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REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

You had lots to share about the 1st of August celebrations in the U.S. The contributions I received were numerous and the write ups were wonderfully descriptive that I wanted to have joined every single event. Unfortunately, I had to edit the articles down to just a few key features of the

celebrations and had only space for a few photos. I hope you will be able to check out more details on the websites or Facebook pages of these clubs.

The next Swiss Review with a USA edition will be published on January 31, 2025. Please send me your contributions by December 23, 2024.

I wish you a wonderful Fall and Christmas season.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

50 Years of the Swiss Review

It was before the internet when Mother Helvetia became increasingly aware that her children scattered around the globe weren't informed about the happenings in the old country. The aim of the "Swiss Review" would be to "strengthen people's attachment to Switzerland", it said in the first-ever publisher notes. Launched as a way to disseminate information to the Swiss Abroad, it initially came across as a very official publication. This was the moment when all expats were now receiving the same information from the mother country. The magazine was first published in 1974 for all 320,000 Swiss

living abroad at the time. The "Swiss Review" will account for a print run of 430,000 in 2024, reaching almost all 813,400 Swiss nationals living abroad.

To mark the 50th anniversary, all editions of the "Swiss Review" from 1974 to the end of 2023 are now available to view online at www.revue.link/review50. At the end of the year, the 2024 editions will also be added.

The full article was published in the July 2024 edition or read it at <https://tinyurl.com/swissreviewarticle>.



Cartoon: Max Spring



"I am a big fan of your magazine and receive its hard copy and I read content online as well. Thank you for what you are doing! As a Swiss who has been away from Switzerland (aside from annual visits) for 28 years I do appreciate all the effort to keep us Swiss abroad informed!"

ANDRÉ BACHMANN, PHD, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



"I wanted to share my love for the Swiss Review. It's now about 30 years ago, when I was first introduced to this magazine by a dear friend of mine who is an American Citizen and married to a Swiss woman. I always look forward getting it in the mail. I enjoy reading the articles about Switzerland. The stories which include politics, trade, hobbies, nature, Fifth Switzerland, OASI, travel and more. Thank you all for making this magazine relevant to us abroad."

KURT ZUGER, THORNTON, COLORADO, RETIRED



"I have been living in the USA for 53 years. I am retired and a member of the "Auslandschweizer Rat". I have always preferred the paper version over the electronic version, and I read most every article, this publication has kept me up to date on events in the Council for the Swiss Abroad. Years ago, there were also results from Swiss sporting events that I could not get from the local papers, that was enjoyable."

FELIX EGLI, DEERFIELD, WISCONSIN, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE SWISS ABROAD



"In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Review, it's only fitting to reflect on the impact it has had on its readers. For me, it's been a source of knowledge, entertainment, and a connection to my roots. It's like having a Swiss uncle who's always ready with a good story, a hearty laugh, and a thoughtful insight."

RUTH KAMIENECKI (BRASCHLER) D.O., NOVI, MICHIGAN, FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Look for more reader comments in upcoming issues.

Calling All Swiss Citizens Living Abroad: Serve as a Delegate for the Council of the Swiss Abroad

Are you a Swiss citizen passionate about representing the interests of the Swiss abroad? Do you want to have a meaningful impact on the global Swiss community? The Parliament of the Swiss Abroad, known as the Council of the Swiss Abroad, is looking for dedicated individuals to join its U.S. delegation for the upcoming term, which runs from August 2025 to August 2029. This is your chance to be a voice for the Swiss abroad and help shape the future of our community.

What is the Council of the Swiss Abroad?

The Council of the Swiss Abroad, often referred to as the "Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland", is the official body representing the Swiss diaspora. It plays a crucial role in ensuring that the concerns and interests of Swiss citizens living abroad are heard and addressed at the highest level. With more than 800,000 Swiss citizens living abroad, the Council is essential in maintaining a strong link between the global Swiss community and our homeland.

Why Should You Serve?

