quartz beaches and the stellar quality of the calm, clear, temperate water of the Gulf.

August 1st is an important happening for our members. It breaks the summer lull and gives the members who live in Sarasota year-round, a chance to reconnect. This year we came together for a well-attended luncheon at Mattison's 41. Red and white were the predominant colors – patriotism is alive and well in our Swiss community. Everyone is anxious for the return to activities which will resume in October when everyone is back to their winter homes and to the warm weather. The aroma of the Brats is in the air!

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone in our very active community who keeps this club thriving and help nurture our Swiss roots. We invite you to browse our website for upcoming events. If you happen to be in our neighborhood, plan on joining us, we welcome everyone!

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS

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## Florida: Swiss Club Miami

Miami summer gave its best for this very important day. With plenty of inside and outside seating, our usual host at Fritz & Franz was again outperforming himself to make this event so special.

We had it almost all: Swiss people, Swiss wine, Swiss food, Swiss chocolate, Swiss music, national anthem - except mountains. The Tombola (raffle) and also the Lampion (lantern) parade of the children were highlights of the event. A big Thank You goes to our sponsors which supported us financially and gifts towards our raffle prizes. The two main raffle prizes were WOW: AirEuropa sponsored two tickets to Europe, Ritz Carlton a stay for two in Miami Beach.

Thanks to all our members and guests joining us - YOU are the

Club and because of you we are having a great time.

Check out our website for all photos of all our events!

BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT

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## Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

On a blistering Arizona Sunday, the Swiss Club held the August 1st lunch celebration at the expanded Martin Auto Museum's new location in Glendale AZ. What a fun place this is for kids and adults alike, to see those fancy old cars.

Music from home, Swiss flags on every table, pictures from Switzerland were flashing by on a huge



Fiona and Sedona had the best results in the Swiss slideshow challenge!

TV monitor screen and feelings of homesickness emerged. 57 Swiss Society members had a fantastic time. Thanks to Kurt Schittli for the yearly, well received quiz all about cars and to Anthony Haechler, President of the Arizona Swiss Club, who came up with a quiz for kids, he called the Swiss slideshow challenge. 7 children ages 4 to 18 participated. Fiona and Sedona had the best results! Fiona ended up winning with a tie-break question at the end

TRUDY WELLS-MEYER

[WWW.ARIZONASWISSOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.ARIZONASWISSOCIETY.COM)

A moment for the heart when Anthony handed Lew and Trudy Wells a bouquet of roses for their Goldene Hochzeit, 50 years married, June 8th.



## Arizona: Tucson Swiss Club

The Tucson Swiss Club held its annual 1st of August celebration at Mt. Lemmon in the Coronado National Forest. At over 7,000 ft, the venue is the ideal spot to get a respite from the summer heat of Southern Arizona. The Tucson Swiss Club is an informal club organized to promote friendship within the Swiss community of Southern Arizona. They periodically get together to celebrate special occasions to meet new friends and to share our Swiss heritage. It is a

multi-lingual club which welcomes all people of Swiss heritage or with an interest in Switzerland. The club's website, [www.TucsonSwissClub.com](http://www.TucsonSwissClub.com), regularly posts articles spotlighting topics of interest about Switzerland. Recent vignettes introduced the River Inn to its readers, toured some restaurants in Bern, discussed the role of Swiss Embassies, and explored our Roman heritage.

EDDY SCHAEFER

[TUCSONSWISSCLUB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TUCSONSWISSCLUB@GMAIL.COM)

## Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Over 60 attendees gathered under a blue sky and tropical temperatures at the Commons Beach Club in Bonita Springs, Florida.

A Chasslas white wine apéro started the festivities. The traditional Bratwurst dinner with bread and Thomy Senf was anticipated by many and the famous oversized Bratwursts shipped from Colorado did not disappoint. Kids took advantage of the beach and warm Gulf water. The adults preferred socializing with fellow Swiss and exchanging the latest news from the community and homeland.

Club president Joe Huber welcomed and addressed the members with a few words. As a first he handed out the “Wanderpokal” of this year’s bowling night to the winner Gino Colombo. Vice President Hans Wenger then read the into English translated speech of Bundesrat Cassis followed by the national anthem of Switzerland.

The homemade dessert buffet was soon opened and well received. It was a day to remember and we are happy about the growing club membership. We thank all the volunteers for their support and look forward to the next fun event.



VICKI H. BURKHARD, SECRETARY  
[WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM](http://WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM)

## Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

It has been a busy spring and summer for our Society as we held many events ranging from our monthly dine outs to our spring picnic.

