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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

Hopefully, this year has been good for you so far. It seems to me that after the first couple of days, most things have been a continuation of the previous year but we should never give up being hopeful that improvement is possible moving forward.

The deadline for articles for the next issue is already February 14, 2023. The publishing date is March 24, 2023.

I leave you with an interesting historical tidbit I came

across on [www.Triviagenius.com](http://www.Triviagenius.com):

Back when the original Roman calendar was in use, March was the first month of the year and the months of January and February didn't even exist. Instead, winter was a monthless 70-ish-day period that stretched between December and March. That changed around 690 B.C. when King Numa Pompilius established Ianuarius, which is believed to be named for Janus, the two-faced Roman god of transitions and doorways. It's not certain when exactly January was moved to the top of the calendar. In some cases, Europeans were still treating March as the "New Year" into the 18th century.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

### Florida: Swiss Club of Central Florida

#### FusionFest 2022

Switzerland and the Swiss Club of Central Florida were wonderfully represented in a two-day multicultural celebration, FusionFest 2022, which showcased Central Florida's colorful diversity. Thousands of visitors attended this incredible experience as they learned about the sounds, sights, and tastes of over 110 global cultures.

Dressed in a typical Swiss costume, Swiss Club secretary Marlies Schubiger proudly displayed the many traditions of Switzerland at the booth and during the parade of countries. Marlies shared these thoughts about the occasion:

"It was a wonderful experience to be part of this incredible event. All the different cultures were so welcoming and inclusive; we were all a beautiful piece of this global event. It was fun to see the excitement and interest of the audience as I spoke about my homeland. One of my favorite experiences during the event was to see how curious the kids were about our country and culture; they enlightened my heart."

This annual family-friendly happening opened with a touching citizenship ceremony followed by two days of storytelling, fashion show, choir performance, dance party, vendors, art workshops, diverse food booths, and many other creative opportunities to share the beauty and uniqueness of their cultures. FusionFest continues to offer many programs throughout the year for the people of Central Florida, for more information, check out [www.FusionFest.org](http://www.FusionFest.org).

LESLIE GAIBROIS SKILLMAN  
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Dressed in a typical Swiss costume, Swiss Club secretary Marlies Schubiger proudly displayed the many traditions of Switzerland at the FusionFest booth and during the parade of countries.



## Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

Switzerland 3 Serbia 2, final score, Friday, December 2, 2022

Ten of us at Rooster Tavern watching the exciting, thrilling, deciding game Switzerland/Serbia. Cowbells ringing, 3 times (waking up non-fans in the Sports Bar in Scottsdale).

You win... you are in! A date with Ronaldo, at 37 got offered 211 million, one season, by Saudi Arabia. He said YES. Do the math, how big is Soccer, the world calls Football, only America calls Soccer. The World Cup, no other event like it, captivating fans all over the Globe once again had the world spinning for 1 month in November/December, in Qatar, a setting never seen before. Saudi Arabia, after they beat Argentina in their first-round match, the next day declared a National Holiday and rewarded each player with a brand-new Rolls Royce.

Excitement in every corner of the world. 32 countries qualified. Qualifications started on June 6th, 2019. The magnitude of one GOAL of this Global dominated sport, only the one that understands the power of one Goal, understands what FIFA (headquarters in Zürich Switzerland) (Sepp Blatter) has done to countless countries, small and big.

On December 6th, Samichlaus day in Switzerland, again we watched, the round of sixteen: Portugal/Switzerland, same Sports Bar, same tables, more Swiss flags, ready in red and white... Cowbells silent, no-need for cheers, a no-chance game with Ronaldo benched, no start for him (never before at a World Cup game). His replacement, a new face, and hat-trick (3 goals) hero at 21, Gonçalo Ramos. The collapse and agony of defeat, 6:1, the biggest loss at any World Cup for Switzerland, even with Goalie Sommers back from illness. Akanji's Ehrentor did not matter. Portugal did not even need Ronaldo.

Elsbeth Hächler saved the day, handing out a Samichlaus to the group (picture of Christ holding the chocolate Samichlaus), reminding us Christmas Season is here, the season to be jolly.

Argentina, the sentimental favorite, World Champion 2022. France, drowning in a sea of tears. The best, most epic World Cup Final I have ever seen.

The Annual Meeting for the Arizona Swiss Club is Saturday, February 11, 2023.