As a delegate, you will have the unique opportunity to:

- **Influence Swiss Policy:** Engage directly with Swiss policymakers and contribute to decisions that affect Swiss citizens around the world.
- **Strengthen Community Ties:** Help bridge the gap between Swiss expatriates and their homeland, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.
- **Expand Your Network:** Connect with other like-minded Swiss citizens and leaders, both within your consular district and globally.
- **Be a Voice for Change:** Advocate for the needs and concerns of your fellow Swiss abroad, ensuring that they are represented and heard.

Who are We Looking for?

We are seeking candidates who meet the following criteria:

- **Swiss Citizen:** You must be a Swiss citizen.
- **Age Requirement:** Candidates must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Language Skills:** Fluency in German or French (written and spoken) is required.
- **Consulate Registration:** Must be registered with the Consulate General of Switzerland in your region.
- **Voting Registration:** Must be registered to vote in Swiss national elections as an expatriate.
- **Travel Commitment:** You should be willing and able to travel to Switzerland once or twice a year for the Council meeting and pay your own travel and accommodation expenses.
- **Residency Requirement:** You must live in the consular district for at least 8 months of the year.
- **Social Media Presence:** An active social media presence is important for community engagement.
- **Networking Skills:** You should be well-connected within your district and be able to communicate effectively with other Swiss expatriates.
- **Representation Skills:** You must be willing, able and competent to represent the interests and concerns of Swiss expatriates in your consular district.

Direct Elections

Delegates to the Swiss Abroad Council are elected by direct vote. This ensures that the representatives are chosen by their peers, giving every registered Swiss citizen of voting age living in the U.S. a voice in who will advocate on their behalf.

How to Apply

If you meet these qualifications and would like to take on this rewarding challenge, we encourage you to apply. Please submit your resume along with a brief statement explaining why you would like to join the Swiss Abroad Council. Your application should be received by Suzanne J. Violet, our Elections Coordinator, at svioletinternational@gmail.com by December 31.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Suzanne directly at +41 79 427 48 49 (mobile/WhatsApp) or after November 12 at +1 (321) 543-5021 (mobile/WhatsApp). Suzanne brings a wealth of experience, having served on the Board of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad-Swiss Community. Her commitment to increasing the representation of Swiss women on the Board is a testament to her dedication and leadership.

Join Us in Shaping the Future of the Swiss Abroad

This is not just a role - it is a mission. By becoming a delegate, you will help ensure that the voice of the Swiss abroad is heard and that their interests are safeguarded. Your contribution will make a difference in the lives of many people and help strengthen the ties between Switzerland and its citizens around the world.

Seize this opportunity to be part of something bigger than yourself. Apply today and help shape the future of the Swiss community abroad.

733rd Swiss Independence Day Celebration August 1st

Oklahoma: Swiss Club of Oklahoma



ANDRE SIEGENTHALER, PRESIDENT
SWISSCLUBOFOK2013@COX.NET

Massachusetts: Swiss Society of Boston

We celebrated Swiss National Day with highlights of our Swiss culture and heritage with traditional music, food, and activities. The aroma of grilled sausages filled the air, setting the stage for a day of pure enjoyment. Mike Kaelin and his band kept the energy high with their fantastic performances. A special highlight included an operatic performance of the unofficial Swiss National anthem. It was a moving tribute that filled us with pride. The best part of the day was seeing everyone come together, share laughter, and create lasting memories.

The Swiss Society of Boston, with a history spanning over 150 years, continues to stand as the largest Swiss organization in New England. Originally founded to assist fellow members, their families, and Swiss immigrants in need, the Society today is a vibrant community that continues to uphold and celebrate Swiss culture with pride.

