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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

I was overwhelmed with the many wonderful contributions for this issue which is a great indication that we Swiss are active people and cherish our heritage. As editor I want to present to you as many stories as possible on these pages, however to accomplish this, I had to severely

edit the articles and leave out wonderful photos. Many of the clubs have a website or social media page you might want to visit for more details and photos.

The next issue of the Swiss Review USA will be published on January 19, 2024. Please send me your articles by December 12, 2023.

I wish you a beautiful fall and Christmas season.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

### The 99th Congress of the Swiss Abroad 2023 in St. Gallen: Celebrating Swiss Culture and Global Identity

The 99th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in St. Gallen in August 2023 was a momentous celebration of Swiss culture and its global significance. Organized by the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, St. Gallen served as the host city for this annual tradition, bringing together up to 400 Swiss citizens living around the world for a unique and diverse gathering.

The Congress had two central themes: increasing participation in the political process and promoting Swiss culture abroad. Deeply rooted in values such as commitment, excellence and solidarity, Swiss culture serves as a vital link between Swiss citizens around the world and their homeland. The Swiss abroad play a crucial role in fostering strong global relationships, particularly in areas such as diplomacy, science and technology.

In an election year, the Congress emphasized the importance of culture in shaping political discussions, fostering understanding and contributing to economic prosperity. Culture, it was emphasized, is not only an art form, but also a driver of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

St. Gallen was a fitting host city, reflecting Switzerland's rich cultural heritage through its own history and traditions. The Congress featured a three-day program of activities and discussions. The Council of the Swiss Abroad met on the first day to discuss several issues, including the upcoming federal elections and the introduction of e-voting, a convenience for registered Swiss abroad.

The cultural tour allowed participants to explore the campus of the University of St. Gallen and its significant works of art. The Congress officially opened with a ceremony and speeches by key figures, including Filippo Lombardi, President of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

The second day focused on the political program, with discussions on voting trends among the Swiss abroad, party positions on the OSA election manifesto and the importance of the SRG's foreign mandate for Switzerland. The day culminated in a plenary session on Swiss culture as an export product and its international influence.

The final evening was a lively mix of speeches, concerts and dinner,

giving participants the opportunity to celebrate Swiss culture. The Congress concluded with a Sunday excursion to Appenzell, where participants immersed themselves in Swiss traditions and enjoyed the country's scenic beauty.

As the 99th Congress came to a close, participants were filled with pride in their Swiss heritage and a deeper appreciation for the role of culture in uniting Swiss citizens worldwide. Swiss culture was reaffirmed as an export product, strengthening Switzerland's international image and global influence.

Looking ahead, the 100th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in 2024 promises to be another major event, to be held in Lucerne from July 11 to 13, 2024. Until then, Swiss culture will continue to shine, transcending borders and connecting Swiss citizens around the world.



Pictured from left to right: Felix Egli, Margrit Young-Zellweger, Daniel Rahm, Suzanne Violet, David Mörker, Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer, Jean-Pierre Mittaz

ON BEHALF OF THE US DELEGATION  
DAVID W. MÖRKER  
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## Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

### Swiss Sunday Brunch on the Lakefront

This delightful event was held on the scenic shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago. It's a perfect opportunity to savor Swiss cuisine and connect with like-minded individuals. A special thanks to Ingo Eckstein for sharing his heavily requested Bircher Muesli recipe and Horst Zemp (President of the Swiss Club of Chicago) for the alphorn performance.

### Swiss National Day Celebration

The Swiss Club of Chicago gathered the Swiss community together at the American Legion in Morton Grove, Illinois. Attendees had the opportunity to savor a delightful array of Swiss cuisine and entertainment by The Alpiners Trio polka band. A lampion parade with loud cowbells ringing added a touch of enchantment to the celebration. The event also featured distinguished guest Joerg Oberschmied, acting Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago.