The Swiss National Day celebration was an enormous success with an overwhelming attendance of over 90 people at the Alliance Française in Houston. In attendance was the Swiss Honorary Consul of Houston and Event Chair, John Bernhard and his lovely family. We concluded the event with a silent raffle organized by Mr. William Hanhausen. Among the many exciting prizes were a 1st Class – 8 Days Swiss Travel Pass for two, Tickets for two to a selected performance at the Alley Theatre, a Swiss army knife, a Caran d’Ache pen, two Mickey Mouse & Minnie Mouse lithographs, a wine basket, a \$200 Visa gift card, a Wusthof 8-pieces knife set, and gift certificates to Roland’s Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop.

Our Society has scheduled several events for the upcoming fall. We invite you to visit our website at [www.swissamericanhouston.org](http://www.swissamericanhouston.org) to stay in touch with our events and join our club if you live here in the greater Houston Area.

Thank you, as always, for being with us!

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, PRESIDENT  
[SWISSAMHOU@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SWISSAMHOU@GMAIL.COM)  
[WWW.SWISSAMERICANHOUSTON.ORG](http://WWW.SWISSAMERICANHOUSTON.ORG)

## Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter

Once again, we were able to celebrate our 1st of August at the beautiful working Arasapha Farm in Glen Mills, PA. 110+ members came out and enjoyed a sunny day under the Pavilion roof, surrounded by shady trees and a lovely landscape. The “Fleischkäse” and ham, with all the delicious salads and diverse desserts, were a hit. The



younger kids were playing on the bouncy-bounce while the older kids had fun playing corn hole or the bottle game. Many guests enjoyed a glass of beer or wine while chatting with their friends. Everybody hummed to the beautiful music Don and Michelle Bitterlich played on their accordions and Mitzy yodeled her heart out to the delight of all the guests! One of the highlights was the children’s Lampion Parade, and the bonfire made the event even more special, as it gave a little glimpse into a Swiss tradition we enjoyed as kids ourselves. A special touch added Colette Doudin and Michael Mudrak with their impressive Alphorn play, and guests from Switzerland played the clarinet and saxophone in front of the bonfire! All in all, the Swiss National Day Celebration was a huge success, and if you happen to live in the Philadelphia, New Jersey or Northern Delaware area, then look us up under [www.myswissclub.org](http://www.myswissclub.org) and join us in the fun!

DANIELA KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT

## Newark, Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted the Swiss National Day Celebration organized by the United Swiss Societies of Northern California on August 6, 2022. The beautiful and temperate day brought many Swiss visitors and friends to the Swiss Park picnic grounds. We enjoyed music and dancing to the Zicke Zacke Band and food by Lugano Swiss Bistro. There were fun-filled activities for the whole family including a rock-climbing wall, a Swiss Heritage Mobile Museum, and art & dance classes. Award winning children’s author Gisela Bengfort was on hand for a book reading and signing. Children also delighted in the Swiss train display, courtesy of Robert Waal. After lunch, the children marched around the Swiss Park with all the Swiss Canton flags lead by local Swiss accordion player Art Brogli.

We had a wonderful day to celebrate our Swiss heritage and all things Swiss.



ROSE SATARIANO  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
[AELPLERGRUPPE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AELPLERGRUPPE@GMAIL.COM)

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

### The TCSAA after COVID

Since the restrictions of COVID were lifted, our organization started with the in-person events. We still feel the hesitance of our members to meet other members and hope this will change with time.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on June 26, 2022. The board thought a river cruise on the St. Croix River would be just the ticket! We all enjoyed a delectable buffet. Our president, David Mörker, opened the 49th Annual General Meeting. Despite lower turnout overall, we had a great past year. Arlette Barnhiser and Silvia Gabler stepped down after many years of serving as officers and associate directors. We thanked them for their service and hope to see them at our future events. Brandon Block was elected to serve as a new board member while all other officers, associate directors, and our president were unanimously re-elected.

We celebrated the 731st “birthday” of Switzerland at the Trechsel’s residence. The week before we welcomed volunteers who built the bonfire since there was no smoke from Canada causing a fire ban due to drought conditions. Participation at the celebration was good with many members and guests enjoying to reconnect! Some members baked bread for the event, some donated gifts for the legendary tombola. As always, all tickets (Loesli) were sold within a short time since Simon Blaser took over the organization of the tombola.

