

REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

Well, this is the last issue of the Swiss Review USA I have put together for you. I really valued the inputs I received to make this newsletter a success, and enjoyed the contact with fellow Swiss across the country. I'm grateful for the appreciation you have expressed for my efforts and for all the good wishes for my future endeavors.

I'm pleased to announce that Therese Marie Peskovits will be the new Regional Editor starting with the next edition. I have no doubt that she will do a great job since she's quite involved with the Swiss Community in the Chicago area.

There's an article about the rich culture of choirs in Switzerland in the main edition of the Swiss Review. I did some research on Swiss singing societies in the U.S. and I'm not surprised to learn that they have been around for over 155 years! I have compiled a list of links to the Swiss Choirs I found in the U.S. on the last page of this issue. You'll also find a link to Swiss Clubs in the U.S. published by the Embassy of Switzerland.

The next issue of the Swiss Review USA will be published on February 2nd, 2026. Please submit your articles and photos by December 29, 2025.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas season and a prosperous, healthy New Year.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter Philadelphia

First I would like to give a big THANK YOU to Doris Bernath Cunningham for doing a fantastic job in creating the much loved Swiss Review for all the Swiss Compatriots here in the United States! It's been an absolute pleasure working with Doris for so many years and I'm going to miss her! Thank you and good luck to her for the next chapter in her life!

The New Helvetic Society celebrated its First of August Swiss National Day at the beautiful Arasapha Farm in Glen Mills, PA. 120+ guests enjoyed the delicious Fleischkaese, ham, and all the fabulous salads and desserts the guests brought along! Don Bitterlich played the Harmonica and made all happy with his uplifting European music!

As always, the big highlight was the kid's Lampion Parade leading to the beautiful bonfire.

The next day, the Young Adults Advisory Committee organized a fabulous Floating-down-the-Delaware trip for the younger generation! We are so blessed to have a strong, young, membership and it warms our hearts to see how much they enjoy each other's company!

Join us on February 27 through March 1, 2026 for our Annual Winter Weekend Getaway at Elk Mountain, PA

DANIELA K. KOVALCIK, PRESIDENT
WWW.SBSPHILADELPHIA.ORG/



Strengthening Identity and Participation — Empowering Swiss Abroad through E-voting, Engagement, and the Next Generation.

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) represents the global Swiss diaspora — the so-called “Fifth Switzerland.” As part of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), 140 delegates (120 from abroad, 20 from Switzerland) meet three times yearly to voice expatriate concerns to Bern and help shape policy affecting 800,000 Swiss citizens abroad.

The 2025–2029 legislative term marks a new era. Over half the delegates are newly elected, bringing fresh energy, diversity, and momentum for reform. The CSA’s top priorities remain digital political participation, financial access, and social protection — each with direct impact on daily life. Immediate goals include the expansion of e-voting and e-ID, ensuring that Swiss abroad can fully exercise their democratic rights despite unreliable postal systems, particularly in distant countries.

Equally urgent is the issue of bank access and financial inclusion. Many expatriates face barriers to maintaining Swiss accounts or managing pensions. The CSA therefore advocates guaranteed basic banking services, fair fees, and secure online identification. In parallel, reform of AHV/IV systems and bilateral social agreements remains essential to protect older and non-EU residents.

Yet amid these structural goals, delegates increasingly recognize the need to invest in long-term identity and connection. The expansion of Swiss youth camps and cultural exchanges deserves greater strategic focus — perhaps even more so than “fighting windmills” such as banking regulation alone. These youth programs cultivate belonging and continuity, anchoring future generations emotionally and linguistically to Switzerland. They are vital bridges between continents, shaping tomorrow’s engaged Swiss citizens abroad.

For the U.S. delegation, which holds eight seats across all states and territories, priorities include strengthening e-voting adoption, coordinating advocacy on financial access, and advancing youth and education initiatives. Through digital communication platforms like SwissCommunity.org and SwissCommunity.us, delegates link policy, culture, and generational renewal.

Ultimately, the Fifth Switzerland will thrive when democracy, transparency, and identity work hand in hand — combining digital access for today with cultural connection for tomorrow.

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New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

8th Swiss Hockey Night – January 29th, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

It is never too early to look ahead! The Winter Olympics will take place next February and the Swiss National Hockey Team will be one of the favorites to win a medal.