### Camping Weekend in Wisconsin

The two-night annual camping weekend kicked off with an all-day canoeing adventure on the picturesque Sugar River outside of New Glarus, Wisconsin. The lunch break offered an opportunity to sample the latest Swiss wine imports from Swiss Cellars of Monroe, Wisconsin, adding a touch of Swiss sophistication to the gathering. The highlight of the camping weekend has become the Fondue Dinner. Families and friends come prepared, bringing their own caquelon, burners, bread, cheese (from Alp and Dell of Monroe, Wisconsin) and all the necessary ingredients for a tasty fondue experience. The evening was filled with Swiss traditions, including yodeling by the newly crowned 2024 Cheese Days King, Tony Zraggen, and an alphorn performance by Horst Zemp. It's a unique and unforgettable way to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Swiss enthusiasts. We extend our appreciation to Ruedi Bucher, our dedicated Wisconsin liaison, for organizing this incredible camping weekend.

Come join the fun! Make certain to check out our website at [www.swissclubchicago.com](http://www.swissclubchicago.com) to see our full calendar and event updates.

THERESE MARIE PESKOWITS, SPONSORSHIP DIRECTOR  
SPONSORSHIP@SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM

## Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On July 30, 66 members and guests gathered in the Lakes Park in Fort Myers to celebrate 732 years of Switzerland. Our club president Joe Huber addressed the attendees and welcomed the guests and new members, and gave a quick overview of future club events. The Swiss anthem was played, followed by the speech of Bundesrat Alain Berset specifically addressing the Swiss community living abroad. After the formal part our grill masters Roman, Hans and Joe went to work and soon everyone got served our traditional Bratwurst, B rli and Thomy Senf. Thanks to all who brought their home baked goods for dessert.



We thank the many helpers who make this and other events possible.

### Future Events

#### October 11 – Casino Royale at Seminole Casino in Immokalee

Eat, drink and play. Joint lunch followed by fun activities at your own leisure.

#### November 5 – Sunset cruise and dinner in the Gulf of Mexico

Enjoy a cocktail at sea and a nice dinner together on land.

#### December 8 – 25th Anniversary Gala

This will be our biggest and best event this year. Do not miss it! With a raffle, guest of honor, buffet dinner, surprises and dancing it will surely be entertaining.

VICKI H. BURKHARD, SECRETARY  
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## Florida: Swiss Club Miami

We celebrated the Swiss National Day at Fritz and Franz Bierhaus in Coral Gables. We enjoyed an Aperol sponsored by Dufry and had a great time meeting up with old and new friends. Our generous sponsors supported us financially and gave gifts for our wonderful Tombola Raffle including 2 airline tickets to Zurich from Edelweiss.

There was face painting, games, a lampion parade and other activities for the kids spearheaded by Nico Fischer, our amazing junior board member and his crew! The Board Members, Astrid, Uwe and his family, Julia, Sofia, Marco, Monique, and Christina, worked hard to make the event unforgettable. All photos thanks to Olga Riedli are on our website and social media pages. Thank you all for attending and we look forward to next year's celebration.

The kayaking event led by our Junior Board Team, Nico and

Matthias Fischer, took us to the Matheson Hammock Park in Coral Gables to explore the channels and beaches. Aren't we lucky to have such wonderful outdoor events in Miami? We can't wait to do it again.

NANCY FRÖHLICH, PRESIDENT  
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### Upcoming events

- Once again, we will celebrate Halloween with a Swiss Witches Luncheon at Spris on October 31st. Get your most outrageous witches hat (mandatory), broomstick, and costume ready as you will be summoned to attend our 10-year anniversary of Swiss Magical Spells and Sorcery for a wicked good time amongst the most hilarious witches in Miami. No wizards or magical offspring allowed. This event is open to members and non-members and no registration is required.
- Our Christmas Party is on December 10 at the Rusty Pelican in Key Biscayne.

## Moving Back to Switzerland - Experiences in the First 6 Months

In the March edition of the Swiss Review USA, I wrote about our decision to move back to Switzerland after living abroad for almost 30 years.

Beginning of March, the team of Swiss National Radio and TV (SRF) came to film our move as part of their series "Bi de Lüt – Heimweh". Our container left Miami mid-March. On April 1st, we saw our new apartment in Weggis for the first time since renting it. My initial thought was, how do I fit all the furniture from our 20' foot container? The owner who lives upstairs arranged for a bottle of wine, two glasses, and two chairs for us to relax before the container arrived. Once all furniture was placed in the apartment – it all fit. At first, we were also struggling with plugs, adapters and converters!