To learn more about the organization and to attend a future Swiss event in the New England area, please visit our website www.swisssocietyboston.org

ANGELA MÉTRAUX, BOARD MEMBER
CONTACT@SWISSSOCIETYBOSTON.ORG

Upcoming Events

- Raclette Picnic** - October 6 - Lars Andersen Park, Brookline, MA
- Fall Foliage Hike** - October 12 - Great Blue Hill, Milton, MA
- Samichlaus** - December 8 - All Newton Music School, Newton, MA
- Winter Weekend** - January 25-26, 2025 - Bretton Woods, NH
- Fondue Dinner** - February 8, 2025 - St. John's Episcopal Church, Beverly, MA
- Annual Meeting and Dinner** - April 12, 2025 - Hampshire House, Boston, MA

Washington D.C.: Swiss Club of Washington D.C.

Nearly 600 attendees, performers, and volunteers gathered to celebrate Switzerland's 733 birthday hosted on the grounds of the Swiss Embassy in the heart of Washington, DC. We saw drummers from the 22nd Battalion Drum Corps (many of whom regularly travel to Basel for Fasnacht) perform and also lead the children's Lampion parade. An alphorn quintet, including local musicians with Swiss heritage, performed various songs in beautiful harmony. The Swiss Folklore Group performed traditional dances, Talerschwingen, and Fahnenschwingen. Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs braved the late July heat to pull small children in carts. Several Swiss businesses (large and small) participated as vendors and/or sponsors at the event, many of whom generously donated prizes for the annual raffle.

The joyful celebration was also bittersweet as it marked the end of Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud's time in Washington as Swiss Ambassador to the U.S. Though he could not attend in person, Ambassador Pitteloud recorded a video for attendees, reflecting on his past five years in the US and the many historic events that occurred during his term. We thank Ambassador Pitteloud for his service to the Washington, D.C. community during his time here and wish him all the best for his next posting.

KEVIN SPRENGER, PRESIDENT
KEVIN.SPRENGER@SWISSCLUBDC.ORG
WWW.SWISSCLUBDC.ORG

California: United Swiss Societies of Northern California

The United Swiss Societies of Northern California held their Swiss National Day Celebration at Swiss Park in Newark, CA with the combined efforts of their twelve-member clubs. Attendees enjoyed dancing, exploring the Family Fun Zone, and participating in an online auction. We are extremely grateful to our major donors and sponsors Stromer E Bike, Swiss International Airlines, and many more. A flag parade was led by accordion player Arthur Brogli along with the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northern California and other performers. We enjoyed listening to the American Anthem, the Swiss Anthem, Alphorn playing and performances by the Swiss Echoes and the Golden Gate Boys Choir. A delicious meal was served by Lugano Swiss Bistro. Consul General of Switzerland in San Francisco, Balz Abplanalp spoke along with USSNC President Diane Wagner.

We launched the new Swiss Dairy Farmer exhibit to our Swiss Heritage Mobile Museum, honoring California's Swiss immigration.

We thank everyone for their help, support and attendance to make our celebration fun and enjoyable. For more information visit www.unitedswissnorcal.org.

DIANE WAGNER, PRESIDENT

Northern California: Monterey County Swiss American Club

Over 500 Swiss and their friends celebrated over 733 years of Swiss Independence in Monterey County just outside of Gonzales CA. The area has been celebrating all things Swiss since 1886 as evidenced by the HUGE flag that was draped behind the band that has been used to celebrate over 138 years of our heritage.



Attendees enjoyed a delicious BBQ ribeye steak or BBQ chicken by the Swiss Rifle Club and the Swiss American Club served authentic Swiss Sausage made by our own Swiss Butcher under the Zio Brand.

A new exhibit from the United Swiss Societies was the Swiss Dairy Farmer Exhibit that featured two local Monterey County families and their dairy history. Plans are to expand to include more Monterey County dairies.

Thanks to everyone who came, and we will see you next year. Save the 3rd Sunday in August 2025!!!

RENEE RIANDA, CLUB SECRETARY
[FACEBOOK.COM/MONTEREYCOSSWISSAMERICANCLUB/](https://www.facebook.com/montereycoswissamericanclub/)

Vermont: Swiss Club Vermont

The Swiss Club of Vermont holds two scheduled events every year: the Spring gathering and in August the Swiss National Day celebration.