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## Illinois: Swiss Club Chicago

### Christmas Tree Decoration

As part of an annual tradition, the Swiss Club Chicago decorated a beautiful Christmas tree in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.



### Samichlaus und Guezli Bache

As every year, the Swiss Samichlaus and the Schmutzli came to visit and entertain the kids, bringing joy and smiles all around.

Some members of the Swiss Club Chicago spent a few good morning hours in the kitchen baking traditional Christmas cookies together, of course including Mailänderli.



### Raclette Evening

With the Chicago winter around the corner, the Swiss Club Chicago held a traditional raclette evening complete with a live performance of the Alphorn by the Swiss Club Chicago President as well as a raffle with Swiss goodies. It was a great event attended by over 75 members

HORST ZEMP, PRESIDENT  
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An excited crowd attended renowned Swiss-Italian musician and songwriter Marco Zappa's concert at the Calvary Church in Golden, CO. The successful event was organized in partnership with the Swiss Society of Denver and the Swiss Club of Colorado Springs.

## Colorado: Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS)

The Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS) is looking back at a busy fall full of fun events all around the Denver area in addition to the bi-weekly Stammtisch events.

Some members gathered on September 24th for a swift game of Pickleball during the 4th such event. A couple of weeks later, a group of avid hikers enjoyed the fall foliage and nice weather during a hike west of Denver. As tradition wants it, they ended up meeting with some non-hikers at the Aspen Peak Cellars in Bailey, where Julie and Marcel Flukiger hosted the Apres-hike event.

Renowned Swiss-Italian musician and songwriter Marco Zappa provided plenty of entertainment in October. Thanks to the main organizer and host Georgia Babasikos, Marco and his lovely wife Elena enjoyed a week long stay in Denver during his 55 Music Jubilee Tour and left with many new friendships and memories. Marco not only played songs in Swiss German, Italian, French and English during the official Stammtisch at the Front Range Brewing Company, he also returned for an impromptu concert the following evening. On October 22nd, an excited crowd attended Marco's official concert at the Calvary Church in Golden. The successful event was organized in partnership with the Swiss Society of Denver and the Swiss Club of Colorado Springs. Georgia Babasikos, Karl Freiburghaus and Gabriela Brandner acted as knowledgeable tour guides and showed Marco and Elena many beautiful corners in and around Denver.

The last week of November and the first week of December were filled with Soccer World Cup watch parties. The SAFS members supported the Swiss Soccer team from a distance during their matches against Brazil, Serbia and last but not least against Portugal at the "round of 16" game.

Whoever wasn't too much into a passionate soccer watch party, was able to enjoy the yearly Samichlaus event. The children's eyes lit up during the magic show and when the Samichlaus entered the room together with Mrs Chlaus. All the adults in attendance had a great time too. The Samichlaus greeted every child with a smile and knowledge of their behavior, he praised and encouraged and handed out shiny bags filled with Swiss chocolates as well as an Advent Calendar for each young member. Children's book Author and Illustrator Lauren Zurcher had her very own table set up and signed her inspiring books ([www.bylaurenzurcher.com](http://www.bylaurenzurcher.com)).

A few days later, some members soaked in plenty of European ambiance during the special Stammtisch at the Denver Christkindlmarket.

The board will be planning more fun-filled events for 2023. One of the first events is going to be the Annual Meeting and Fondue dinner in February. Visit our website at [www.safs.us](http://www.safs.us) to find out about our events and join our club if you live here in Colorado.

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. He can be reached at 303-378-4577 or [rene.sonderegger@renaisys.com](mailto:rene.sonderegger@renaisys.com).

REGULA GRENIER  
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## Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

It is a 'quick hop, skip and jump' from our festivities of August 1st to our first picnics welcoming the Fall in Sarasota and the return of our members from their summer homes in Switzerland and the cooler US States. The first picnic, which was scheduled to take place on October 2nd, had to be cancelled because of the unwelcome visit of hurricane IAN. While, initially, Sarasota was supposed to be targeted with a Cat. 4 hit, Lady Luck intervened and steered the 'Eye of the Storm' towards the south. Counties to our south, Fort Myers, Naples, and Sanibel received the brunt of its angry force and suffered extensive destruction and many deaths. Sarasota was spared and survived with minimal damage.