As an additional event, we introduced a Happy Hour every third Thursday of the month. Because of the lower participation rate, we are exploring ways to make the happy hour more attractive. We would like to see more members and friends participate.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA  
[WWW.TCSAA.US](http://WWW.TCSAA.US)



Looking forward, we have just started planning the 50th Anniversary of the TCSAA. The celebration will take place on June 25th, 2023, at the Theodore Wirth Chalet in Minneapolis. We are looking forward to enjoying a high participation.

## Rhode Island: Swiss Association of Rhode Island (SARI)

It is a pleasure to announce the launch of the Swiss Association of Rhode Island (SARI) which got off to a great start with the celebration of August 1st at the home of John and Kathy Breguet. Kathy created a Swiss feast with incredible amounts of wonderful food and John prepared their spacious land with lampions, many flags and banners, and games for the younger set that reminded us all of our beloved

Switzerland. They made this a special event, as did the alphorn brought and played by Rudi Zimmermann and the wooden bugle of Hans Kuster. Former Swiss Club of RI leader Henri Gautschi was pleased with the event!

While attendance had to be limited to 30 for this seminal event, plans for subsequent events were clearly of interest to all. Hopefully there will be a fairly easy walk that many would be able to participate in, perhaps in early October.

With luck, next year’s event may be at the lovely new facility at the Meehan Overlook in North Providence, RI, situated on a reservoir with a little beach nearby as well as a nice walking trail.

Events are open to non-Swiss as well as Swiss in the Southeastern NE area. Until now, no membership fee has been discussed, but that may change as more events are planned.

To be included in event emails, contact me at  
[swissassnri@gmail.com](mailto:swissassnri@gmail.com).

A. CATHERINE HANNI



## Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

After two long years it was exciting to finally hold our Swiss National Day Celebration in person. Although a few folks stayed away due to Covid, we had a great turn out of smiling faces to make for a fun and festive event. Our party was held at Deutsches Haus on beautiful Bayou St. John. Our SASNOLA President, Don Schwarzenbach and Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans, Alexandra Mora, welcomed our group. They each shared some memories of our friend John Geiser III.

We are looking forward to a "Swiss Wines" tasting with wines provided by Aris Kyriakides of Ambeli LLC Wine Importers/Wholesalers for Louisiana.

I'm sure we'll have much to talk about next time, until then 'À la vôtre' and 'Prost'!

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

## Louise Ritter celebrates 101 years

Although not in attendance, we sang Happy Birthday to longtime member Louise Ritter of New Orleans, who celebrated her 101st birthday on Thursday, July 28, 2022. "She goes to Mass every morning, pays her own bills, drives and 'makes groceries'. Until COVID, she gave bridge lessons twice a week. She now plays bridge on the internet." as was reported in the New Orleans Advocate by Columnist Smiley Anders in the "Special People Dept".

## Colorado: Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS)

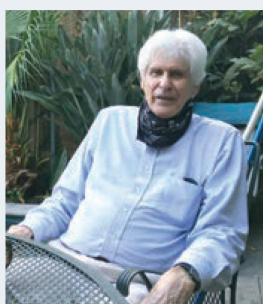
The Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS) started the Colorado summer with an official visit from Balz Abplanalp, our Consul General. About 80 members of the Swiss community had a chance to discuss various topics and ask some burning questions, such as the current procedures for passport renewals.

On June 18th, some SAFS members gathered at the Burning Bear trailhead for a three-hour Father's Day Hike. The energetic hikers met up with some non-hikers at Marcel and Julie Flukiger's Aspen Peak Cellars in Bailey. The hungry and thirsty crowd had a wonderful time during the "après hike" event.

July 31st marked the highlight of summer. Close to 200 SAFS members and friends met for the traditional August 1st event in Morrison outside of Denver. 'Rick Borger and The Average German Band' kept the crowd entertained and the Fox Family played the Alphorns. And what would August 1st be without some special Swiss action? Jenna Elsener coordinated the Umspunnen-Stein contests. Members of all ages competed during this fierce rock throwing event.

The regular first and third Wednesdays of the month Stammtisch events are always good opportunities to meet old and make new friends, offer new ideas, get updates on planned activities and the latest news. We have also great relationships with other cultural clubs and groups in the area. In the spirit of international relationships, a few members showed off the Swiss flag during the Parade of Nations at the Global Fest in Aurora on August 20th.

## Remembering John Geiser III



Sadly, long time member and former Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans John Geiser III passed away on July 7, 2022. If you knew John, you know he didn't drive, but traveled far and wide on foot and by bus. It was not uncommon on any given day to see him walking in different areas of town.

