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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

Dear Readers,

On the following pages you'll find information on the dedicated people who will fight for our rights in Switzerland for the next four years. They all are involved with Swiss communities in the U.S. and understand the issues and challenges we face as Swiss citizens living outside of Switzerland. You can find more information on the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) at

<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/voting-co-determination/the-council-of-the-swiss-abroad>

The next edition of the Swiss Review with a U.S. insert will be published online on February 4, 2022. The deadline for submittals is December 29.

I wish you a safe Fall and Holiday season.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

### U.S. Delegates and Members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for 2021-2025

8 Delegates (Felix Egli, Robert Lensch, Jean-Pierre Mittaz, David W. Mörker, Daniel J. Rahm, Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer, Margrit Young-Zellweger, Franco Zimmerli) and 1 Deputy (Tom Neidecker) will be representing the interests of us Swiss abroad in Switzerland. Tom served as a Delegate from 2009-2021. Deputies take the place of Delegates and participate in meetings if any of the 8 U.S. Delegates are unable to attend. The OSA also renewed its Executive Board, reelecting David W. Mörker to a second term. Of the seven board seats allocated to the Swiss abroad, Mörker secured the second highest level of support amongst the CSA (<https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/about-us/executive-board>).

#### Felix Egli

Delegate since 2021

Region Great Lakes: KY, IL, IN, MI, OH, WI

Phone: +1 608 345 5479

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I came to the USA in 1971 to work in the Detroit MI area. In 1977 I got married and moved to Wisconsin. We have lived near New Glarus, a stronghold

of Swiss related activities, for the last 44 years. For all these years we had easy access to everything Swiss related, from food to entertainment. I also had fairly close connections to Switzerland through work and through frequent visits with my family.

Now that I am retired, I hope to help other Swiss to find a better connection to Switzerland through Swiss Organizations or Swiss Club activities which, for some people, are often the only contacts they have with their Swiss roots.

There are of course the ongoing topics of the ASR that have to be worked on for solutions like banking in Switzerland by Swiss Citizens living abroad and electronic voting to make sure every vote gets counted.

#### Robert Lensch

Delegate since 2021

Region Northwest: AK, ID, MT, Northern CA, OR, WA, WY

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I will focus my efforts on the following issues:

e-voting: I believe that all the technological prerequisites exist to

provide secure e-voting and that it will increase the participation of the Swiss living abroad, particularly the younger generation.

AHV: Swiss living abroad with children up to 16 who pay the voluntary AHV contribution don't receive the bonus for educational obligations. This seems unfair.

Swiss bank accounts for Swiss in the US: There is still no satisfying solution to maintain a bank account. PostFinance offers a simple but expensive checking account. Since the Swiss Government owns PostFinance, it should be possible to obtain not only more reasonably priced but also additional services.

I'm originally from Aubonne, VD, and live currently in Saratoga, CA. I'm married and have two adult daughters.

#### Jean-Pierre Mittaz

Delegate since 2017

Region New England: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

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I have also been a member of the Council's "representativity" working group which aims to further progress the

organization's connectivity with its global constituency.

I live in Needham MA with my wife MaryBeth and our three daughters. We are members of the Swiss Society of Boston, one of the oldest Swiss clubs founded in 1865. I also serve on the Board of the Friends of Switzerland (another Swiss club in Boston) in addition to being the Treasurer of the Boston chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce. I am also frequently participating at events of swissnex, the swiss global network for education, research and innovation.

I grew up in the cantons of Valais and Zurich. I joined an American bank in Zurich, and a couple of years later, in 1995, I emigrated to the United States.

U.S. Delegates and Members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for 2021-2025 (continued)

David W. Mörker

Delegate since 2009; Member of the Executive Board of the OSA since 2017  
Region Midwest: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD

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As a US delegate and member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad as well as a board member, and as a founding member of OSA's

Finance, Risk & Audit Committee, I am committed to the relentless pursuit of looking after the needs and interests of the Swiss living overseas in general and the internationally mobile Swiss residing in the Midwest of the United States. In this role, I represent my fellow Swiss compatriots in Switzerland, providing you with a voice spanning banking, e-voting, AHV benefits, studying in Switzerland along with any other relevant topics making a difference in your lives in these parts of the world.