Nico Hischier, Jonas Siegenthaler and Timo Meier will be in action playing one of the last games just days before they head to Northern Italy! Their fellow Swiss Roman Josi will be active for the Nashville Predators adding more intrigue to the matchup.

We have spots at the High Five Tunnel where you can get close to the players as they go from the locker room to the rink.

After the game, we will go on the ice for a group, picture, shots from the Blue Line and meet one or more players.

We have attractive group pricing for great seats, and you will also support the SBS as we receive a small portion of the ticket sales.

Please contact the SBS office at 212-246-0655 or email info@sbsny.org for more information.

MARKUS BRUDERER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Come to the Prudential Center to see the New Jersey Devils taking on the Nashville Predators on Thursday, January 29th

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Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

TCSAA Fall Event: Jodel, Jass & Raclette - September 21, 2025

The Twin Cities Swiss American Association's Alphorn, Jodel & Raclette gathering was nothing short of spectacular! With sunshine and nearly 80°F, the late-September weather set the perfect stage for an afternoon of music, fellowship, and Swiss tradition at the beautiful estate of René & Jill Steiner.

A Feast for the Senses: Guests enjoyed a delicious Raclette feast featuring cheese from MiForma, a Swiss brand renowned for preserving the

centuries-old Alpine Raclette tradition. Made from carefully sourced cow's milk and aged using traditional methods, every melted bite delivered an authentic taste of Switzerland.

Music that Stirred the Soul: The afternoon came alive with René Steiner's yodeling mastery and Ralph &



Mary Brindle's rich, resonant alphorn tones. Their performances delighted both first-time guests and long-time members, filling the air with Swiss pride.

Powered by Fellowship & Teamwork: Behind the scenes, teamwork made everything run smoothly. Rene Vanoni, with help from Andre Wanzenried, David & Benjamin Mörker, handled the transportation of tables and chairs. The Steiners, assisted by Benjamin, made sure the Raclette ovens shared power equally, while Wes & Bettina Wernimont provided a generator to keep things running.

In the kitchen, Stephanie Mörker, Jill Steiner, and Bettina Wernimont prepared and presented food that made Swiss hearts proud. Guests traveled from near and far — including visitors from Switzerland and

a couple from Stillwater — joining 50 adults and seven children in an afternoon filled with warmth and joy.

Sweet Endings & Smiles: As the Raclette ovens cooled, children gathered around a fire pit stoked by Benjamin Mörker to toast marshmallows and make S'mores — a perfect American twist to a Swiss afternoon. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, contributed, and supported this memorable event!

Join us on February 14 for our Signature Cheese Fondue Event

For more information visit www.tcsaa.us

Thanks to David Moerker for the write-up

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA



Northern California: Pro Ticino Nord California



Pro Ticino Prize

Pro Ticino is an international organization based in Bellinzona, the capital of the canton of Ticino. Each year, the Pro Ticino central committee presents a cultural contest to its member clubs and awards a prize to the winner. This year, the topic was to recognize the club member who widely promotes the values of Ticino and the Italian language of Ticino. The winner was Dr. Stephen Vos, professor emeritus at UC Davis. His research and studies in agricultural methods led him to world-wide travels aiding developing countries. He is a member of the Northern California section of Pro Ticino which is proud of his achievement.

Dr. Stephen Vos

CARLA TWITCHELL, PRESIDENT
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Washington: Seattle Swiss Society

The Seattle Swiss Society celebrated their 124th year with a sumptuous dinner at 1 Hotel in Seattle. The luxury hotel is managed by Swiss Hotelier Rob Brandenburg and was the perfect venue for the annual dinner. Planning is already underway for the 125th Anniversary Fall Dinner next year.

The next event on our calendar was the much-beloved Christmas lunch with a visit from Samichlaus and baking of Grüttibänz. Held jointly with the Monroe Swiss Club at their hall on December 7th.

Upcoming events:

- The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 18 January at Razzis Pizzeria, 8523 Greenwood Ave N in Seattle. The meeting starts at 1pm.
- The annual spring Fondue will occur on 21 March at the Monroe Swiss Club Hall.

Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

Swiss Christmas Tree at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry's Christmas Around the World Exhibition

The Swiss Club of Chicago brought a touch of Swiss holiday spirit



to the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry's Christmas Around the World exhibition. The club's board members gathered at the museum to adorn a tree with Switzerland's festive traditions. The tree is decorated with red candles and handmade glass ornaments from the Glasi Hergiswil historic glass workshop in Switzerland, adding a touch of Swiss authenticity to the holiday display.