The registration procedure with the administration office of Weggis as well as with all the other authorities and insurances was very efficient. Grocery shopping was time consuming at the beginning because in the last 30 years we only bought chocolate and Aromat from Swiss supermarkets when visiting Switzerland. After some time, we also got the e-banking in place which was not that easy. Shocking was when I received the invoice of putting up three lamps or the bill from the hairdresser ... Swiss workmanship comes at a price! Note: Can you imagine that whenever you order things or receive services, you won't have to pay in advance but get invoiced?!

May came and we participated as volunteers at the Riviera Latina Festival in Weggis. Yes, Salsa music for three days: "Viva las Weggis". Thomas is volunteering at the Furka Dampfbahn Bergstrecke where over 400 volunteers run a fabulous vintage steam railroad up in the high mountains of the Swiss Alps. And of course, we did sign up to be members of the Swiss American Club in Lucerne.

We spent the summer hiking in the mountains and traveling in Europe. We decided not to buy a car and exclusively make use of Switzerland's extensive and highly efficient public transportation system. If there is a rainy day in the northern part of Switzerland, we go for lunch to Milano by train in only 2 1/2 hours. Catching up with

old friends in all parts of Switzerland is fantastic. There is never a dull moment and if so, there are a lot of museums, concerts, or exhibitions all over Switzerland.

Now you may ask if I miss anything from Miami? Yes, my friends, but some already came and visited and I hope this will continue. Miami is a great city which I love, but at my stage of life Switzerland is a good solution. However, I have not experienced a winter – that may change my mind!

Almost forgot to tell you about recycling: The first time I went to the Ökihof in Küsnacht, the driver in the car next to me asked me if I'm ok. Apparently, I must have looked pretty baffled about the variety of recycling options there are!

Since I am back, I found out that most Swiss people are open minded, honest, and helpful. You just have to take the first step since it's not customary for them to talk to people they don't know.



### Enjoy the "SRF bi de Lüt – Heimweh Staffel 2023" series!

- SRF bi de Lüt – Heimweh Staffel 2023, Folge 1: <https://tinyurl.com/srfheimweh1>  
 SRF bi de Lüt – Heimweh Staffel 2023, Folge 2: <https://tinyurl.com/srfheimweh2>  
 SRF bi de Lüt – Heimweh Staffel 2023, Folge 3: <https://tinyurl.com/srfheimweh3>  
 SRF bi de Lüt – Heimweh Staffel 2023, Folge 4: <https://tinyurl.com/srfheimweh4>

BEA SCHMIED  
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## 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 a great success, with over 105 adults and 14 children in attendance at the Houston Liederkrantz and the participation of John Bernhard, Swiss Honorary Consul of Houston. We truly enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and getting acquainted with new members and guests.



The children had a blast parading around the premises with lanterns in true Swiss style!

We concluded the event with the drawing of the silent raffle which offered several fabulous prizes, generously donated by our members, local businesses, the General Consulate of Switzerland in Houston, and an exciting 1st Class – 8 Days Swiss Travel Pass for two, donated by Switzerland Tourism. I personally would like to thank Vincent Leemann and Joshua Duffy for the great organization, Mrs. Dolores Baumann for entertaining us with the accordion and all the board members and volunteers that helped make the event a success!

Our society has scheduled several events for the upcoming fall and look forward to the October 29th picnic at Brazos Bend State Park.

We invite you to visit our website at [www.swissamericanhouston.org](http://www.swissamericanhouston.org)



and/or follow us on social media to stay in touch with our events, and if you live here in the greater Houston area, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you, as always, for being with us!

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI  
SASH PRESIDENT  
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## Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

We had our Fall Schwingfest at the beautiful Swiss Park in Newark on August 26th and hosted the oldest competing wrestler we believe in California Schwingfest history. Edward Ott decided to put on his Schwingerhosen at the age of 60! The Junior group ended up competing with the Seniors adding up to a total of 9 wrestlers. We had one Swiss wrestler, Richard Tschanz, compete from Eriz, Switzerland. A beautiful bell was donated from the Aelpler Gruppe Club, in Memory



of Walt Haslemann, for a wrestling prize. The Schlussgang had one of the youngest Schwingers, Barrett from Modesto, CA vs Brenden from Portland, Oregon, competing. Brenden took home the 1st place Koenig title and the Bell. Visit [www.aelplergruppe.com](http://www.aelplergruppe.com) for information on events.