May 11th started out sunny but by noon time some clouds darkened the sky, but the weather gods were kind to us and held off the wet stuff. 45 people attended, some of them for their first time. This year we had two competing Raclette chefs, Willy Buhlmann and Raymond Schenk, serving the bubbly cheese to an appreciative crowd.

Maggie McGlynn, our president, was boiling potatoes and grilling bratwursts for our August feast. As with all our gatherings, we can always rely on our patrons to bring some homemade dishes to share. From Bircherriesli to Gumbisch to Linzertorte we had an eclectic spread. The corn hole toss and the string ball game saw some fierce competitions. Look up our website: SwissclubVT.com

MAGGIE MCGLYNN, PRESIDENT

New York: 140th Anniversary of the New York Swiss Gymnastic Society

The NYSGS reached this milestone after a long, successively evolving history, from doing gymnastics to more of a social club with appealing outings and fun events for its members and friends. The celebratory dinner was held at the rustic, picturesque 1915 Restaurant in the recently attractively renovated Bear Mountain Inn in the NY Bear Mountain State Park. The Inn is listed in the United States Registry of Historic Places. It is a bold, multi-story stone building with Chestnut timber for siding and floor covering.

During cocktails Felix Mick, Honorary President, reminded us of a few members, which during their lifetime stood out with their commitment to the wellbeing of our society. Afterwards it was time to proceed to the large dining room. Surprise! Two long tables were charmingly decorated with floral bouquets and little bags of sweets from Switzerland. Everything was organized and arranged by our longtime member Yolanda Jordi.

It was once again a great opportunity to reminisce, enjoy good company and experience a pleasant late afternoon and early evening in this beautiful part of the Hudson Valley.

PETER GERMANN

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Washington: Seattle Swiss Society

The Seattle Swiss Society combined with the Swiss Sportsmen's Club of Tacoma (www.tacomaswiss.com) provided a wonderful 1st of August celebration at Tacoma's Bonney Lake facilities. This was the first combined effort to celebrate the Swiss National Day together. Seattle hosted a potluck with grilled bratwurst and live Alphorn music. Tacoma provided a pageant performed by participants from their Swiss Kids Camp who showed aspects of Swiss culture that they learned during the week.

- Looking ahead, the Seattle Swiss Society is preparing for their annual fall dinner on Saturday October 12 at the Washington Athletic Club. The evening will consist of a luxurious dinner in one of the most beautiful clubs in Seattle.
- On November 16 Seattle and Monroe will together host the ever-anticipated Raclette dinner at the Monroe Swiss Hall. Last year the hall was at near capacity and this year the event is expected to sell out quickly.
- Monroe and Seattle will celebrate Christmas with Grittibänz baking on December 8.

KEVIN OPPLE
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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The new Alpine style restaurant "Cuckoo Clock Brauhaus" has become our favorite location for the monthly Stammtisch in Miami. The restaurant also hosted our events in June to support our successful national team in the EURO 2024 soccer games. Hopp Schwiiz!

We had more monthly Happy Hour events during the summer and explored new cool restaurants in different areas. Our members love the initiative, and evenings attracted more new friends to the Swiss Club Miami. We had our last happy hour on August 1st at "Lost Boys" in Miami Downtown. Follow us on social media and join us!

We celebrated the Swiss National Day at the "Berrie's in the Grove" in Coconut Grove with a delicious buffet and fun activities for the kids like the lantern parade. Everybody loved the traditional tombola with great prizes and the "Lösli" were sold out in minutes. Over 100 guests joined the event. A big THANK YOU to our event SPONSORS!

