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# REGIONAL NEWS

# **UNITED STATES**

#### **Editorial**

Dear Readers,

I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019!

Reading through all the submissions I received, it looks like a lot of you had a very active fall season and a fantastic time celebrating Christmas the Swiss-American way!

The next regional issue will be published at the end of March 2019. Please note that contributions for the March issue are due February 18th. You'll find the deadlines and publishing dates for all four issues in 2019 on the last page of each Regional News USA Swiss Review issue.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM

## Oklahoma: Swiss Club of Oklahoma

In 1883, some members of the Martin Tontz family emigrated from Seewis Graubünden to the State of Oklahoma. The family has been celebrating its Swiss heritage for the last 77 years with an annual reunion organized by its family members. For 2018, the reunion took place in Guthrie, Oklahoma again on October 7th for which family members travelled from as far as California and Virginia to participate in this event. Many generations were represented, from newborns to folks in their eighties. In addition, this year, the Tontz family invited the Swiss Club of Oklahoma to participate in the festivities. Twenty-two members travelled from Eastern and Central Oklahoma as well as Western Arkansas to spend some time with the Tontz family members.

The event started by a salute to the flag of the United States and was accompanied by the Star Spangled Banner played by a young Tontz family member on her violin. The Swiss national anthem was played



afterwards. More so, three ladies from the Swiss Club sang a typical Swiss folk song and later the entire group was able to enjoy a wonderful video depicting the Alp Abzug of the cows garlanded with flowers

and ornate cow bells from Riggisberg Bern.

The President of the Swiss Club of Oklahoma, André Siegenthaler, blew a few tones from his authentic alphorn and introduced some



specifics about the Swiss Club to the Tontz family. In addition, Rico Buchli shared some details about his role as Honorary Consul of Switzerland to the crowd as well some interesting facts about the interaction of trade between Switzerland and the United States, respectively the State of Oklahoma.

Subsequently, a Tontz family member not only shared photos of his recent trip to Switzerland, but also shared some memories made during his time spent with his cousins from Seewis, Graubünden. After the introductions and formal business matters were completed, the Swiss Club of Oklahoma was able to serve Swiss Raclette cheese as an appetizer in addition to the grand buffet of succulent food for all tastes showcased by the Tontz family.

110 attendees enjoyed an exciting and fun time together amongst family and new friends to celebrate the Swiss heritage.

ANDRE SIEGENTHALER, PRESIDENT SWISSCLUBOFOK2013@COX.NET

# Glarus, Switzerland: Call for Heirs

Within the meaning of Art. 108 para. 2 of the Act introducing the Swiss Civil Code (EG ZGB) and Art. 555 ZGB

Dürst Emil, date of birth 14 May 1952, in Mollis, Canton of Glarus (GL), Switzerland, of Glarus Süd GL, Switzerland, last residing at Manizales, Colombia, was declared to be a missing person with retroactive effect to 2 October 2006 by a ruling handed down by the Cantonal Court of Glarus, Switzerland, on 25 July 2018.

All heirs are invited to make themselves known by 31 October 2019 to the Authority for the Protection of Children and Adults Glarus, Inheritance Office, Asylstrasse 30, CH-8750 Glarus and to produce documentary evidence of their entitlement to inherit.

If nobody comes forward before that time limit, the heirs who are known to the authority shall be given possession of the inheritance, subject to any action for recovery of an inheritance.

Glarus, 31 January 2019

Authority for the Protection of Children and Adults Glarus, Switzerland Swiss-American Delegates Invited to Washington, D.C.

Swiss Ambassador Martin Werner Dahinden hosted the bi-annual Consular and Diplomatic Conference at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, D.C. November 4th – 6th. Participants of the conference were the heads of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) directorates, the consuls of the U.S. and Canada, the embassy and consular staff as well as the delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad representing the Swiss societies in the U.S.

Four delegates joined in the proceedings highlighting the needs of the 78,900 Swiss calling the U.S. their home. After welcoming the ambassadors, consuls and delegates, Ambassador Dahinden gave the floor to the FDFA Directors heading up Resources and Consular Services. Mid-morning, David Werner Mörker—Executive Board Member of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad, Midwest Swiss-American Delegate on the Council of the Swiss Abroad, and President of the Twin Cities Swiss American Association—introduced his fellow delegates, provided an overview of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad headquartered in Bern, but more importantly, introduced the conference participants to the organization's rich service offerings for the benefit of the Swiss living abroad. The presentation concluded with an overview of the rich variety of Swiss societies in the U.S.