Our last picnics of the year resumed on November 6th and December 4th and both events were successful as many of our members were happy to reconnect. We were also honored to have a visit from members of the Board of the Southwest Florida Swiss-American Club chapter - Joe Huber (President) and his wife Gemma (Treasurer) as well as Sylvia and Hans Wenger (V. President). Hans Egg and the brats made a most welcome return to the grill - and coffee and the proverbial 'Stollen' reminded everyone that Christmas was just around the corner.



Our Christmas Party was celebrated with a luncheon held at the University Park Country Club on December 15th. This being the last event of 2022, was well attended, members were offered a three-course meal with entertainment provided by Emma at the Harp. A raffle was held with gifts of chocolates - generously offered by Läderach of Switzerland - wine, gift certificates and various other prizes.

We end the year wishing all members of Swiss Clubs around the United States, Merry Christmas, Joyeux Noël, Frohe Weihnachten, Buon Natale, Bun Nadel and Happy Beginnings in 2023.

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## Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston

The Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH) had a busy fall, culminating with three holiday events in December.

We started with the Christmas Cookie exchange on December 3rd at the lovely home of Max and Dolores Baumann. The event, organized by their daughter Yvonne Bücheler, was a feast for the eyes and the palate with a variety of exquisite baked goodies.

Our annual holiday party was on December 10th. We



enjoyed a delicious 3-course gourmet meal and were entertained by renowned musician and singer Travarious Linzer accompanied by our member Joshua Duffy. Each of our members enjoyed getting together again with cheerfulness, holiday spirit and some dancing too!

Last but not least, on December 17th SASH participated at the Deutsche Samstagsschule Weihnachtsmarkt in Bellaire with a Raclette booth. Our involvement is always well received as our volunteers sell raclette and spread holiday cheers Swiss style!

For January 2023 we have organized a private guided tour of the Alberto Giacometti exhibition at the Museum of Fine Art Houston, and we will hold our annual membership meeting and board election.

We wish all the Swiss Abroad a Happy and Healthy New Year.

To find out more about the activities of the Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH), please visit our website at [www.swissamericanhouston.org](http://www.swissamericanhouston.org).

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Swiss cheering the Switzerland Soccer team playing against Serbia



## Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On Saturday, December 10, 2022, President Joe Huber of the Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida welcomed 51 guests (44 members and 7 guests) to our traditional Chlaushock which took place again at the beautiful Silverlakes Clubhouse, a gated community in Fort Myers. Our club can use this great and so nicely decorated location thanks to our members Markus & Patricia Albrecht.

The Fleischkäse and potato salad were very delicious as always and all of the



participants enjoyed the evening thoroughly. For dessert we could taste a wide range of homemade Christmas cookies. Thanks to all who took it upon them to prepare all these goodies at home to share for everyone. It brought the taste of Swiss Christmas to Florida. Thanks to Lily, our events director, and her team made this afternoon so special and fun.

Another big thank you goes to all members for supporting our growing club throughout the year and we hope to see many of you at upcoming events. For more information for this and other events visit us at

<https://swissamericanclub.com>

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

## Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The Swiss Club Miami wishes you a very Happy and Prosperous 2023!

Our Christmas party took place once again at the beautiful Bayview Ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami on December 4th, 2022. Everyone enjoyed catching up with their compatriot friends of the community. It started with a cocktail where everyone mingled and enjoyed the view of all the boats passing by in the bay. The welcome speech was held before lunch and all board members had a chance to say a few words. Our main sponsor Bank Vontobel, represented by



Patrice Humbel, wished everyone a Merry Christmas Season. Our other main sponsor Villiger was unfortunately not able to attend this year, but their contribution is equally appreciated and thanked for. Another big Thank You goes to Swiss Learning, Carla Jakubovic and One Sotheby's Real Estate, Katharina Weibel and Roman Tschannen who

support the Swiss Club Miami and this event in particular. And the highlight of the day was Santa who came to greet all the kids; they had a blast (and so did Santa!).

On November 6th we had the opportunity to screen the movie



'ATLAS' by Ticino film director  
Niccolò Castelli

'ATLAS' by Ticino film director Niccolò Castelli at the Coral Gables Art Cinema. The screening in Miami was hosted in collaboration with the Swiss Consulate General in Atlanta and the Italian Consulate General in Miami. The award-winning and touching drama is centered around Allegra, played by Matilda de Angelis, on her excruciating journey to overcome her fears after an inexplicable trauma. A movie worth watching! We were lucky to have the cousin of Niccolò Castelli - Patricia Bona - attending the event. She represented Niccolò, Lugano and the Ticino at their best.