Here is an outlook what we have in the pipeline for the fall:

- Swiss - Belgian Chocolate:** A friendly chocolate competition with the Belgium Club!
- Raclette Evening:** We love the cheesy event and are looking for the best location!
- Sports - Soccer, Dragon Boat, Kayaking:** Let's bring the Club's children together!
- Meet with Inter Club Fort Myers:** Swiss Clubs on FL East & West Coast together!
- Volunteer Event:** As last year let's volunteer with Feeding South Florida!
- Halloween Witches Luncheon:** Dress up for the witches show in Miami Beach!
- Christmas Party:** Our biggest annual event. Santa is already invited for the kids.

Stay tuned for all upcoming events on our website www.swissclubmiami.org.

CHRISTINA SCHOELZEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS
 INFO@SWISSCLUBMIAMI.ORG
 WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSCLUBMIAMI

Washington: Violinist Brigitte Grossrieder-Tennis



Brigitte Grossrieder-Tennis, the daughter of Robert Grossrieder, a member of the Swiss Sportsmen's Club in Bonney Lake WA, was recently featured as a violin soloist with the Whidbey Island Orchestra in Washington State. She delighted audiences with her sizzling rendition of Tango Jalouse by Jacob Jade. She also performed the famous Landler and Edelweiss from the Sound of Music at a recent event at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel with a small trio. Brigitte enjoys sharing her Swiss heritage with audiences through her music. She graduated with a Violin Performance degree from the University of Washington School of Music after studying with the late Denes Zsigmondy, and also attained a master's degree in General Education. After retiring from 40 years in education, Brigitte continues to be active in her community as a volunteer as well as performing with various ensemble groups and at weddings. Brigitte also soloed with the Whidbey Island Orchestra last spring, playing the sweet second movement of the Wieniawski Concerto No. 2.

Brigitte can be reached at tennissb@outlook.com

Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

A First of August Celebration at Chompie's in Phoenix, in a perfect room with a red ceiling and white chairs. 50 attendees enjoyed the Buffet lunch and amazing assorted desserts our President Roland brought. And Thank You for Sibylle Reuter's famous carrot cake. Roland did a great job conducting his first Swiss National Day celebration that included sounds of home. One of the highlights: the Swiss quiz with super questions by Roland and prizes of 6 'Zopfs' baked by Roland, Swiss T-shirts, Läderach Chocolates etc.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers that make every Swiss event possible.

Fiona - Truly Swiss-German



Fiona's gorgeous dirndl made in Germany, a gift from Oma and Opa in Esslingen near Stuttgart, parents of Alex, Fiona's father. Sibylle, her mom is Swiss. It was time to take a picture with two Swiss flags per Fiona to make it truly Swiss-German. Fiona's words:

The first thing I'd like to say is that I love representing my countries (Switzerland & Germany) I also wanted to say that everybody should be as proud as I am for my culture.

TRUDY WELLS-MEYER
 WWW.ARIZONASWISSSOCIETY.COM

Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

June: Swiss Sunday Brunch on the Lakefront

The annual Swiss Sunday brunch on the scenic shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago was a delightful event held with beautiful weather. Swiss folks and friends of Switzerland gathered to enjoy Swiss specialties such as Zopf (a traditional Swiss bread) and bircher muesli. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of community.

August: Swiss National Day Celebration



The event took place on the picturesque lawn of the American Legion in Morton Grove, Illinois, creating a memorable day filled with Swiss traditions. Attendees had the opportunity to savor a delightful array of Swiss cuisine. A lampion parade with loud cowbells ringing added a touch of enchantment. It was a wonderful way to come together and celebrate Switzerland's National Day in style.

September: Camping Weekend in Wisconsin

Nestled in the serene surroundings of nature, this event offers a perfect blend of adventure and Swiss culinary delights. The two-night camping weekend kicked off with an all-day canoeing adventure on the picturesque Sugar River outside of New Glarus, Wisconsin. The highlight of the weekend has become the Fondue dinner held beneath the starry skies at the campground. It's a unique and unforgettable way to enjoy the camaraderie of fellow Swiss.