On Monday evening, Ambassador and Mrs. Dahinden opened their residence for an evening of culinary diplomacy. The dinner reception commenced with a dance performance inspired by Ferdinand Hodler's painting Femme on Extase presented by the Dana Thai Soon Dance Company. The memorable event continued with a delectable four course historic menu inspired by Swiss hotelier, César Ritz, in collaboration with chef, Auguste Escoffier.

On Tuesday morning, David Mörker led a roundtable discussion with Swiss society delegates, consular officers and honorary consuls covering the topic of forming a Presidents Conference consisting of all Swiss society presidents in the U.S. The basis of the discussion was a questionnaire sent to the said presidents determining the level of interest in such a framework. The OSA, in agreement with the FDFA, is considering establishing a conference of the presidents of Swiss societies in the USA. The objective is for the society presidents to meet regularly to obtain information and discuss matters with other society presidents, the delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad and representatives of the Swiss confederation.

DAVID W. MÖRKER
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, ORGANIZATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD
U.S. MIDWEST DELEGATE, COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD
PRESIDENT, TWIN CITIES SWISS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
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Delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad From left to right: David Mörker, Max Hächler, Franco Zimmerli, Jean-Pierre Mittaz



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Regional News United States

## Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted their annual Members' Christmas Dinner on December 1st, 2018. Many members came forward to decorate the hall for the dinner and then helped to serve dinner and clean-up at the end of a wonderful evening. The Club members enjoyed visiting with friends and family and shared a great meal together. The Club's kids sang Christmas songs and very much enjoyed Santa as he took the stage with a big HoHoHo. After the children received a gift from Santa, home baked Swiss Christmas cookies were served. Aelpler Gruppe is thankful for the many members who donated toward the purchase of children's gifts.





ROSE SATARIANO NEWSLETTER EDITOR AELPLERGRUPPE@GMAIL.COM



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# New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York (SBS) celebrated its 172nd annual holiday party on December 13, 2018, at the Vanderbilt Suites in the MetLife Building in New York. Over 100 members and guests attended the festive luncheon which featured live music, beautiful Christmas decorations and gift bags filled with delicious Swiss treats. The Deputy Consul General, Giorgio Pompilio gave an inspiring welcome speech and holiday greetings. In addition, guests were treated with an entertaining slideshow which brought back many happy memories of the year's highlights, including the annual spring outing, the Swiss National Day and many more.



The SBS offers a variety of daytime activities and always welcomes new members. We help people of all ages live more active, independent, safer, healthier and happier through social service programs. We assist students and their families with scholarship programs. For more information visit www.sbsny.org

CHRISTINE HUBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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WWW.SBSNY.ORG
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISS.BENEVOLENT

# Southern California: San Diego Swiss French Group

We are a small group of Swiss French in San Diego that gets together monthly for a picnic and French conversation. Si vous voulez vous retrouver une fois par mois avec un petit groupe sympathique de Suisses-Romands vivant à San Diego pour parler français, piqueniquer et faire la fondue et la raclette, veuillez contacter Brigitte Noel par email brigittenoel@cox.net



BRIGITTE NOEL BRIGITTENOEL@COX.NET

### Florida: Swiss Club Miami

The highlight of this year's Christmas party was the visit of Ambassador Martin Dahinden and his lovely wife Anita Dahinden from Washington, D.C. The brunch took place at the 39th floor of the East Hotel in Brickell, Miami, and a big thank you goes to our main sponsors Vontobel Swiss Wealth Advisors AG and dufry america inc. Without them we could not have had such a great event. Thank you! Over 120



members and non members came to join this wonderful family event on Sunday December 9th. As you can imagine, "Santa" was eagerly awaited by the children and once he arrived, the kids had a chat with him and received a gift. The adults also had a great time with Santa as the photos which were taken by our Swiss professional photographer Bea Morell clearly showed. The view from the 39th floor onto the Miami Beach and the Port of Miami were

spectacular and the food was outstanding. The time flew by and everyone left with a smile on their faces.