For over 15 years, I have been president of the 400-member Twin Cities Swiss American Association and have been a member of the Swiss Leaders of Minnesota. Since 1998, I have been living with my family in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Daniel J. Rahm

Delegate since 2021

Region Southeast: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN

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I grew up in the Zurich area, and prior to moving to the US in 2000 I lived in Luzern for 13 years.

During my time in

New York, I was active in the Swiss Society of New York as their treasurer and I am still a life-time member. I'm also a member of the Swiss American Club of Miami. In early 2021, I joined McLaren, a global Loss Adjuster based in Atlanta, as their global head of Financial Planning & Analysis. I live with my partner Ricardo in Wilton Manors, Florida, and spend time as work requires in the Metro Atlanta region as well.

My motivation for an engagement as a delegate besides the regular topics of easy access to banking and e-voting is to create a platform for Swiss expats in the US to facilitate the information exchange in the US between expats and the Delegates representing the USA at the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer

Delegate since 2017

Region East: DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV, DC, Puerto Rico (PR), Bermuda (BA), U.S. Virgin Islands (VI)

Phone: +1 917 660 5211

Email: SeifertWittmer@gmail.com



I was born and raised in Kreuzlingen/Thurgau and moved to New York City in 1998. Since 2006 I have been involved with the Swiss

Community in New York and have volunteered for the Swiss Society of New York, most importantly as their president from 2013-2016. Although I have been living 23 years abroad, I am still very connected with my family and friends in Switzerland.

I am delighted to serve for the next legislature. My focus in the next four years will be on e-Voting and the banking problem, but also other topics such as OASI/DI (AHV/IV) and health insurance. It is my great honor to represent the interests of the Swiss abroad and I very much look forward to collaborating with all the members of the CSA, the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, the Swiss Embassy/Consulates, and members of the Swiss parliament.

Ohio: United Swiss Society of Cleveland

We gathered on August 1st to celebrate the Swiss National Day with our families and friends and it is always wonderful to welcome Swiss nationals living in the area. The pavilion was adorned in red & white, and canton flags. The entrance to the pavilion had Swiss and US flags and adults were offered their choice of canvas bags, lanyards, or Swiss pins. The children were given Swiss coloring books. Pro Patria pins were also available for sale (and once again we sold them all). We gather together to enjoy time with one another and honor the memory of our dearly departed members.

Approximately 75 people attended the event. The program was opened by Marianne Bernadotte, Honorary Swiss Consul, followed by



the 1st of August address by the president of the confederation Guy Parmelin

and the remarks by Ambassador and General Consul in New York Markus Börlin. We sang both the Swiss and U.S. National Anthems.

In Swiss tradition, the children were invited to parade through the crowd as they played various musical instruments. They also participated in craft projects and games. It's always such a joy to see the youngsters enjoying themselves and hopefully creating their own memories. Rudy Hermes, loyal friend, entertained with his accordion. We dined on bratwurst, Italian sausage, hot dogs, German potato salad, fruit, strudel, and more. Thank you to the many members who volunteered their time to make the event a success. It was an enjoyable day for all.

*The United Swiss Society of Cleveland is a non-profit corporation. The Society was incorporated for the purpose of organizing, promotion, and teaching the sport of gymnastics on a local, state, and national amateur level, and to encourage participation in traditions of Switzerland, as well as those developed locally over the years.*

LYNN KOSIN

U.S. Delegates and Members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) for 2021-2025 (continued)

Margrit Young-Zellweger

Delegate since 2021;  
 Alternate Delegate 2017-2021  
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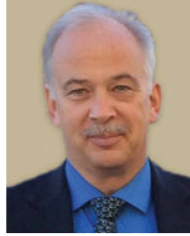


I feel honored to have been selected to be part of the CSA. Ever since my husband and I moved to Houston, Texas in 1969, I have

kept most of my roots in Switzerland. I raised a nice family, worked later at the MDAnderson Cancer Center for 18 years and was Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Houston for 11 years. I also took part in several committees and boards, and dedicated much of my time to various volunteer organizations. The team of the board of the ASO is an important link to the Swiss community all over the world and especially in the USA. I hope to be able to contribute to the cause.

Franco Zimmerli

Delegate since 2021  
 Region Southwest: AZ, CO, HI, NV, NM, Southern CA, UT  
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I'm thankful for being selected to serve again on the CSA and the trust in me to represent the interests of ex-pats in the Western States.