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Ed Ott was awarded the Swiss Plaque in memory of Walt Haslemann. Walt was a long-time member of Aelpler Gruppe Swiss club and instrumental in years of organizing Schwingfests at Swiss Park.

## Washington: Seattle Swiss Society

We elected a new board of directors in March and began a new chapter for the Seattle Swiss Society. Our group, under the leadership of Andrea Oppe (originally from Oberwinterthur ZH), has been re-energized.

In June the club together with the Swiss Honorary Consul in Seattle Philippe Goetschel hosted a reception for Ambassador Balz Abplanalp from the Swiss Consulate in San Francisco at the Rainier Club.

Several Happy Hour get-togethers have been successful in bringing new and old members in contact again. Over 40 Seattle Swiss members enjoyed a convivial time at Stoup Brewing on May 22 in Kenmore WA. We also co-hosted a 1st of August event with the nearby Monroe WA Swiss Club that brought 172 Swiss together for Kalbsbratwurst and performances by Enzian Swiss Ladies Choir of Tacoma and Leavenworth Alphorns. Jass classes are currently underway as well as planning for language classes and a hiking group.

November 11: Joint Raclette evening with Monroe Swiss  
December 3: Christmas event at the Monroe Swiss Hall

If you're interested in joining in the camaraderie and fun, contact us at [seattleswissclub@gmail.com](mailto:seattleswissclub@gmail.com) or our website [www.seattleswiss.org](http://www.seattleswiss.org).

KEVIN OPPE  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SEATTLESWISSOCIETY/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SEATTLESWISSOCIETY/)

## Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

Summer is a slow-going time for our club as many of the members leave to cooler weather. It seemed like a futile attempt this year since almost every corner of the US and Europe was experiencing high temperatures...some even surpassing ours here at the Gulf Coast.

In Spring, officials were predicting a 5,000-mile-long seaweed raft – the “Blob” – to hit our beaches. This seaweed, also known as Sargassum, is a naturally occurring brown macro algae that floats just beneath the surface of the water. Fortunately, it never materialized.

To keep members engaged, our club decided to organize intimate dinners for the ones of us staying back in Sarasota. In July we met for dinner at Brio Tuscan Grill and to our amazement, a small group of 15 grew to 28. This event was a big hit and the wheels started rolling to organize the next outings including another dinner and an Oktoberfest. In October we will also be resuming our monthly very popular picnics. We Swiss always appreciate a good Brat!

On August 1st, we celebrated our Independence Day with a dinner at Roessler's restaurant. The menu featured choices of an Onion Soup or Salad, Chicken Française, Wienerschnitzel Holstein or Faroe Island Salmon, sweet ending selections were Chocolate Mousse or Key Lime Pie. The event was well attended and a great success.

Our summer could not end without a hurricane warning and this year it was IDALIA...Sarasota was lucky to come through unscathed with minimal damage ... just a lot of tree debris! Prayers for the communities that were not as lucky.

We wish everyone a pleasant Fall and a warm Auf Wiederluegen!

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS  
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## Arizona: Urs Schwank turns 100 years old

Urs was born on August 27, 1923, as an orphan in Bern, Switzerland.



Heidi Luedecke, who has taken care of his affairs for several years, helped Urs call Switzerland! Lew and I called from Beaver Creek, Colorado, to congratulate him. His spirit and usual humor were wonderful to hear. Thanks to Heidi an exclusive milestone celebration at Morningstar Assisted Living in Fountain Hills, AZ with her family took place. A special day for a very special man.

Urs worked for Swissair in Switzerland and in New York. He also was the General Manager at the famous Chateau Marmont Hotel in West Hollywood, California. He speaks four languages.

We wish Urs many more healthy years, lots of smiles, no pain, and happy days!