This past October was one of our busiest months. First Wednesday of the month we had our monthly Stammtisch at Fritz & Franz followed by the Oktoberfest October 6th. The Book Club on October 11th lead by Adriana Mettler is always an enrichment. October 14th, Christian organized a Family Kayak event which was very much liked by the kids as well as the parents. The Swiss Club Miami will continue to do activities on Sunday mornings since both parents and children can enjoy them together. On October 25th, we had the pleasure to welcome the Orchestra "La Sirene" from Geneva with over 35 musicians playing at the North Beach Bandshell in Miami Beach. Over 200 people came to watch this spectacle and we set up a VIP lounge just for the Swiss Community. This event was organized together with the Swiss Honorary Consul, Ferdinand Kurt, and the Swiss Club Miami. A big THANKS goes to our main sponsor Villiger Cigars North America; without their support this event would not have been possible. Emmi Cheese sponsored the delicious Appenzeller and Gruyere for the Apéro of VIP guests. Another thank you goes to Rum Zafra, Gautier Cognac and Cedar Ridge Distillery.

On Halloween, the Swiss Witches had their 5th annual Witches luncheon (sorry, no wizards were allowed) on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. Paparazzi left and right were taking photos of the great costumes and decoration at the Spris Restaurant on October 31st!





From L to R:
Board Members
Christian
Gschwind,
Roland Bandelier,
Mariana Wachter;
Ambassador
Martin Dahinden,
Anita Dahinden;
Board Members
Bea Schmied,
Astrid Artho,
Patrick Luthy

From the Swiss Club Miami we wish you a happy new year filled with peace, love and joy!

BEA SCHMIED, PRESIDENT SWISSCLUBMIAMI@GMAIL.COM WWW.SWISSCLUBMIAMI.ORG WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ SWISSCLUBMIAMI

# Missouri: Kansas City Swiss Society

With nearly 100 guests in attendance, we had a tremendous participation in this year's Schützenfest, held on September 30th. The afternoon provided lovely weather and a shooting event fun for all participants. It was an honor and pleasure to have Consul Leo Kalberer and his wife, Brigitte Bächtiger, join us for the raclette dinner served in the yard at Chalet Küpfer.





For upcoming events and membership information, please visit our website www.swisskc.org

> KATHERINE BADERTSCHER, PRESIDENT INFO@SWISSKC.ORG WWW.SWISSKC.ORG

Consul Leo Kalberer

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# Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Last year's fall event was so successful, that we decided to repeat the experience and attend another Minnesota United Soccer Club (MNUFC) game. The plan was to have another "Meet and Greet" with Swiss player Jérôme Thiesson, however, since this was the last home game, the MNUFC did not offer that option. Many members of the TCSAA attended the game, helping to exceed the magical number of 50k attendees.

It was a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon for the last game the Loons played in the TCF Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota. Next year their new home will be the Allianz Stadium in St. Paul. The game against the Los Angeles Galaxy was very entertaining, especially since it included their star player Zlatan Ibrahimović, one of the great European players in the Major Soccer League. The score was tied for quite a long time, but in the end, the Loons (MNUFC) lost 3:1. Some of our members stayed on to attend the beautiful firework show that brought this great evening to an end.

In November we had the Cocktail Party for our new Honorary consul. After many years of service for Switzerland, Rudi Gutmann has stepped down from his role as Honorary Consul for Minnesota. The Consulate in New York sponsored a cocktail reception at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth to introduce Pius Eigenmann as the new Honorary Consul. There were approximately 80 attendees including many members of the Twin Cities Swiss American Association. We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Giorgio Pompilio, acting General Consul of New York as well as several other Honorary Consuls from other countries.



From left to right: Pius Eigenmann Giorgio Pompilio Rudi Gutmann

Once again, we had a very successful fundraiser with our cheese sale in November. Thanks to Pius Hollenstein for handling the ordering and storage of the cheese and to Silvia Gabler, Jackie Zimmermann, Arlette Barnhiser, Markus Gälli, Peter Grand and Michèle Kunz for distributing close to 2000 lbs of the usual Appenzeller, Vacherin, Gruyère, Tête de Moine, Emmentaler and Raclette cheeses. It is always great to have a new batch of cheese before Thanksgiving. What I have learned over the years is to cut the blocks or wheels into smaller pieces and vacuum seal them. Stored in the refrigerator, they stay fresh for a year. The Raclette cheese also can be frozen; however, the cheese should already be sliced into individual portions. When you are ready to use the cheese, thaw it in the refrigerator for a few days and it will be like new. Part of the ordered cheese will be used at our traditional Fondue event which will be held around carnival time in late February of 2019.