I moved to California in 1992, where I live with my wife and my son and became active in the Swiss community a few years later. First, I became a member of Swiss Park where I was vice president for about 12 years. I am also a member of the Matterhorn Young Swiss, and since this year, I am on the board of directors of the Swiss Relief Society in Los Angeles. I usually organize a Swiss mixer every month and a Swiss-Jass just about every two weeks except during Covid-19.

I am also on the executive committee of the Los Angeles Consular Corps and the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Los Angeles.

Always with the best interest of the Swiss in mind.

Nevada: Friends of the Swiss Club of Northern Nevada

We were able to hold our 1st of August celebration at the Washoe County Park. The event was well attended by young and old and the weather was ideal, no smoke. We were treated to special tunes played by the Alphorn Gruppe "Silver and Brass". They played the national anthems and familiar Swiss songs to make it feel real "heimilig". Everybody went home well fed and happy to have been able to get together.

OTTO KLAY



L to R: Christine, Gerda, Marguerite, Tricia



L to R: Osi, Otto, Hansjoerg

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

Greetings from Sarasota, Florida, where life has resumed to 'almost' carefree as before the Nation was hit with 'the Virus'. After over a year, our club activities resumed on Easter Sunday. The second picnic followed on May 2nd and closed the season before the summer hiatus. The number of members attending surprised everyone – we were a lively group of 80 (vaccinated) participants and the brats smelled heavenly and were delicious. The occasion was highlighted by musical entertainment – yodeling and Swiss folkloric songs were accompanied by the smooth sound of a Handorgel and had everyone joining in ... what a comeback for our Club.

Swiss Independence Day, 1st of August, was celebrated again with a luncheon at Roessler's Restaurant, which has quickly become a favorite amongst our members. It is always emotional when we all stand to sing our national anthem ... patriotism is alive and well in our Swiss community. The menu was more eclectic without a brat in sight – there was choice of Vichyssoise or Spring Greens Salad to start, followed by an entrée choice of either Ginger Soy Shrimp, Chicken Francese or Veal Marsala. Chocolate Mousse and Parfait au Grand Marnier were the perfect ending to a lovely event.

The Swiss-American Club of Sarasota is an active group of Swiss, Swiss descendants, and friends of Switzerland. We cherish all things fun, interesting, Swiss or not. For more information, please contact us at [info@swissamericanclubsarasota.org](mailto:info@swissamericanclubsarasota.org). We welcome new members and visitors alike.



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### Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH)

This year's Swiss National Day celebration on August 1st was an enormous success with an overwhelming attendance of over 80 people at the Alliance Française in Houston.

Our members and guests enjoyed a Swiss inspired 3-course plated meal catered by Soren Pedersen, and complimentary wine offered by our president Maura Ferrero-Baroni and her husband Eugenio Ferrero.



In attendance was the Swiss Honorary Consul of Houston and Event Chair, John Bernhard, who welcomed our members

and guests. We were delighted by a short slide show from the early days of our Society. A special commemoration was also held in honor of our past president Marie-Theres Odermatt for her past guidance and leadership of 28 years.

Throughout the evening, Mrs. Dolores Bauman entertained us once again with skillfully played Swiss music on the accordion, and Prof. Marc Robert accompanied us with the piano during the singing of the Swiss national anthem.

We concluded the event with a silent raffle offering many attractive prizes that were generously donated by the General Consulate of Switzerland in Atlanta, Roland Swiss Bakery and Pastry Shop, and members of the Swiss American Society of Houston. Among the exciting prizes were a Swiss army knife, a collectible Swatch, two tickets to the George Strait concert at the 2022 Houston Rodeo and Livestock Show, and a Raclette grill for 8 people.

To conclude, our Society has scheduled several events for the upcoming fall. Thank you, as always, for being with us!

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, SASH PRESIDENT  
SWISSAMHOU@MAIL.COM  
WWW.SWISSAMERICANHOUSTON.ORG

### Texas: Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH)

I was born and raised in Basel, Switzerland, as Elizabeth Winter (now Elizabeth Burger). I spent the last thirty years of my banking career in Houston, Texas, where I was fortunate to be very active in the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce. Since my retirement, I have been a member of the Swiss American Society but have missed many Swiss American functions because of living part-time in Florida. This August, however, I was encouraged by our Swiss Consul John Bernhard, to attend the 1st of August celebration. It was a wonderful event. My husband and I and our 4-year-old grandson were delighted to be there and to visit with some old friends.