TRUDY WELLS-MEYER, AUTHOR, SCOTTSDALE, AZ  
WWW.TRUDYWELLS-MEYER.COM

## Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter

The New Helvetic Society celebrated its 1st of August Celebration at the beautiful Arasapha Farm in Glen Mills, PA. 140 guests were ready for a cold beer, delicious Fleischkaese or ham and all the other goodies the guests brought! We listened to uplifting harmonica play, tried our luck at some corn hole, and tested our patience at the bottle game! Sadly, my favorite part, the Lampion Parade and the Bonfire, had to be cancelled because of a sudden thunderstorm. Young and old had a fabulous time to get together with Swiss compatriots. If you want to join in the fun, look us up at [myswissclub.org](http://myswissclub.org)

DANIELA KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT NEW HELVETIC SOCIETY, PA CHAPTER  
PRESIDENT@MYSWISSCLUB.ORG

### Future Events

**DECEMBER 2ND:** 150+ members enjoy our traditional Fondue Dinner of homemade Fondue Neuchateloise at the William Penn Fire Company in Hulmeville, PA. Santa shows up in the firetruck to the delight of kids and adults alike!

This event is usually sold out, so make sure you check out the website [myswissclub.org](http://myswissclub.org) to familiarize yourselves with the registration process!

The Young Adults Advisory Committee of the New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter, hosted its “2nd Annual Tubing Event” at Point Pleasant, PA. All 25 of us had a great time tying up our tubes, talking about world travels, and just floating down the Delaware River. We had hotdogs, hamburgers, and vegetarian options, all while floating in a natural pool. With a dozen new faces, we look forward to seeing everyone all together next year. If you are interested in joining this fun event, please email us at [President@myswissclub.org](mailto:President@myswissclub.org) and check out our fabulous web-site [MySwissClub.org](http://MySwissClub.org) for photos.

ADRIEN SALOMON AND KARINA KOVALCIK,  
YOUNG ADULTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Rhode Island: Swiss Association of Rhode Island

Grateful for the perfect weather, we had a marvelous Rhode Island



‘August 1’ at Lincoln Woods. Some attendees rented kayaks and others enjoyed shared tales, food, music, and friendship. One delightful surprise was the very strong indirect connection two found with a dear friend/cousin in Switzerland. It really made

the reason for having our group all the more apparent.

We look forward to building our fledgling group and having more chances to gather in coming weeks. A visit to Heritage Gardens in Sandwich? All are welcome.

CATHERINE HANNI  
ACATHERINEHANNI@GMAIL.COM

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

## 50 Years TCSAA

On June 25 the Twin Cities Swiss American Association celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Chalet in the Theodore Wirth Regional Park in Minneapolis. Theodore Wirth (1863–1949), a Swiss immigrant, was the creator of the park system.

Over 90 people attended, including some founding members and their families. A preview of the memory book documenting activities and events over the years was on display. Ralph and Mary Brindle, a local Alphorn duo, performed on the outside deck and concertina music was provided by Dave Sowada giving the event a festive note. Our caterer Mintahoe, Inc. served us a delicious Swiss inspired meal: Zürich Geschnetzeltes and Cordon Bleu. Our guest speakers were Joerg Oberschmied, Acting Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago, Eddie Moradian, Honorary Consul, Minneapolis, and Beth Zurbuchen, President/CEO of the Swiss Center of North America in New Glarus. Filippo Lombardi sent his wishes remotely in the name of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA). The two sponsors of our event, Bühler Inc. and FILTROX North America, used this opportunity to highlight their businesses and their relationship to Switzerland. The highlight of entertainment was provided by Rene Steiner demonstrating Swiss traditions such as Treicheln, Talerschwingen, and Jodeling. Rene told the history of the Treicheln (cowbells) and 3 guests volunteered playing them. The different bells ringing together brought back fond memories. Rene loves to jodel and he can be counted on to getting everyone in the audience to try their best at it.

A break was taken after the celebrations before the start of the Annual General Meeting. There were no changes of the officers but we reduced the number of associated directors.

The TCSAA is proud to celebrate 50 years of friendship and camaraderie with our Swiss friends and families and hope to have many more years together. Our events and activities may change but we will continue to have the same values as our founders:

- To provide an opportunity for closer association of Swiss and friends of Switzerland
  - To cultivate Swiss and Old-World traditions
- To foster Swiss-American friendship, cultural exchanges and international goodwill

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA  
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## North Carolina: Switzerland-America Basketball

Meet Dylan Leuthardt, a young Swiss-American basketball talent!



