

# Regional news : United States

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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

Dear Readers,  
what a start of the new year! The question on many people's mind is what are we to expect and deal with in 2022? Nevertheless, it's good to see the happenings in the Swiss clubs are continuing one way or the other.

### Council of the Swiss Abroad

**Committed to represent the interests of Swiss citizens abroad vis-à-vis the Swiss authorities and the public in Switzerland**

During its latest virtual meeting that took place on November 27th 2021, 86 members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing the Swiss diaspora across the globe gathered to discuss, debate and pass resolutions on a plethora of matters that make a difference in the lives of our fellow internationally mobile Swiss.

Filippo Lombardi presided over his first council meeting. Topics included a proposed location of the planned memorial of Holocaust survivors; the performance agreement between the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA); a new contact with Swissinfo (fka Swiss Radio International); a call for OSA's expanded presence vis-à-vis the Swiss public during the test phase with Swiss Post's new e-voting system in 2022.

OSA's director, Ariane Rustichelli, informed the Council of the Swiss Parliament's winter session in general and the activities of the Parliamentary Group of the Swiss Abroad's initiatives including questions on finances, banking issues and Covid-19 in particular.

Another key topic was and is the current and future positioning of the OSA. President Lombardi elaborated on the initial assessments and findings around OSA's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). Strategic priorities spanning the legislative period 2021 – 2025 will be adjusted and fine-tuned based on the input from the delegates.

The meeting continued with two important issues:

1. How can the exercise of political rights by the Swiss abroad be simplified?
2. Update on solutions for the banking problem.

The three areas of emphasis for both topics were:

1. Specific needs of the Swiss abroad
2. Measures of the OSA
3. Current status and expectations of the OSA

Various experts and key resources represented their respective positions on the topics, followed by feedback and questions from the council members which were then subsequently addressed by the various presenters. A recording of the meeting is available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVX\\_v9z9f6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVX_v9z9f6w).

May I invite you to share your observations and to provide feedback on how the Organization of the Swiss Abroad-SwissCommunity may be of service to any Swiss as well as descendants of Swiss living in these, our United States of America!

*The next Swiss Review USA will be published on April 1, 2022. The deadline for submission of articles for the USA insert is February 28.*

*I wish you a healthy winter time.*

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

In your service and on behalf of the Executive Board and of the US-based members of the Council of the Swiss Abroad,

David W. Mörker

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### Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad Jacqueline Siffer

Delegate since 2021

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I am truly excited to be working alongside the US Delegates to the Council of the Swiss Abroad in the name of the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA). I am a cofounder and the outgoing President of YPSA, where I have cultivated a strong understanding of the needs of today's Swiss youth. The Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad was founded in 2015 to create a community for all young Swiss from the ages of 15 - 35 who live abroad or have lived abroad for 10 years. The organization provides all members with the opportunity to exchange information and connect through new experiences. The YPSA organizes reunions and congresses, informs members of international and domestic political developments, and raises awareness on the needs of Young Swiss living abroad through two delegate seats on the Council of the Swiss Abroad.

I have spoken at the CSA Conference in Geneva in 2015 and the Congress of Swiss-Italians in Palermo in 2019. Additionally, I organized and moderated a Congress of the Young Swiss Living Abroad with the Organization of the Swiss Abroad in July 2021. YPSA frequently collaborates with Swiss organizations such as EasyVote and EducationSuisse.

Currently, I work in communications in New York. Here, I frequently collaborate with the Swiss Consulate of New York for their annual Jungbürgerfeier to present the political rights of Swiss citizens abroad and the benefits of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad.

Since the founding of YPSA, I have worked to promote rights and interests of Swiss abroad. I am particularly interested in facilitating the voting process from abroad while serving as a delegate on the Council, and look forward to forging new connections between delegates and citizens.

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

Christmas in Southwest Florida may not look like a white Christmas in a Swiss mountain village but that did not deter our club and our members from embracing the spirit of this holiday season.



Almost fifty of our members and several guests joined us for our traditional Chlaushoeck in December. It was so much fun to see our members dressing up in Christmas paraphernalia. There were cute sweaters, belts, shirts, hats, ties and several blinking necklaces.

Our Christmas meal was delicious and included Fleischkaese, potato salad, Buerli and Thomy mustard. How much more Swiss could it be? Well, for this year's



event, we introduced a homemade Swiss Christmas cookie baking challenge. It was so wonderful to see how many of our members stepped up and created their favorite Swiss cookie. It was a feast for the eyes and a

delight for the stomach. A great thanks to all the bakers in our club. You were fantastic!