This day gave me the opportunity to meet and to talk with the Society's President, Maura Ferrero-Baroni. Maura's name brought back very old memories of a friendship I had enjoyed in my teens with Gigi Baroni from Bellinzona. Gigi and I met and became friends at a summer camp in the Valais around age 13-14. We maintained a long-distance friendship for several years.

### New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

*Swiss Benevolent Society of New York is "Knitting for a Cause"*

Swiss women of a certain age often report that they have been knitting for as long as they can remember. Fast forward to 2019, the "Knitting for a Cause" group was born. The group was based on two premises: the connection of our older members to knitting and fulfilling an important mission of a benevolent society to give back to the



community as well as to itself.

Hour Children ([www.hourchildren.org](http://www.hourchildren.org)) has been the recipient of Knitting for a Cause's remarkable talent since Dec 2019. Caring for children of incarcerated

mothers and helping families re-integrate into society post incarceration is their primary mission. As the SBS was looking for an opportunity to personally deliver the knitted goods to those who will use them, Hour Children readily embraced this idea. The first gifting was knitted hats and scarves for the children of their after-school (ages 5-13) program and their pre-school (infant to 5) program. The SBS visited both sites, and some of the group members were able to give their knitted items directly to the children who would use them. It was an exciting and meaningful experience to all involved, including the staff of the programs. There were enough hats and scarves to give to the staff as well as to send home to siblings and caregivers. The group brought candy and most importantly, personal attention to children who have experienced major interruption in their lives.

The SBS continues to be involved with Hour Children. During the COVID lock-down, the group decided to knit leg warmers for the children. The enthusiasm and creativity of the group went beyond expectation and although they couldn't deliver their items personally in 2020, the group leader gathered the items and personally brought them to each site, taking careful COVID precautions. During these visits, the children inquired about the SBS and questions about Switzerland were fielded. We will visit Hour Children and do a presentation about our homeland.

The SBS will continue to support the Hour Children going forward.

ELISE FEUERSTEIN KARRAS, SOCIAL WORKER LMSW, CSW-G, ACSW  
[HTTP://WWW.SBSNY.ORG](http://WWW.SBSNY.ORG)

When I was 16, a school buddy and I decided to "see the world" on our bikes. We took off from Basel with the goal of reaching Italy. On our way south, we made a stop in Bellinzona to see my old friend Gigi Baroni. I well remember the Baronis' wonderful hospitality and have fond memories of that road trip.

Mentioning this story to Maura, I discovered that she is from Bellinzona .... and my friend Gigi (Pierluigi) Baroni was her uncle, sadly now deceased. My school friend and I had stayed at the home of Maura's grandparents all those many years ago.

What an extraordinary coincidence! I am grateful to the Swiss American Society for providing me a heart-warming experience and memories of a wonderful, carefree time.

**North Carolina:** Swiss Society of Charlotte

Finally – after a long time waiting to see some familiar faces, the Swiss Society of Charlotte invited its members to the traditional August 1st Celebration at the RedFez facility on Lake Wylie.

About 70 adults and children participated and everyone really enjoyed the traditional grilled Cervelat/Bratwurst/Fleischkäse. The Tombola (Raffle) that was held later had some great prizes and we appreciate our sponsors for their generosity. As usual, the kids had a lot of toys to play with and we even had a small parade with lampions, always a highlight.

A big “Thank You” to everyone organizing and helping to make this event a success. We are looking forward to see you at one of our activities and would like to hear from you. For further information on our events and activities, please visit us on our website: [www.swisscharlotte.com](http://www.swisscharlotte.com)

ANGELIKA BRUNNER, PRESIDENT  
[WWW.SWISSCHARLOTTE.COM](http://WWW.SWISSCHARLOTTE.COM)



**Florida:** Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Summer in Southwest Florida is generally our slow season. This year, however, was not a typical year and we have experienced an unusually busy summer period.

To start with, we are happy to announce 15 new members to our club since the beginning of this year. This represents a 14% increase. We welcomed them all with open arms and hope that others who reside in SW Florida will join us soon. Our board of directors makes every effort to create an open and welcoming environment for all generations.