Son of parents from Langenthal, 16-year-old Dylan Leuthardt from Mooresville, NC, currently plays high school basketball for the Mooresville Blue Devils. He recently had the opportunity to train for ten days with ISG Immaculate Sports, an international team at Wofford College in South Carolina, and play in the On the Radar Hoops Elite 32 in Atlanta, GA. This four-day tournament was one of the premier NCAA events in July, with over 250 colleges and universities participating. His teammates came from all over the world uniting the nations. Dylan demonstrated leadership and accompanied

the foreign players on this journey. Overall, it was an amazing experience with a lot of personal growth.

- Highlight video of Dylan at the Atlanta tournament:

<https://tinyurl.com/atlantavideo>

- Here are two links (short interview and triple double, showing all blocks) that go to the team's Instagram site:

<https://tinyurl.com/dylantestimonial> <https://tinyurl.com/dylanblockparty>

The Swiss Basketball Federation has taken the initiative to apply for a FIBA license on behalf of Dylan Leuthardt. This provides him with an opportunity to compete in the U19 FIBA World Basketball Championship, scheduled to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland in 2025.

DANIEL LEUTHARDT

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

We held our Swiss National Day celebration on July 30 at Deutsches Haus on lovely Bayou St. John. We enjoyed a menu of flammkuchen, currywurst pizzas, Jausenplatte with assorted meats, cheeses, apple slices, Rye bread and assorted mustards, Wurstplatte with Bratwurst and Weisswurst, German potato salad and coleslaw, bier bread and pretzels with bier cheese and horseradish cream cheese, and pretzel crusted pecan pie. Members provided a few traditional Swiss desserts including Petit fours from Swiss Confectionery, Swiss chocolates, with a couple of vegan options and engadine nut cake. Our President, Don Schwarzenbach put together a challenging Swiss Trivia. We had some fun "Swiss Swag" awarded as door prizes and trivia prizes provided by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta. The bicycle plate Pro Patria pins had many folks feeling very nostalgic and served as a great source of conversation with a little walk down memory lane for so many. Such a wonderful Swiss National Day celebration.

JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA)



## Celebrating 175 Years of Modern Switzerland: A Reflective Panel Discussion at the National Constitution Center

On September 8, 2023, history enthusiasts, scholars and the public gathered at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to commemorate the 175th anniversary of modern Switzerland. Organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York and the Swiss Consulate in Philadelphia, the event featured a stimulating panel discussion and reception that explored the historical connections between Switzerland and the United States.

Ambassador Niculin Jäger opened the panel discussion with distinguished experts to delve into the rich tapestry of history shared by these two "sister republics." The panelists included:

- Dr. Brendan O'Leary, Lauder Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter, Professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Fabian Fellmann, US political correspondent for Tamedia
- Moderated by Lauren Swartz, CEO & President of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

The conversation revolved around the pivotal moment in Swiss history on September 12, 1848, when the old Swiss Confederacy transformed into a federal state, marking the birth of the first republic in Europe. This momentous occasion in Switzerland's history, as explained by the panelists, was profoundly influenced by ideas from the United States.

Intriguingly, the ties between Switzerland and the United States

are not just one-sided. The panelists uncovered how Switzerland, despite its small size, left an indelible mark on the US constitution, shaping some of its fundamental principles. As the event unfolded, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the enduring historical connections, reinforcing their status as "sister republics" and also continue to influence their political and social landscapes today.

### Notable quotes during the event included:

"The remarkable thing about these two sister republics is a certain level of interdependence but a very strong differentiation...Most people don't know any Swiss politicians, and that is a supreme virtue of the Swiss system." Dr. Brendan O'Leary

"Switzerland is a very local place...People do not really move and this is one of the things that makes Switzerland unique, this focus on local culture." Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter

"We see that the electoral system clearly influences the political culture and how politics are carried out [in Switzerland]...The direct democracy forces the politicians to seek consensus, to find out who will be against passing a law - who will seek the votes to get a referendum - and try to avoid that." Mr. Fabian Fellmann

In conclusion, the event offered a thought-provoking glimpse into the enduring relationship between Switzerland and the United States, celebrating 175 years of modern Switzerland while fostering a deeper appreciation for the historical foundations of these "sister republics".