As a final note for 2021, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all of our members who make this club so special. You are the inspiration for everything we do and we thank you and all Swiss in Southwest Florida for a wonderful 2021 with several events and gathering.

We wish the entire Swiss community a happy New Year. Stay healthy, safe and happy in 2022!

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)

**Northern California:** Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted their annual Member's Christmas event on December 4th, 2021. In years past the club had the Christmas party in the evening but decided to host it as a luncheon this year instead. Many members helped to decorate the hall for the luncheon while enjoying Christmas music and conversation. We all enjoyed visiting with friends and family and sharing a great meal together of Chicken Marsala with polenta and vegetables. The Club sang Christmas songs and very much enjoyed Santa as he took the stage with presents for the children. Many yummy home baked Swiss Christmas cookies were served along with coffee Royal after the luncheon.

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



**Minnesota:** Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)  
**Back to a new normal.**

On September 26th, 2021, four members of the TCSAA and 16 members of the Swiss Rifle Club of Minneapolis (the club), met for the 2nd Swiss Friendship Match.

The club received 9 responses of interest for this event from TSCAA members. Two members who could not make the date will visit the club on another occasion and one already has. Three members, all from the same family, had to cancel their reservation due to other commitments.

The four who attended made up for the absentees with enthusiasm and high spirits. After a short introduction of the club and instructions regarding safety procedures, everybody fired their sidars under the supervision of a club member. The sidars were donated by the club. Two participants shot the end of season match with the club members and achieved remarkable results.

It was a joy to witness the enthusiasm of Mary Hilfiker when she scored on the target for the first time. She had never fired a rifle in her life and had only heard stories about Swiss shooting from her father. We also have to mention the achievement of Fred Linder, who participated in the end of season match cold turkey. He went straight for a record by scoring 62 points without firing any sidars, and without ever having shot a K31 rifle before.

After the match, the participants and all the guests assembled around the grilling area next to the grilled sausages and other delicious treats, to share their experiences and to get to know each other. After the announcement of the ranking and prizes, all the participants left in good spirits and with new stories to tell.

On November 7th we had another successful joint fall event with the Swiss Benevolent Society of St. Paul. Participation was similar to pre-Covid time, and we enjoyed the good European food at the



Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter. In addition to the great food, we enjoyed the comradery with the members of both clubs. Since virtual events are not the same as in-person events, we decided to make it an in-person party.

This year we had another successful cheese sale. We changed some aspects of ordering as compared to last year when we only sold full blocks and wheels. We decided to go back to offering halves and

quarters. For the first time, we added a Fondue mix to the list. As a result, the amount of cheese ordered nearly reached pre-pandemic levels.

On December 5th, a small group of TCSAA members gathered for our annual Christmas event. This year, we decided to celebrate outdoors in one of our many beautiful parks in St Louis Park, MN.



Luckily, we got some snow the night before, so the setting was perfect with just enough for the children to bring their sleds. To compensate for the cold temperatures, everyone was all dressed up in warm outdoor clothes. We served soup, doughnuts, hot cocoa, and coffee to warm up from the inside. The main event though was when Santa walked up through the snow, ringing his Swiss cowbell to announce his arrival. He brought a big bag with him as well as a colorful red book with all the kids' information in it - how does he always manage to do that?! He sat down in a chair next to the fireplace so he would stay warm while speaking to the children. Every family's kids got called up and stood in front of Santa, patiently waiting to see if they might get one of the goodie bags he had brought with him. Phew! He had brought plenty for everyone. After all the bags had been handed out, Santa took off with Mrs. Claus. We hope to see him again next year!

With contributions written by Patrick Fischer, Simon Blaser and Markus Hoesli

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

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### New Jersey: Cedar Crest Village

Out of two-thousand residents in our Continuing Care Facility at Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, NJ, nine Swiss compatriots have "found" each other. We meet twice monthly for lunch in our Bistro, enjoying good wine and even greater conversation. A strong bond of friendship has developed over the years, as arm in arm, we travel down memory lane.

SOPHIE FLATZ MURRAY



### Colorado: Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS)

Late summer and fall days in and around Denver draw people outside to enjoy the beautiful scenery and be physically active. The members of the Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS) are no exception. Some energetic members met up at the end of August for a round of pickleball. Our member Kristina Brandner offered and shared her knowledge of this fun game during a free lesson.

On October 3rd, a group of 30 to 40 avid hikers met for a picture-



perfect fall hike outside of the town of Grant near Bailey, about 40 minutes west of Denver. The sportive hikers ended their outing at Swiss owned Aspen Peak Cellars where owners and SAFS members Marcel and Julie Flukiger awaited the group with mouthwatering Spaetzli and their local and guest wines.