John was a remarkable person. He was so dedicated to his Swiss heritage and integral to our Swiss American Society of New Orleans. John was appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans 1985 and served until 2008. He was elected honorary president of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans in 1996. I am certain he was our longest standing member,

serving every imaginable board position and involved at every level over his many decades of membership.

In June 2019, John took Michele Andina and Susan Misicka of Swiss Info on a little "Swiss Dotted" tour of New Orleans. [https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/-swiontour\\_following-swiss-footsteps-in-new-orleans/45676570?utm\\_campaign=teaser-in-channel&utm\\_source=swissinfoch&utm\\_medium=display&utm\\_content=0](https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/-swiontour_following-swiss-footsteps-in-new-orleans/45676570?utm_campaign=teaser-in-channel&utm_source=swissinfoch&utm_medium=display&utm_content=0)



The Swiss Cultural Club at Cedar Crest Village in New Jersey is showcasing our Swiss history and traditions to educate our fellow residents that we Swiss are more than chocolate, cheese, and brown cows.

SOPHIE MURRAY-FLATZ

The SAFS is dedicated to fostering and advancing friendship and goodwill between the people of the state of Colorado and Switzerland. Our president Rene Sonderegger also happens to be the Honorary Consul of Switzerland and therefore fulfills this role in good old Swiss fashion with excellence. Rene can be reached at 303-378-4577 or [rene.sonderegger@renaisys.com](mailto:rene.sonderegger@renaisys.com). Visit our website at [www.safs.us](http://www.safs.us) to stay in touch with our events and join our club if you live here in Colorado.

REGULA GRENIER

## Missing Person Search (art. 35 et seq. Swiss Civil Code) and Search for Heirs (art. 35 555 Swiss Civil Code)

The Judge of the District Court of Vallemaggia (Ticino, Switzerland) avv. Petra Vanoni, as by the decisions of the 15th June and 30th June 2022, asks anyone who has news of Pietro Giuseppe Elzi (1853) and Giuseppe Antonio Elzi (1855), both sons of Giuseppe Antonio Elzi (1817-1898) and Maria Giacomina, née Sartori (1819-1872), who probably lived in the United States of America, to report to this Court within 1 (one) year, and calls all people with succession rights to come forward.

The deceased Pietro Giuseppe Elzi (1853) and Giuseppe Antonio Elzi (1855), both sons of Giuseppe Antonio Elzi (1817-1898) and Maria Giacomina, née Sartori (1819-1872), who probably lived in the United States of America.

Having to establish whether Pietro Giuseppe Elzi and Giuseppe Antonio Elzi is survived by heirs or by descendants of the above children, or who believe to be heirs of their descendants as above-mentioned are called to come forward within 1 (one) year of the publication of this search for heirs.

The person who believes to be an heir or heir of a descendant shall contact "Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia, Via Pretorio 2, 6675 Cevio, Ticino, Switzerland" and provide the documentation that gives ground to the family ties.

After the given deadline, the estate of the deceased will be devolved to the established heirs.

**Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia**

**Via Pretorio 2**

**6675 Cevio, Switzerland**

**E-mail: prece@ti.ch**

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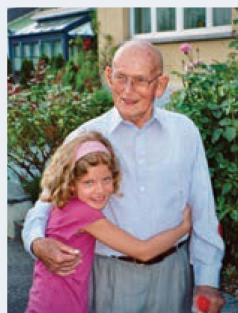
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## Lauren Zurcher, Author and Artist

Lauren Zurcher is a Swiss citizen born in Boston. Her father, a pilot, is a third generation Appenzeller, and her mother is a graduate from Geneva Law School. Lauren now lives in Colorado where she attended bilingual English-French schools. Growing up, Lauren spent her summers in Switzerland visiting her grandparents, great-grandparents, uncles, aunts, and numerous cousins. She was inspired to pursue her artistic endeavors by her great-grandfather Walter Spring who was a Swiss painter.



She started writing and illustrating children's books upon her graduation from the University of Denver in 2020. Lauren is currently working on a series based on real animal stories. "They Call Me Lucky" follows the trials of a cottontail rabbit, and award-winning "Good Boy, Nicco" is about an ambitious German shepherd. The latest title in the series, "Kaya Finds Her Home", tells the story of a clever female African leopard.

"The geography, peoples, fauna, and cultures I experience are the source of my inspiration. I wish to share those treasured moments with others through my creativity," said Lauren Zurcher in an interview with her Denver-based publisher Spring Cedars.

For more, visit the author's website [www.bylaurenzurcher.com](http://www.bylaurenzurcher.com)



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