The beginning of summer also marked the opening of in-person



activities for our club and we started our events with our traditional picnic at the beach. Our members were eager to meet in person and to catch up on all the stories from the past year. In fact, our picnic had a record turn-out this year.

Going into July, our local Swiss community was so excited to see



our Swiss National Soccer Team excel at the Euro 2020. Everybody was sitting in front of their TVs watching, supporting and sometimes biting their fingernails. Our Swiss 11 made all of us

very proud with their clutch wins and their penalty kicks. Some of our members joined for a watch party which included all the Swiss trimmings.

Like every Swiss club around the world, we celebrated the 1st of August with a typical grill party at a beach venue in Bonita Springs. The perfectly grilled St. Galler Bratwurst, Buerli, Thomy Senf and Chasselas wine filled our stomachs, while the Swiss National Anthem and the speech by our National President, Guy Parmelin, warmed our hearts and the Swiss decorations and flags brought sparkles to our eyes. All around, it was a perfect birthday celebration.




For the remainder of 2021, we have several more events planned and we look forward to the return of many of our snowbirds in October and November.

To learn more about our club and events, please visit us at [www.swissamericanclub.com](http://www.swissamericanclub.com) and join our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/swissamericanclub](http://www.facebook.com/swissamericanclub).

URS BRUNNER, SECRETARY  
[WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM](http://WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM)

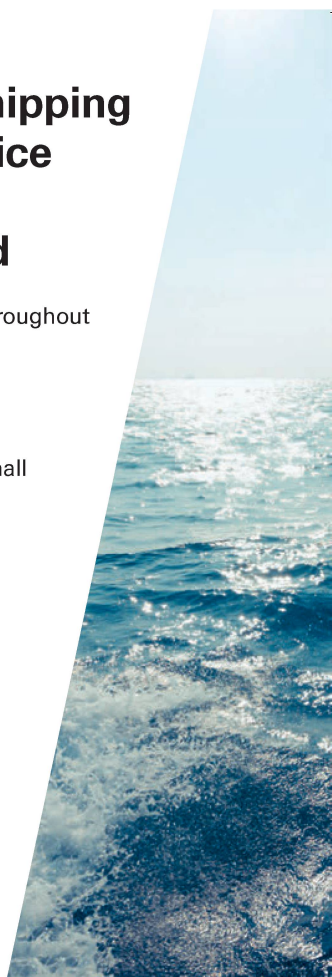
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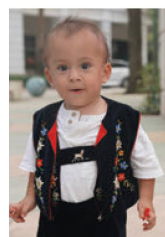
## Florida: Swiss Club Miami

It was a perfect 1st of August 'Sunday' this year. Last time the 1st of August fell on a Sunday was in the year 2010 and it won't happen again until 2027!

The Fritz & Franz Bierhaus was again the perfect venue and the staff did an outstanding job preparing an amazing buffet of Swiss food. People had the choice of sitting outside or inside. However, all 160 guests were longing to mingle again with their compatriots after such a long time. There were lots of new faces who came to join us for the first time and they will be back.



The highlight of the day was the Lampion parade for the children and without telling specifically, they all maintained social distancing – I just hope they will remember how it used to be in the pre-pandemic times.



Thanks to our sponsors we had a big table of 'Tombola' raffle prizes. Madam Lecker made a

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

We started going back to in-person events with a well-attended Happy Hour, and we hope to have them on a regular basis again.

On June 13, we had our Annual General Meeting at the historic Lowell Inn in Stillwater. Our President David Mörker presented his Presidential Report for the past year which will be made available to all members. Zoom will be made available for all social events moving forward if there is any interest to do so. David mentioned his ongoing work with the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, and our continuing connection with the St. Paul Swiss Benevolent Society. We will also be working on attracting our younger members to events as they are the future of our club.

We celebrated the Swiss Independence Day on July 31. As has been the case for many years, the Trechsel Family graciously allowed us to



hold this great social event on their lovely property approx. 20 miles west of Minneapolis. We all enjoyed seeing many members and friends we hadn't seen in over a year. During our popular "Tombola" (raffle) game, we had some funny moments when some of the adults won prizes clearly

meant for children and vice-versa! We listened to President Guy Parmelin's speech for the Swiss abroad, and sang the national anthem in all four national languages at the same time. We canceled the bonfire due to the drought conditions here in Minnesota as well as the air quality affected by smoke coming from Canada.