One of the many highlights throughout the year is the family friendly Samichlaus event. Everybody was happy to learn that this



year, the event would be held as an indoor group event again. A magician entertained the youngest members and many busy hands produced creative and colorful crafts before Samichlaus arrived. All eyes and mouths behind the masks popped open when Chlaus finally made his entry. True to Swiss fashion, Samichlaus and Mrs Chlaus not only knew every child's strengths and areas to improve in, but also delivered bags full of nuts, mandarins, a bar of Toblerone, and a chocolate filled advent calendar. Each child left with a delicious Grittibaenz and full of hope that their Christmas wishes would come true. Each parent's cell phone had a few additional pictures to take home. Many thanks go out to all the helpers who made this event possible.

A few days later, just like every other Wednesday, the adults gathered for our monthly Stammtisch, but this time the Stammtisch took place at the German inspired Christkindlmarket in downtown Denver. What a good time to rekindle friendships and exchange favorite holiday traditions and recipes.

Behind the scenes the board has been busy preparing for the yearly assembly and fondue dinner on February 20th. More details can be found on our website at [www.safs.us](http://www.safs.us). New and longstanding members will be gathering for an evening of culinary delights and learn more about the events planned for 2022, including the hopeful return of our annual jass tournament in late April among other winter events still to be determined.

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

Written by Regula Grenier, a proud member of the SAFS.

[WWW.SAFS.US](http://WWW.SAFS.US)  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SAFS.DENVER.CO](https://www.facebook.com/safs.denver.co)

**Florida:** Swiss American Club of Sarasota**Happy 50th Anniversary!**

It is hard to believe the year has come to an end...2020 was challenging and then here came 2021 and with a snap of the fingers it's gone, just like that.

Our picnics went on as planned and attendance was surprisingly higher than ever. It seemed as though our members, after having received the two recommended vaccine doses, were ready to put COVID and their masks aside and start enjoying life again. The brats sizzled, we were back together again and moods were lifted.

2021 was an important year for our club as we reached the remarkable milestone of a half a century. The Board planned a big celebration and steps were taken to fine tune the event to the most minute of details. The venue was decided in early October and from that point on, preparations were feverishly on. December 8th was the date selected for the 50th Anniversary celebration and our Christmas party to be held at the 'Bird Key Yacht Club'. It was an amazing location that provided breathtaking views of Sarasota Bay and the city lights. The evening was a great success. We were honored to have three of our past Presidents in attendance; Alma Abshier, Ernie Wolfer and Primo Bader who individually contributed to our club's amazing milestone. Our current President, Ms. Nelly Camardo, gave the welcoming address and thanked Ms. Fabienne Egli who represented the Consul General of Switzerland, and Mr. Marlon Brown, Sarasota



Our President Ms. Nelly Camardo (center), Ms. Fabienne Egli (L) Mr. Marlon Brown (R)

City Manager, for attending the festivities. Attendees were presented with a souvenir booklet, chocolate favors and individual Stollens (prepared by Hans Egg our resident Chef extraordinaire). Emma



delighted us with the heavenly sounds of her harp. After dinner, we held a raffle: gift baskets, chocolate gifts generously donated by Swiss Chocolatier Läderach and Norman Love, gift certificates donated by Roessler's Restaurant and Geier's Sausage Kitchen as well as contributions of homemade chocolates and 'Guetzli' by some of our own members. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the special dessert prepared especially for us by Norman Love of Fort Meyers - the raspberry covered chocolate mousse dome, proudly displayed the Swiss colors and stunned everyone.

I would also like to pay tribute to some members who sadly left us this year – George Mettler, Annemarie Looser-Mesch and Arthur Scherli. May their memories live on.

On behalf of the Swiss-American Club of Sarasota, I wish all Swiss Clubs in the United States, great success in the New Year and...ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit!

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS

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

In late October, just as time was approaching to begin planning our SASNOLA annual Christmas luncheon, Omicron was also approaching and began making its way through our community. Hesitation to plan and once again cancel an event also set in.

Our President Don Schwarzenbach sent out an email to the board encouraging ideas of how we could finally get together safely and in person. We pretty easily concluded that hosting an impromptu



Our President Don Schwarzenbach and George Mahl III



Ann Inderbitzin, Alexandra Mora

gathering in one of the very large rooms at Deutsches Haus could work. This would not be our traditional "sit down dinner", but instead a more casual, stop in when you can, stay as long as you want, "Haus Party". Deutsches Haus welcomed us and made it easy to plan a "Pop up" party. Trying to sneak it in before being overwhelmed once again by Covid and the hustle of the holidays, we decided on Tuesday evening, December 14, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. As a bonus, it just so happened to be movie night with a double feature of Die Peanuts: Fröhliche Weihnachten, A Charlie Brown Christmas, in German at 6:30, and at 7:30 Helen Fisher and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Weihnachtslieder, alternating German/English sing-a-long.