Come join the fun! Check out our website at www.swissclubchicago.com to see our full calendar and event updates.

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Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

51st Annual General Meeting at the Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, MN

The gardens were in full bloom and a beautiful sunny spot awaited us for the luncheon on June 9. Before lunch, the Brindle Alphorn Duo played on the terrace, and their music was appreciated by the TCSAA membership as well as the general public. Our President, David Mörker, opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of members who passed in the previous year. The election of Directors and Associate Directors was led by Simon Blaser, who stepped down as Associate Director. The TCSAA Board thanks him for his service. Bettina Wernimont was elected in his place for the coming year. The rest of the Board was re-elected; one of the secrets of our thriving club is having had consistent leadership for more than 10 years.

In other business, we approved a contribution to the Swiss Center of North America. The idea of ancestry was brought up and it seems that members are interested in researching their Swiss roots. After the meeting, Paul Zellweger organized a walk through the Arboretum. A highlight was seeing the Minnesota state flower, the Showy Lady Slipper, almost in bloom.

August 1st Celebration

As we have for many years, we celebrated Swiss Independence Day at the Trechsel estate in Rockford, MN. About 80 people enjoyed the festivities. For our youngest guests, we had horseback riding. After the feast, we listened to an address from the President of the Swiss Confederation, Viola Amherd, reminding each of us that we help shape the image of Switzerland. The event concluded with the lighting of the huge bonfire. We look forward to next year's event.

For all upcoming activities, follow us on Facebook or on our website www.tcsaa.us. You may also sign up for our eNews which gives information about upcoming events.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA

Michigan: Detroit Swiss Society

We held our annual Swiss National Day Celebration with a picnic at Island Lake State Recreation area in Brighton on August 4th. Almost one hundred members and their children and guest joined us on a very hot beautiful summer afternoon meeting old and making new friends, enjoying good food and drinks, listening to inspiring speeches by Swiss Confederation President Viola Amherd and Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Detroit Frank Muller, singing the Swiss National anthem in German, French and Romansch, playing games, and listening to Swiss accordion music by Christian Roux. Everyone had a great day. Thank you to all who joined us and to all who made the event possible. Can't wait for next year!

We'll have our Christmas party on December 8th at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills.

THOMAS LOZSER, PRESIDENT
DETROITSWISS@GMAIL.COM
WWW.DETROITSWISS.COM

New Jersey: Swiss Club at Cedar Crest Village

The Swiss Club at Cedar Crest Village celebrated the First of August at our Tuscan Tavern. After toast upon toast, we all sang our Swiss Psalm in three languages. Diners at other tables clapped loudly. Cedar Crest Village is a Continuing Care Community located in Pompton Plains, NJ.

SOPHIE MURRAY

Seated from left to right: Ruth Pfister, Sophie Murray, Elizabeth Oehler, Max Oehler, Peter Basler, Margaret Hoogstrate, Michele Gerke, Carol Storms, Trudi Metzler, Othmar Metzler, Ruth Scherrer, Danny Keller (grandson), Susan Keller.



Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, Philadelphia Chapter

The New Helvetic Society in the Philadelphia area has been super busy with 3 events in the last couple of months! Due to a full edition, I'll keep it short! In June, we celebrated our special Dads with a picnic at the Red Bank Battle Field in NJ, and the highlight for the Swiss National Day Celebration at the Arasapha Farm in PA was the Children's Lampion Parade with the beautiful Bonfire! Finally, the Young Adults Advisory Committee organized a fabulous "Floating down-the-Delaware" trip the end of July!

Upcoming Events

December 7: 2024 Fondue Dinner Celebration at the William Penn Fire Company in Hulmeville, PA

February 21st-23rd: 2025 Winter Weekend Getaway at beautiful Elk Mountain, PA

For more information, please look up MySwissClub.org

DANIELA K. KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT

New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York celebrated the August 1st National Day in style with a dinner. The excellent authentic Swiss dishes ranging from Fondue, Raclette and Salade Fribourgeoise to Bratwurst was served at the restaurant "Lavaux" located at Hudson Street in Manhattan. More than 40 members and friends of the SBS attended and a great time was had by all.