All of our events are posted on our website <http://www.tcsaa.us> and on Facebook. Take a look and join us at one or more of our next events.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT  
WWW.TCSAA.US

"Zopf" for every family attending. Dufry always supports us big time with goodie bags and Julia (6 years old), the daughter of our board member Marco, was so happy to get some makeup. She told me: 'Now my lips look like real lips and they taste like cranberries'. Another two people were very happy to win a stay at the newly renovated Ritz Carlton in Miami Beach, luxury included. The dessert table was filled with Läderach Chocolate and thanks to all other sponsors, many people went home with a price.

Our photographer Olga Riedi made sure the event was well documented and the photos can be seen on the Swiss Club Miami web site or Facebook.

A big "Thank You" goes to Alessandra who was selling the Pro Patria badges – she is the best sales person in the club! Thanks also to Thomas and Alexis for selling the raffle tickets and most important to the board members – Astrid, Roland, Julia, Marco, Christina, Mariana and Christian. Not to forget to thank all the Swiss Club members for joining this unforgettable day – YOU are the club and without you we don't exist!

Looking forward to seeing you soon at the next Swiss Club Miami event.

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

On August 1st, the Swiss National Day celebration in Washington DC was held at the Swiss Bakery. This event was organized by the Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss Club of Washington DC and, of course, the Swiss Bakery. There were well over 1,000 people in attendance! And, in addition to many, many Swiss Bakery staff, over 85 people volunteered to keep everyone well fed and happy. There was lots of entertainment with alphorns, fifes and drums, Alte Kameraden, cow bells and a short speech by Christoph Sommer, the embassy representative in his role as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of Switzerland. We even had a short visit by Jessica Lutz, the bronze medal Swiss hockey player from the Sochi games.

The Swiss Bakery had tents to sell their food and drink and Swiss Traditions was there to sell their souvenirs. And, just for fun, a fire fighting ladder truck arrived and put up the ladder and hung the Swiss flag high over the event! In order to raise funds for the Swiss Benevolent Society, we had a Brockenstube! Swiss community members cleared out their basements and drawers and donated fun Swiss items. The embassy donated many large canton flags which were a very big hit! The whole shopping experience was so much fun for the visitors and many of them shared how delighted they were with their finds. Additional photos are available on the Swiss Club website.



fire fighting ladder truck arrived and put up the ladder and hung the Swiss flag high over the

event! In order to raise funds for the Swiss Benevolent Society, we had a Brockenstube! Swiss community members cleared out their basements and drawers and donated fun Swiss items. The embassy donated many large canton flags which were a very big hit! The whole shopping experience was so much fun for the visitors and many of them shared how delighted they were with their finds. Additional photos are available on the Swiss Club website.

CAMPBELL GRÄUB & LYNN FELDPAUSCH ZIPF, PRESIDENT  
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### Colorado: Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS)

On May 27th, the members had the unique opportunity to meet the Swiss Consul General Benedikt Wechsler. During the dinner many members had the chance to provide inputs and give feedback. We all might sometimes feel far away from our place of origin or birth, but for this one evening, Switzerland was right here in the heart of Denver.

We wouldn't have a connection to Switzerland if we wouldn't strap on hiking boots and swing a backpack over our shoulders. More than 20 members gathered on June 19th for the traditional Father's Day hike, this year at Lookout Mountain, right outside of Denver on one of the first hogbacks of the Front Range which marks the beginning of the Rocky Mountains. Everyone agreed that it felt good to be outdoors, soak in some sun and partake in much needed socializing.

The frequent SAFS Stammtische offer many opportunities to mingle with new and existing members or to even join the crowd to watch a bit of Fussball during the Euro 2020/2021 and later the Olympic games and cheer the Swiss athletes on.

On July 30th some members gathered at the Waldschaenke Ciders & Coffee in order to celebrate not only the upcoming Swiss National Day but also Colorado Day.

The Swiss National Day itself is without a doubt the highlight for the Swiss in the Denver Metro area. The event was a huge success with almost 200 participants. Some danced to the Music by Rick Borger and the Average German Band while others felt their heart beat a little

### Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted a mini-Swiss National Day Celebration on August 1st, 2021, to celebrate the 730th Anniversary of Switzerland. We had a small group attending an outdoor picnic and viewing of the United Swiss Societies of Northern California's 1st of August video presentation. The Swiss National Day celebration was held in the beautiful picnic grounds at Swiss Park in Newark, CA.