An evite was sent out and calls were made to our members inviting them to attend the event. We were able to put together some Swiss



Marcel Inderbitzin

swag to accent the Christmas decoration already on display at the venue. Members were giving Christmas bells on Swiss lanyards upon arrival to adorn themselves.

Between their two bars, Deutsches Haus offers at least seventeen Austrian/German beers, two domestic beers on tap, and a slew of imported and domestic beers by the bottles and wine. Soft drinks were also available. The bar also offered a German inspired menu including Brats, Pretzels, and Flammkuchen. We had petit-fours from the Swiss Confectionery in New Orleans and an assortment of Lindt Swiss chocolate truffles for dessert.

It was a smaller, less formal, less planned event than usual, but it was wonderful! We certainly missed our members who couldn't make it, but so incredibly grateful that we were finally able to be together in a group with those who did attend.

With this new Omicron variant of Covid wreaking havoc in New Orleans, we are attempting to plan our Annual January party and meeting when we will elect our board for 2022 while staying healthy. Happy New Year!

JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA

**Florida:** Swiss Club Miami

The Swiss Club Miami wishes you a Happy and Fabulous 2022!

**Art Basel Miami**

During Art Basel Miami the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce Florida Chapter (SACCFL) invited the board of the Swiss Club Miami to meet with the Swiss Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud and his wife Angelique as well as the members of the SACCFL. It was a great event and Art Basel Miami was vibrant.



**Halloween**

Our annual 'Witches only' mystic reunion took place in Miami Beach. This year only 15 witches arrived on time, but we have been informed that next year they are all back in full swing.



**Christmas Party**

Our Christmas party took place on Sunday Dec. 12, 2021 at the Intercontinental Hotel and over 120 guests (including the kids) came to greet Santa. The venue of the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami with the Bayfront view was inspiring and watching the cruise ships leave gave a special touch.

Our guest of honor was the Swiss Consul General Peter Zimmerli



and his wife Jun visiting from Atlanta. The event started for the adults with an open bar and for the kids with Christmas handcraft work. Everyone was excited to mingle again after a long break. The food was delicious and once Santa arrived, not only the kids but also the adults were happy to see him. Gifts were handed out to all 28 kids. Kudos to our outstanding photographer Olga Riedi who endlessly was shooting photos.






A big Thank You goes to our sponsors Vontobel, Villiger, One Sotheby's and the Intercontinental Hotel. Without their support we could not have managed to have such a festive event. The Swiss Club Miami is endlessly thankful.

BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT  
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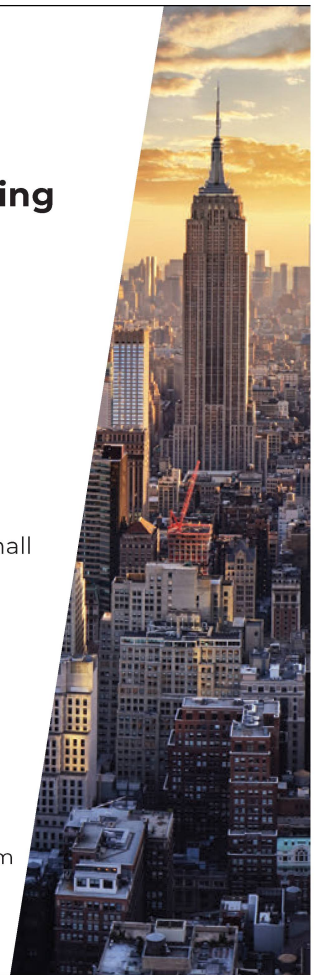
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**Texas:** Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH)

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Swiss-American Society of Houston just had an amazing 2021. We were able to host several in person events and our membership increased by 22 people as 7 families and 6 individuals joined us throughout the year!

With the vaccinations rolling we also had a busy fall and holiday season. On October 17, 2021 we hosted a presentation at the home of our member, Margrit Young-Zellweger, where we learned, from our member Andre Droxler, about the art of making Swiss cowbells and the history behind it.



On October 24 we also held our traditional Fall picnic at Brazos Bend State Park. It was a beautiful warm day, and our members grilled



a tasty array of different type of meat while spending a lovely day exploring the park. The local fauna was very active, and we were treated by the sighting of baby alligators and some larger ones!