MARKUS HOESLI BOARD MEMBER TCSAA WWW.SWISSCLUBMN.ORG

# Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society of the Delaware Valley

The annual Christmas Fondue party, organized by the New Helvetic Society of the Delaware Valley, was attended by 200 members including their families and friends. The children cheered as Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause arrived with a bag full of goodies. The Fondue makers and all the other volunteers did a wonderful job in preparing the most delicious Fondue, after setting-up the hall for a perfect Holiday mood. The children enjoyed singing Christmas carols and other holiday hymns while two members accompanied them with trumpets. A raffle was organized by the board members of The Swiss Benevolent Society and funds were raised to benefit college education



and other programs. The event was well received by all the attendees and they look forward to attending upcoming events like winter/ski weekend getaway, Fathers Day picnic, First of August celebrations, hiking and Jass to name a few.

To find out more about the activities of the New Helvetic Society (NHS) and The Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS), (Philadelphia Chapters), please visit our websites www.myswissclub.org and www. sbsphiladelphia.org

DAVE SINGH NHS BOARD MEMBER DAVESINGH27@GMAIL.COM WWW.MYSWISSCLUB.ORG

## Texas: Swiss Community of Texas

Despite a very rainy day in October with lots of flooding, the Swiss Community of Texas enjoyed an excellent turnout for the wine tasting at Le Caveau vinotheque in Dallas, owned by Thierry Plumettaz, a Swiss expat. He gave a very interesting wine education and offered everybody samples of a sparkling white wine, an aged white wine, a rosé, and two flavorful red wines - a symphony in five movements! Two large plates of tasty cheeses and meats with delicious croutons completed the experience.



MARIE-LOUISE NORTON
PRESIDENT
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# Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

Tis the Season at the Swiss Club of Chicago! It's been a few years since we've put Swiss Christmas Cookie Baking on our event list upon request from our members who wanted to learn how to make them. Well, we are lucky to have Martin Lagler, our current Treasurer and



former President of 12 years, who knows how to bake them perfectly and under his guidance the group produced beautiful Mailänderli, Spitzbuben, Sable in various shapes. A delicious smell welcomed us as we started to set-up for our Samichlaus event held in the community room at the Edgebrook Lutheran Church in Chicago.

16 children (ages 1 ½ to 9) and their parents anxiously awaited the arrival of Samichlaus, who travelled all the way from Switzerland with his Schmutzli ... so the story goes. The kids were quite anxious when they heard: "Ho Ho Ho ... Dä Samichlaus isch do". A few kids were a little shy at first, but our Samichlaus knows just what to say and quickly



the kids' faces lit up with a big smile, especially when Samichlaus (Peter Keller) had a goody bag and Schmutzli (Kevin Sujdak) an Advent calendar for them. The cutest story a mom told us was, that one year when they were in Switzerland for the holidays, her little son told her: "But that's not the real Samichlaus, the real Samichlaus is in Chicago at the Swiss Club".

Our 2018 events will conclude with the Annual Meeting & Fondue evening on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Once again, we'll have a Raffle with exciting prizes to win and everyone loves a Fondue on a cold winter evening.

To find out more about activities of the Swiss Club of Chicago, please check out our website www.swissclubchicago.com

ELKE SUJDAK VICE PRESIDENT WWW.SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM

#### Boston: The Friends of Switzerland

The Friends of Switzerland (FOSI) awarded its 51st Julius Adams Stratton Prize for Intercultural Achievement to Suzi LeVine, former Ambassador to Switzerland and her husband Eric. The Stratton Prize, named after Dr. Julius Adams Stratton, former President of MIT and the award's first recipient in 1966, recognizes significant contributions to the exchange of ideas across the intercultural landscape between our two countries. The LeVines were recognized both for their diplomatic accomplishments and for their passionate advocacy, during and after their time in Switzerland, for an American 'Apprenticeship Renaissance' modeled on the Swiss system.

The award was presented at a gala dinner held at Boston's Museum of Science, site of the inaugural Stratton Prize award, and it featured a Swiss Yodel and Alphorn performance by vocalist Gabriela Martina and Richard Sebring. Also in attendance was Dr. Christian Simm, Consul and CEO of swissnex Boston, Gwill York, Chair of the Museum of Science, Swiss Ambassador Mauro Moruzzi, Jean-Pierre Mittaz, New England's Council of Swiss Abroad delegate, and Dr. Uschi Backes-Gellner of the University of Zürich.