MARKUS BRUDERER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WWW.SBSNY.ORG

Florida: Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida

August 3rd was supposed to be our big 1st August celebration, but tropical storm Debbie had other plans. The authorities issued wind and flood warnings across our area. With a heavy heart we had to inform our members that the event was canceled. Determined to keep the annual Bratwurst tradition alive, we quickly organized an impromptu BBQ lunch on August 24th at The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club in Fort Myers. 47 of our members gathered to enjoy a delightful afternoon. The air was filled with the sounds of Swiss music

Upcoming Events

October 17: Minigolf

November 16: Sunset Cruise

December 14: Klaushock

January 5: New Year's Brunch

and laughter. What started as a washout earlier in the month turned into a sunny celebration.

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Professor André S. Bachmann, PhD - A Swiss Who is Leaving a Mark in the U.S.

"I do not know what happened; I never intended to stay in the USA for so long, but one opportunity led to the next and before you know it, 25+ years have passed. I never in my wildest dreams imagined that the little boy who grew up in Kreis 6 in Zurich, Switzerland, would end up becoming a professor in pediatrics in the USA."



Prof. Dr. André Bachmann was born and raised in Zurich where he studied to become a biologist at the University of Zurich, with additional training at the ETHZ. While a graduate student he was poised to discover novel natural product-based anticancer drugs and received funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) to pursue his doctoral thesis at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He graduated at the University of Zurich in 1998, and in 1999 he accepted a position as a PhD scientist in a vaccine-focused biotech company in Hawaii. From 2001 until 2015 he returned to the University of Hawaii and worked his way to tenured full professor and department chair in pharmaceutical sciences at the Pharmacy school. In 2015 Michigan State University (MSU) recruited him (and his family) away from the Hawaii paradise to Grand Rapids, Michigan. To this day, Professor Bachmann continues his research as a tenured full professor and associate chair for research in the College of Human Medicine's Pediatrics department.

For the past 23 years, Professor Bachmann has focused his research on a rare but fatal pediatric cancer called neuroblastoma and he and his team repurposed the FDA-approved drug (DFMO) to the clinic. His preclinical studies including clinical trials have been groundbreaking. His discoveries in cancer and rare genetic disorders have led to numerous published articles, peer-reviewed scientific publications, interviews, and he speaks all over the world at science conferences. He was recently inducted in the National Academy of Inventors as a senior member for multiple patents including the discovery and treatment of a new genetic disorder that is now called Bachmann-Bupp Syndrome.

Professor Bachmann is grateful for the University of Zurich providing the opportunity to obtain an excellent higher education at an extremely low cost (compared to the USA). He wishes though the university alumni organization was more connected with the many talented Swiss scientists that perform incredible work here in the USA. At times, it seems Switzerland has forgotten those that have emigrated when they could celebrate and get credit for those scientists they had invested in and trained for excellency.

Most important to Professor Bachmann are personal health, strong family values, traditions, Christian faith, and honesty. He sees these values as strong pillars for a healthy culture, especially for today's society and its increasing challenges with divorce/family separation, isolation, and desensitized cultural behaviors.

"Although I miss Switzerland, I love the USA. It has been my home for more than half of my life. It is the country in which my three children and first grandchild were born."

We are still well connected to Switzerland though, uphold Swiss traditions in our household, and we regularly visit Zurich at least once a year. He feels truly blessed to so far live a productive life with a successful academic career, surrounded by a loving and supportive family, without which none of this would have been possible.

For more insightful information on Professor Bachmann, go to Michigan State University <https://tinyurl.com/msubachmann> and check out the interview by Joerg Oberschmid, Deputy Consul General of Switzerland in Chicago at <https://tinyurl.com/profandrebachmann>

Photo: Courtesy of Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

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