Part of the museum's Christmas Around the World and Holidays of

Light display, the Swiss Tree joins over 50 others representing global holiday traditions. What began in 1942 as a single tree symbolizing unity during World War II has grown into one of Chicago's most beloved holiday exhibits. The Swiss Club of Chicago is proud to share Switzerland's artistry and holiday traditions.

Christmas Around the World is on display until January 5, 2026.



Toasting another wonderful year of Swiss friendship and comradery at the annual fall dinner.

KEVIN OPPLER
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Raclette Night — The Swiss Club of Chicago's annual Raclette Night once again welcomed the colder season with great food, friendship, and plenty of melted cheese. Hosted at the historic German Niedersachsen Club, the evening brought together cheese lovers for a cozy and flavorful celebration. Guests enjoyed a traditional Swiss apéro of vegetables and charcuterie before indulging in the star of the night - raclette - melted to perfection on the club's handmade artistic double burners. Classic garnishes added authentic Swiss flair as the warm aroma of cheese filled the room, creating a spirit of comfort and camaraderie. The meal concluded on a sweet note with apple strudel, perfectly rounding out the evening. Thanks to all who helped make this annual event a great success.

- **Next Event: January 24, 2026**
Fondue Fundraiser & 69th Swiss Club of Chicago Annual Meeting

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

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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

During the fall season we had our traditional Stammtisch events on the first Wednesday of every month at the Cuckoo Clock Restaurant. In October we had the



s p e c i a l
“Stammtisch on the Move” in the Old Heidelberg Restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale

to better include our Swiss Club members and friends up North.

In addition, we had two interesting events in cooperation with the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce of South Florida:

■ Vontobel Group gave us a “Market Outlook” on October 22nd at the Sailing Club in Coconut Grove with an interactive discussion about the global financial markets.

■ Swiss Learning hosted an event to discover the “Excellence of Swiss Education”, an exclusive event showcasing Switzerland’s top boarding schools, hospitality institutions, and summer programs.

On October 31st we had our traditional Halloween Witches Luncheon on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. The ladies dressed up with creative Witch outfits & hats and enjoyed the unique Halloween Atmosphere of South Beach.

A big thank you to our annual and event sponsors. We love our sponsors!

Upcoming Events:

- Fondue Night at the cozy Cuckoo Clock Restaurant before the end of the year.
- Flamenco or Cuban Night in January 2026
- Fundraiser for communities in need. Location, date, and details will be communicated soon!

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

CHRISTINA SCHOELZEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS
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The Fifth Switzerland is a colourful, varied and multilingual puzzle with well over 800,000 pieces. Today's puzzle piece is ...

... Trudy Wells-Meyer, born 1941 in Tann/ZH, Switzerland, living since 1968 in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

Coming to America at 23 — she believed early in life the extraordinary is possible. An award-winning hair designer and author/poet living the elusive American dream. Her dare-to-be different inspirational memoir is titled “Some Things Are Simply Meant to Be”

What is it like for you being connected to more than one country?

May I never forget, gratitude for both -- Switzerland and the USA; however, watching a Swiss/US Football, America calls Soccer game, Tennis or any sport, I will always root for the red and white ... the Swiss!

How is Switzerland changing, in your view?

Too much to the Left (thanks to the Media!)

What happened to 'Neutral' ... going away ... how sad!

What do you miss the most about Switzerland?

Glorious scenery ... and snow-covered mountains

Is regularly meeting other Swiss people important to you?

YES! I love the Arizona Swiss Society events (I am editor number 2 of the Swiss Club's newsletter).

Which Swiss customs does your family still observe?

Wear red and white every year on August 1, even my Wisconsin-born American husband Lew.

How do you keep informed about what is happening in Switzerland?

Regularly calling my sister and brother. Online: The Blick and Die Weltwoche.

William Tell is ...

The Willhelm Tell mentality is never giving up!

My favourite memory of Switzerland ...

June 8th, 1972, heavy rain all morning, sun out at 1, in time at 1:45 for the wedding party to walk from my parents' house to the Catholic church where I grew up; Church bells ringing ...

www.trudywells-meyer.com



More: www.revue.link/puzzle3

Oklahoma: Swiss Club of Oklahoma

Swiss Spirit Meets Brown Swiss Excellence at the Heart of America Expo

Stillwater, OK — When cows are polished to perfection and the air hums with friendly competition and the scent of fresh hay, you know you’ve arrived at the Heart of America Expo — the nation’s only all-Brown Swiss show and sale.