The LeVines join a long list of distinguished Stratton Laureates which includes Armin Hofmann, legendary Swiss graphic designer and a father of the 'Swiss Style', Bradford Washburn, noted Alpine photographer and explorer, Roman Totenberg, renowned violist, Renata von Tscharner, landscape architect and founder of the Charles River Conservancy, and Hansjoerg Wyss, businessman and philanthropist.

As sponsors of the Stratton Prize, FOSI also awards an annual \$10,000 Stratton Fellowship Grant to a young Swiss or American to study in each others' country ... this year to a young American (to be announced) who will attend the ETH Cemets Summer Institute on Apprenticeship.

FOSI engages Swiss, Swiss American, and Swiss-interested people to meet, network, and connect. In addition to the Stratton Prize, FOSI sponsors a Stammtisch Luncheon and Speaker Series, and other interesting events. FOSI is for anyone who appreciates Swiss Gemuetlichkeit and the chance to activate or reactivate their connections.

LARRY GROB, PRESIDENT
LAGROB@FRIENDSOFSWITZERLAND.ORG
WWW.FRIENDSOFSWITZERLAND.ORG



From L to R: Paul Maeder, Gwill York (Chair Museum of Science), Larry Grob (FOSI President). Ambassador Suzi LeVine and Eric LeVine (Stratton Prize Laureates)

Regional News United States

Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

Oktoberfest takes place in New Orleans at the Deutsches Haus every Friday and Saturday for 3 weeks in October. This year it was held for the first time at their brand new home on beautiful Bayou St. John across from City Park. Our members attended throughout the month to enjoy authentic German food, drink beer, perhaps do some shots, participate in the "Stein full of beer holding" contest and to do the ever so popular "Chicken Dance".

On October 28, as in years past, to commemorate All Saint's Day, members were invited to visit Greenwood Cemetery on Canal Blvd in New Orleans to place flowers on our newly repaired Swiss American Society Tomb and to pay our respects to more than 100 Society members and members of their families who have been buried in the tomb since it was erected in 1879.



Don Schwarzenbach, Helene Sparacello, and John Geisser III at the Greenwood Cemetery

In early November a few members of SASNOLA met at a local theater for "Movie Night" to see Bohemian Rhapsody, the film about Freddie Mercury and Queen. Mercury fell in love with Montreux, Switzerland, and Lake Geneva, therefore decided to settle there. Queen bought a recording studio there, recorded several albums including their last, and Freddie died there. He was once quoted as saying, "If you want peace of soul, come to Montreux". A larger than life size bronze statue of him was placed on the waterfront in 1996 to commemorate his time there.

On November 10, our members were invited to a very special "Second Saturday" tour celebrating Homecoming at Tulane. Lee Miller, Head of The Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University, who is a long time, good friend of SASNOLA and caring custodian of our historical records, led a guided tour of Newcomb Art Museum's Tricentennial exhibition "EMPIRE". The exhibit brought together over 400 objects culled from the diverse archives across Tulane's collection, telling the story of New Orleans through the lens of Tulane. Miller discussed the role of the Louisiana Research Collection and spoke in detail about the plethora of objects on view including Mardi Gras illustrations, important LBGT+ ephemera, and historical Louisiana documents.

On December 2, we gathered at Ormond Plantation for our annual "SASNOLA Holiday Luncheon". To procure a winterlike, festive mood on this hot and humid December afternoon, each member was greeted and given a red "jingle bell" on a white satin ribbon. Behold, very Christmassy and very Swiss color themed! We enjoyed spirited conversations over a tasty lunch of spinach salad with dried cranberries, toasted almonds, Feta cheese, and balsamic vinaigrette. The entrée choices included sugar cane roasted pork loin with sun

dried cherry glaze, sweet potato hash, applewood bacon and green beans or rosemary petite tender steak in a mushroom wine sauce with garlic roasted potatoes and buttered broccoli or eggplant stuffed with shrimp, crabmeat, Creole seasonings and topped with Romano herb breadcrumbs, served with sautéed vegetables. For dessert we enjoyed eggnog bread pudding with caramel sauce and coffee.

Prior to lunch being served, our President, Robert Stickney, welcomed us. He made brief comments concerning society business then took time to recognize Helene Sparacello, Liselotte Comeaux and Pauline Lambert, three of last year's outgoing officers. He thanked them for their many, many years of service, dedication, commitment, tireless hours of volunteering, and for the countless times they held various offices throughout the span of some 40+ years.