CONSULATE OF SWITZERLAND IN PHILADELPHIA AND  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN NEW YORK

## Washington DC: Swiss Club of Washington DC

### Centennial Celebration

Throughout 2023, the Swiss Club of Washington DC has celebrated its 100th Year Anniversary. As the culmination of this centennial celebration, 130 Swiss Club members and friends gathered aboard a special dinner cruise on the Potomac River in Washington DC. The evening featured a delightful meal and entertainment, all while

viewing iconic Washington DC sites and monuments at sunset. It was an evening to remember! The Swiss Club of Washington DC was organized in January 1923 and incorporated August 18, 1924. The purpose of the club was to maintain the Swiss heritage and provide a forum for cultural exchange through social gatherings, lectures and artistic renditions. This vision has been the cornerstone of the club for a hundred years. We are looking forward to the next hundred years!

LYNN FELDPAUSCH ZIPF, PRESIDENT  
WWW.SWISSCLUBDC.ORG

## Swiss Cultural Club's monthly luncheon at Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, NJ



Attendees from L to R:  
Max Oehler, Elizabeth Oehler,  
Trudy Metzler, Ruth Scherrer,  
Sophie Murray, Josiane Ohayon,  
Bernadette Guthauser, Michele Gerke,  
Susan Keller, Peter Basler

## Connecticut: August 1st Celebration



together at the home of Carla and Rudy Zimmermann in Orange, Connecticut for their annual 1st of August celebration. After some Alphorn music and the singing of the

National hymn everyone enjoyed a traditional Swiss dinner of bratwurst, Cervelat, potato and green salad. Following some special Swiss desserts there were fireworks and a barn fire. The evening ended with an Appenzeller Alpenbitter night cap.

RUDY ZIMMERMANN

## Vermont: Obituary for Ernst Walter Aebi, East Corinth, VT

Ernst Aebi passed away on April 16, 2023 at his home in East Corinth, VT. Born in Switzerland on March 25, 1938, he immigrated to the US in 1966, settling first in New Jersey, then New York City, and spending his final years in Vermont. Ernst was the eldest and last of the three Aebi brothers. He is survived by his four children Tania Aebi (Corinth, Vermont), Nina Aebi (Geneva, Switzerland), Anthony Aebi (Esopus, NY), Jade Aebi (London, England), nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Ernst survived the mother of his four children, Sabina Aebi Borelli, who died on January 21, 1986 in NYC.



Ernst left Switzerland as a young man, but Switzerland never left his heart. He would proudly announce his heritage when questioned about his accent. He would visit his younger brothers regularly in Appenzell. Although his outsized personality outgrew Switzerland, his birthplace had a profound impact on his view of the world.

An exceptional individual and a huge presence in the lives of his children and friends, his absence will be keenly felt. A talented visual artist, a successful NYC real estate developer, and an avid adventurer and traveler to the most remote corners of Earth. He liked to call himself a citizen of the world conducting a lifelong love affair with our wonderful planet. A sign on the door to his NY home read "Dream to reality conversion specialist". He spent his last morning sitting outside in the sun overlooking the beautiful VT property and ponds shaped by his vision, one of his favorite places of all.

TANIA AEBI

## Call for Heirs

The undersigned Lawyer Massimo Respini, Notary public in Lugano, Switzerland, herewith notifies that he has published before the judge of the Jurisdiction of Lugano, Section 4, on the 17th day of February 2023, the public will of the late Mrs Miriam Emma ROBBIANI, daughter of the late Domenico Paolo, born March 21st, 1931, female, unmarried, place of origin Novazzano, previously resident in Massagno, there deceased on January 23rd, 2023. The present notification is valid as communication of the will to the legal heirs of unknown whereabouts, in Switzerland and abroad, as per art. 558 and 559 CC, and art. 28 and 83 LAC.

This notification is in particular addressed to Mr Luca Joseph Ernest Ritz, son of the late Nelda Maria Ritz, born in Basel BS on August 18th, 1960, of unknown whereabouts.

Any objections to the issuance of the certificate of inheritance should be submitted to the Pretura del Distretto di Lugano, Sezione 4, Via Bossi 3, Lugano, Switzerland, within one month from publication of the present notification.

Massimo Respini, Lawyer and Notary public.

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[www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) Click on "Representations"

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