The Aelpler Gruppe volunteers prepared the park for visitors and made a yummy lunch of grilled Bratwurst, Aelplermagronen, and side dishes. We were fortunate that the temperature was just right to have a picnic and visit with our Swiss friends; many of whom had not seen each other in over a year due to Covid.



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faster while listening to the Alphorn performance of our new members Steve and Sue Fox. Others measured their strength and pride during the Umspannenstein rock throwing contest tournament. And thanks to our dedicated board members, Pro Patria Pins could be pre-ordered and proudly displayed on the Swiss National Day.

The board members are busy planning an upcoming social event as well as the traditional Samichlaus event in December.

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

REGULA GRENIER  
WWW.SAFS.COM



**New Jersey:** Swiss Cultural Club of Cedar Crest Village

Ten members of the Swiss Cultural Club of Cedar Crest Village at Pompton Plains, NJ, celebrated Swiss Independence in fine style.



SOPHIE FLATZ MURRAY

**Louisiana:** Swiss American Society of New Orleans

In July, it seemed we were in a good place to start making plans for an "in person" event for our August First party. Ann Inderbitzen, our director-at-Large, along with Nicole Luder, our Vice President started making plans to hold our Swiss National Day party at Deutsches Haus on August 1, 2021. As the day of the party approached, Covid numbers and hospitalizations were suddenly spiking. Our President, Don Schwarzenbach, reached out to the board to discuss the situation. On Saturday, the day before the party was to be held, in an effort to keep our members, friends and family safe, the SASNOLA board made the difficult decision to postpone the Swiss National Day party. Although we were so excited to celebrate in person with our members, safety remained our first priority. On August 1st, feeling sad and a little blue due to the cancellation of our party, my husband, Robert and I decided,

for members who had planned to attend but now had no party to go to, we would bring bits and pieces of the party to them. With folks living in many different areas of New Orleans and surrounding parishes we mapped out the most efficient way to get to those folks at their homes. Armed with "Swiss Flag" decorated sugar cookies, we set out to deliver a little Swiss National Day swag their way. It wasn't the same as all of us being



L to R: Jean Stickney, Roger Dickerson, Pauline Lambert

together to celebrate, but it brought a little festive spirit to help celebrate this important Swiss holiday.



Swiss Cap worn for Aug 1st celebration years ago (from Patty Muehleemann) Paul Muehleemann at 10 yrs on Aug 1st

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SWISSNOLA

**Oklahoma:** Swiss Club of Oklahoma

After nearly two years the Swiss Club of Oklahoma had again a life



Anna Siegenthaler (L) and Mary Caroline Lengacher (R)



L to R: Ed Zweiacher, Ernie Loganbill, Honorary Consul Rico Buchli

is a quite significant number, but luckily, we could add two new families with children. We all hope that we will be able to reunite again in December for our traditional Christmas Brunch at the Summit Club in Tulsa.

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**Pennsylvania:** New Helvetic Society Pennsylvania Chapter

The New Helvetic Society celebrated the 2021 Swiss National Day on July 31st at the Arasapha Farm in Glenn Mills, Pennsylvania. The colorful Swiss Canton flags decorated the venue to set the right mood for a perfect celebration. Around 115 members including their families and friends attended. Members arrived at the venue wearing red Swiss shirts and other Swiss garments while traditional music played in the background. Everyone enjoyed the snacks, drinks, and conversations with loved ones. There were people from many different regions with one thing in-common, their love for the most beautiful country, Switzerland, on this beautiful blue planet. The attendees enjoyed the Fleischkäse dinner along with delicious deserts while listening to the live performance of Accordion. The hayride organized by the farm was enjoyed by children and adults alike. The celebrations ended with children taking part in a Lampion Parade, Bon Fire and singing of the Swiss National Hymn and other folklore songs.



Please check out the activities of Swiss Club of Delaware Valley on our website: [www.myswissclub.org](http://www.myswissclub.org)

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**SWISS REPRESENTATIONS:**

Addresses of all Swiss Embassies and Consulates can be found on the following web-site: [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) Click on "Representations"

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