Our Honorary Consul, Alexandra Mora, spoke next. Ms. Mora presented framed certificates of appreciation to Helene, Lotte and Pauline (in absentia), and once again thanked them for their steadfast years of service, noting that the work and efforts of members such as theirs most assuredly helped to insure the long term viability and future success of our Society. We are very grateful to all of them.



From L to R: Sascha Bollag, Marianne Cufone, Reachel Mayeur, Helene Sparacello, Robert Stickney, Patricia Muehlemann, Alexandra Mora, Josie Keleher, Giselle Wolf, Walter Wolf, Roger Brodmann, Liselotte Comeau, John Geisser III, André Lovelace, Marcel Lovelace, Jean Stickney

On December 16, Santa and Mrs. Clause paid their annual visit to the home of our President, Robert, and his wife, Jean Stickney, our Secretary. Their sled was at the streetcar repair shop in New Orleans for the annual maintenance. The sled is hand forged in similar ways as our beautiful antique streetcars are, so New Orleans is the only place that can repair an old sled. Santa and Mrs. Clause asked if they could visit while repairs were being done and meet some of our young friends and family. SASNOLA Members with young children were invited to come and have a picture taken and share some hot chocolate and a cookie or two with this dynamic duo.



Marcel and JP Inderbitzin with Santa and Mrs. Clause

JEAN STICKNEY SECRETARY WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA

## Vermont: Ernst Aebi celebrated his 80th Birthday

Ernst Aebi is originally from Zurich and has lived most of the years since he immigrated in 1966 in New Jersey and New York City. He now lives in Corinth, Vermont, near his best friend, Friedrich Gross, and his eldest daughter, Tania Aebi.

This past summer, his whole family came together to celebrate the big birthday. Surrounding him are his four children, Tania, Nina,



Anthony Jade, and his nine grandchildren, Nicholas, Sam, William, Alexander, Gregory, Sabina, Emilie, Freya and Athena.

TANIA AEBI

Greater Washington, D.C. Region: Swiss Club of Washington, D.C. We are a Club of Swiss people and friends of Switzerland in the Washington metropolitan area including Northern Virginia and Maryland.

The Swiss Club of Washington, D.C., founded in January 1923 and incorporated on August 18th, 1924, brings together people with Swiss heritage living around Washington, D.C., as well as any friends of Switzerland or people interested in the culture and history. We organize many events throughout the year for both families and adults to get together and enjoy themselves.

Our activities give people, both young and old, the chance to experience a bit of Switzerland. Our family oriented activities such



as the Easter egg hunt, Samichlaus, Jass tournaments bring traditional Swiss events to DC, while the Fondue and Raclette evenings bring back delicious memories Switzerland.

The Swiss National Day is usually celebrated on the property of the Swiss Chancellery grounds. We have entertainment that includes Liab und Schneid Band, Bernese Mountain Dogs from central Virginia, members of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps which participate in the Basler Morgenstreich and the Top Secret Drum Corps.

> MARTIN E. PERRET-GENTIL, PRESIDENT MARTIN.PERRET@SWISSCLUBDC.ORG WWW.SWISSCLUBDC.ORG

#### Vermont: Swiss Club Vermont

Over 60 guests of all ages and a number of dogs celebrated the 2018 Swiss National Day in Wilmington in southern Vermont. Thank you to Pierre Cattin and family for again inviting us to their beautiful estate with its picturesque pond and picnic area. We enjoyed Swiss specialities such as Raclette, Bratwurst and Cervelat, as well as bread and pastries prepared by our talented members. Traditional Swiss (Laendler) music was provided by Mike Kaelin on his accordion. Thanks to all for putting on a successful and fun First of August party!

In May, we held our 5th annual spring raclette luncheon. Once again members and their family filled a swiss-style chalet in Waitsfield, in central Vermont. Our potluck format produced a fantastic assortment of salads and desserts.

These are our signature yearly events, but members meet separately throughout the year. New members are welcome at any time. No dues or obligations expected. If you are interested, e-mail us at swissclubvermont@gmail.com or visit our website at swissclubvt. com





MAGGIE MCGLYNN, PRESIDENT SWISSCLUBVERMONT@GMAIL.COM WWW.SWISSCLUBVT.COM

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