Our month of December was also very active. We held our annual holiday party on December 4 with a delicious catered gourmet meal.



Each of our members enjoyed getting together again with cheerfulness and holiday spirit. At the party we were treated by a complimentary glass of wine generously offered by our Honorary Consul and board member John Bernhard and music played by Mrs. Dolores Baumann.

In the morning of Saturday, December 11 we held our traditional Christmas cookies exchange at the lovely home of our longstanding members Yvonne and Silvio Buecheler. It was a feast to the eyes and the palate with a variety of exquisite baked goodies.

Last but not least, on December 18 we participated at the Deutsche Samstagschule Weihnachtsmarkt in Bellaire with a Raclette booth. Our involvement, as always, was well received as we sold raclette and spread holiday cheers Swiss style!

As we enter into 2022, we wish a Happy and Healthy New Year to all the Swiss Abroad.

To find out more about the activities of the Swiss-American Society of Houston (SASH), please visit our website at [www.swissamericanhouston.org](http://www.swissamericanhouston.org) or follow us on social media at [www.facebook.com/swissamericanhouston](https://www.facebook.com/swissamericanhouston)

MAURA FERRERO-BARONI, PRESIDENT  
WWW.SWISSAMERICANHOUSTON.ORG



SASH Board Members from left to right:  
Lina Corinth, Margrit Young-Zellweger, Yvonne Buecheler, Ursula Kyle, John Bernhard  
Sitting in front row: Katharina Upchurch, Lilian Tade, Maura Ferrero-Baroni  
Missing from the picture: Alfred Dettwiler and Jaqueline Lieber

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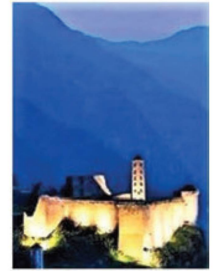


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**LUZERN2020**

### **ESF (Eidgenössisches Schützenfest)**

The ESF (Eidg. Schützenfest) takes place in Switzerland usually every 5 years with about 4,000 shooters during 3-4 weeks. The ESF 2020 in Luzern was postponed until 2021 due to the Covid-19 virus. The 2021 event was "decentralized", meaning that every shooting club had to shoot the programs in their own shooting range and send in the results. That rule also applied to the Swiss Clubs living abroad. At each ESF there is a special competition between the Swiss Shooting teams living abroad. Our team, Swiss Athletic Society of Los Angeles placed 2nd just like in 2015 in Raron, VS (Kanton Wallis).

ANTONIO LUISONI, FORMER PRESIDENT  
SWISS ATHLETIC SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
WWW.SOCALSWISS.COM



### **Call for Heirs (art. 555 Swiss Civil Code)**

The deputy Judge of the District Court of Vallemaggia (Ticino, Switzerland) avv. Petra Vanoni, as by the decision of the 6th May 2016, calls all people with succession rights to come forward:

The deceased Maria Apollonia Destefani-Morelli (1890-1971), daughter of Giacomo Pietro Cauzza (1850-1934) and Maria Giacomina Matilda, née Zanolini (1867-1940), married with Olimpio Morelli, has given birth to the following children and grandchildren, which probably live in the United States of America (California, Santa Cruz):

- Emma O'Connor, daughter of the late Olimpio Morelli, 18th September 1911;
- Anthony James Morelli, son of the late Olimpio Morelli, 28th September 1909;
- Fred Morelli, son of the late Olimpio Morelli, deceased, succeeded by his wife Mildred Morelli, 2nd July 1919 as heiress;
- Giovanni Battista (Bob) Cauzza, son of the late Felice Amadio Cauzza and Emma Assunta Esterina (Ester) Cauzza, 15th December 1910;
- Bruno Americo Pietro Cauzza, son of the late Felice Amadio Cauzza and Emma Assunta Esterina (Ester) Cauzza, 30th May 1923.

Having to establish whether Maria Apollonia Destefani is survived by heirs or by descendants of the above-mentioned children, all people who believe to be heirs of the deceased Maria Apollonia Destefani, Emma O'Connor, Anthony James Morelli, Fred Morelli, Giovanni Battista (Bob) Cauzza and Bruno Americo Pietro Cauzza or who believe to be heirs of their descendants as above-mentioned are called to come forward within 1 year of the publication of this search for heirs. The person who believes to be an heir or hire of a descendant shall contact "Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia, Via Pretorio 2, 6657 Cevio, Ticino, Switzerland" and provide the documentation that gives ground to the family ties.

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

Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia

Via Pretorio 2

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