## Halloween October 31st Witches Luncheon



Wohwhooo, our spooky and glamorous witches luncheon took place on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. Again, all witches looked amazing, Paparazzis left and right were taking photos of 25 witches having lunch. On our social media the post reached an unprecedented number of over 3.500 people. Join us in 2023 again!

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

### Visit to the Amish Community and our Annual Cheese Sale

There have been several events since our August 1st celebration: a joint fall trip to Harmony, Minnesota (south of Rochester) and our traditional cheese sale.

We invited the Benevolent Society of St. Paul to join us on our trip to the Amish Colony in Harmony on October 30.

Wikipedia describes that an Amish colony originally started in Switzerland in 1693 and that the Old Order Amish retained their traditional culture which means that they are not allowed to use electricity or drive motorized vehicles.

Our tour started with an authentic Amish luncheon. The food was prepared by Sarah and was very delicious. The way they prepared the chicken, butternut squash, corn, coleslaw and mashed potatoes was exceptional. We all enjoyed their hospitality. We had a difficult choice to make as regards the dessert: they baked so many different pies. One thing I will never forget is that they offered us real, heavy cream for our coffee. It could have been a dessert cream! So good!



Our tour at the Amish Colony in Harmony, MN, started with an authentic Amish luncheon.

After the wonderful feast, we took a round trip around through the farms of the colony while our tour guide told us stories about life in the community. For us it was a real eye opener. Fascinating how farming without electricity or motors works.



The Amish way the corn is harvested is very different from how modern farmers do it. A horse is pulling a cart through the cornfield while the Amish farmer uses a sickle to cut the cob and throw it onto the wagon. Another farmer uses a horse with a tiller to turn over the soil.

Before we were back at our starting point in Harmony, we stopped at an Amish furniture store and a bakery. That is an experience everyone should have as it brings you a different view of what can be done with what nature provides.

The participants of the event agreed that this was a special tour for going back in time. The fact that there is a connection to Switzerland made it even more special. Many thanks to Paul Zellweger for organizing the day.

Another key event happened later in the fall with our traditional cheese sale. Once again, we hosted a very successful sale of authentic Swiss cheese. However, we were also affected by the international crisis due to problems with the supply chain as was Emmi USA, our importer. Despite the many delays and shortages, we were still able to distribute the cheese early in December with the exception of the best Raclette cheese! That is why it is always good to have some in the freezer, since now is the time for cozy gatherings with friends and family and for enjoying this classical Swiss meal. Our hope now is that we can have a sale in time for the holidays next year.

We also organized watch parties for the soccer games with Swiss participation at the World Cup. Although we did have some members who went to those parties, however one problem was the time the games were played. Otherwise, I think there would have been greater participation.

Our next event will be our traditional Fondue event in February/March. Many members are looking forward to it. Stay tuned and check our website <https://www.tcsaa.us> for additional information.

The TCSAA wishes everyone a great and successful 2023.

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



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

On September 27, some twenty SASNOLA members gathered for a "Swiss Wines" tasting at the Stickney home with wines provided by Aris Kyriakides of Ambeli LLC Wine Importers/Wholesalers. Along with the Swiss wines, some newly imported Greek wines, olive oils, and balsamics were available for members to sample. Of course, it goes without saying, we paired the wines with a selection of French and Swiss cheeses, crackers, fruit jams, dates and figs. A vegetable tray of asparagus, potatoes, black olives, avocados, radishes, tomatoes and mozzarella, basil & balsamico, was also available to enjoy. We feasted on sardines, anchovies, eggs, duck pate, boiled shrimp alongside cornichons, bread, and crackers. For dessert a fruit tray of pears, apples, cantaloupe, oranges, blueberries and raspberries paired perfectly with Rachel's meringues, Swiss cookies, and Jordan Almonds.

The Swiss Business Hub USA hosted its annual team meeting/retreat in New Orleans just the week before WEFTEC, from October 3-6. Christine Walder, who had just started as Office and Compliance Manager at the Business Hub and was in the lead organizing the details of the team meeting, was in touch with Honorary Consul Mora here in New Orleans. Consul Mora offered suggestions of sights and sounds around the city, especially those with historical ties to Switzerland. An afternoon meet and greet was also planned during those communications. On October 4, from 4:30 -6:00 pm, SASNOLA members met with the team from Swiss Business Hub USA in the lush gardens at the beautiful historic Columns Hotel on St. Charles Avenue for cocktails and extraordinary conversation. It was an incredible opportunity to meet and chat with this wonderfully informed, enthusiastic, creative team of people. We are all so enlightened by their shared knowledge of doing business globally.

Wishing you all a most happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

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



SASNOLA members met with the team from Swiss Business Hub USA in the lush gardens at the beautiful historic Columns Hotel on St. Charles Avenue for cocktails and extraordinary conversation.



SASNOLA Members David Luder and George Mahl with Patrick Wermelinger, Swiss Business Hub S-GE (Switzerland Global Enterprise)

## Swiss Cultural Club of Cedar Crest Village, Pompton Plains, NJ Christmas Luncheon



Seated L to R: Josiane Ohaleyon, Susan Keller, Bernadette Guthauser

Standing L to R: Michele Gerke, Ruth Scherrer, Othmar Metzler, Elizabeth Oehler, Sophie Murray, Max Oehler

## Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted their annual members' Christmas event on December 3rd, 2022. We had a wonderful afternoon with many merry members coming together to enjoy a luncheon with nice Christmas music playing in the background. We all enjoyed visiting with friends and family and sharing a great meal together while plenty of enjoyable conversation was happening. The club members sang Christmas songs and very much enjoyed Santa as he took the stage with presents for the children. Many yummy home baked Swiss Christmas cookies were served along with coffee Royale after the luncheon.

ROSE SATARIANO, NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
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## Georgia: Savannah Swiss Club

### Samichlaus Visit



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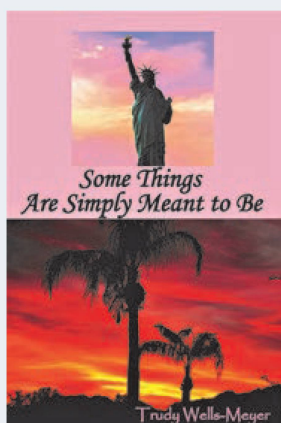
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## Some Things Are Simply Meant to Be

Author: Trudy Wells-Meyer



#### Describe your book

A teenager's dream, the immigrant — Coming to America. A belief something extraordinary is possible. Starry-eyed she arrives in New York on a massive ocean liner from England, the first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty in the distance, with her extended arm — like a welcome — what a goose-bump-moment. Alone, she steps onto American soil, speaking not much English. A life unknown, fear a constant companion. She is 23. Her trust in faith and fate guides her life, believing in the power of possibilities as far back as living above her parents' hair salon, growing up in a tiny Swiss village where even dreaming had its limits.

An award-winning hair designer writes in her second language, in awe of the power of words. A dare-to-be different inspirational memoir, a collection of poetry, essays, and prose with pictures in color that fit the stories.

Living the elusive American dream, laced with Love.

The reader will know why the author chose the title 'Some Things Are Simply Meant to Be' of this inspiring book about the school of life, courage, adventure, joy, heartache, resilience, and Love.

'A Work of Art' her American, Wisconsin-born husband claims.

A rocky road from Switzerland to find Gold in Arizona.

[https://www.amazon.com/Some-Things-Are-Simply-Meant/dp/B0BH1P9JNW/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=2SDTV2T1QOR02&keywords=Trudy+Wells-Meyer&qid=1664898578&qu=eyJxc2MiOiI-wLjg0liwicXNhIjojMC4wMCIslInFzcCI6IjAuMDAifQ%3D%3D&s=books&sprefix=trudy+wells-meyer%2Cstripbooks%2C119&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.com/Some-Things-Are-Simply-Meant/dp/B0BH1P9JNW/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2SDTV2T1QOR02&keywords=Trudy+Wells-Meyer&qid=1664898578&qu=eyJxc2MiOiI-wLjg0liwicXNhIjojMC4wMCIslInFzcCI6IjAuMDAifQ%3D%3D&s=books&sprefix=trudy+wells-meyer%2Cstripbooks%2C119&sr=1-1)

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