Held at the Payne County Expo Center in Stillwater, this year marked the 20th anniversary of the Southwestern National Brown Swiss Show, organized by the Heart of America Expo Association under the leadership of President Heidi Roulet. What began two decades ago as a regional gathering has evolved into a premier national event that celebrates the beauty, power, and productivity of the Brown Swiss breed.

The Expo: A Showcase of Dedication and Dairy Artistry

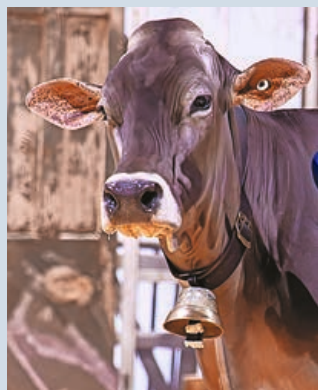
With over 100 head of cattle exhibited from 13 U.S. states — including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin — and even participants from Canada, the 2025 Expo was truly a North American celebration of Brown Swiss excellence.

The show combined serious competition with a warm, family-oriented atmosphere. Every detail, from grooming precision to ring presentation, reflected the deep pride and professionalism of the exhibitors. Visitors could feel the camaraderie that defines the dairy community, with everyone working together to make the event both competitive and welcoming.

“The attention to detail, the animal care, and the hospitality were truly impressive,” said Rico Buchli, Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Oklahoma, who attended as an invited guest of Heidi Roulet. “It’s not every day you attend a livestock show where you can learn about world-class genetics, witness incredible teamwork, and be offered a fresh cup of coffee by your competition before the next class begins.”

The Brown Swiss: Dairy Power with a Gentle Eye

Originating from the Swiss Alps in Cantons of Appenzell and Graubünden, Brown Swiss cattle are admired worldwide for their calm nature, strong build, and exceptional milk quality. Their milk’s rich balance of butterfat and protein makes it ideal for cheese production — a cornerstone of both Swiss and American dairy heritage.



The Grand Champion Brown Swiss cow
RDT Daredevil Lola owned and exhibited
by Red Dirt Genetics and Boehm Farms of Oklahoma

For context, the all-time production record is held by “Cutting Edge Stratus Sue”, who produced an astonishing 89,747 pounds of energy-corrected milk (ECM) in a single year.

That’s about 7,000 gallons of milk — enough to make 6,000 pounds of cheese or nearly a million protein bars. Talk about setting the bar high for bovine achievement.

Swiss Representation and Support for the Dairy Community

Representing Switzerland, Honorary Consul Rico Buchli attended the Expo together with his wife Beatrice Buchli and Ed Zweiacher, both members of the Oklahoma Swiss Club Board, to introduce the work of the Swiss Consulate and its ongoing engagement with local communities.

“My role as Honorary Consul is to serve as a bridge between Switzerland and Oklahoma — promoting cultural exchange, supporting Swiss citizens, and celebrating shared values like precision, reliability, and community spirit,” Buchli explained. “The dairy community embodies those same values every day.”

A Shared Commitment

As Oklahoma continues to advance in agriculture and dairy excellence, events like the Heart of America Expo highlight the close link between hard work, heritage, and innovation.

Consul Buchli was the guest speaker at the annual banquet presenting an entertaining yet inspiring talk to exhibitors and visitors of the Brown Swiss Show.

“Exciting things are happening in Oklahoma,” Buchli noted. “And if they include dedicated people, world-class cows, and the kind of hospitality that makes you feel like part of the herd — then the future of dairy looks very bright indeed.”

The article was written by Swiss Consul Rico Buchli

Photos by Ed Zweiacher



During the event, Consul Buchli had the honor of personally congratulating the first-place winner of the Showmanship event, Jayden Stull of Billings, Montana, recognizing the skill and dedication it takes to present such exceptional animals.

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Bridging Two Republics: Lessons from a Swiss-American Life

I grew up in a Swiss-American household — my father from the United States and my mother a conservative and very proud Swiss. When they met, the contrasts could hardly have been greater, and my upbringing was anything but typically Swiss or typically American. Yet over time I came to realize that the two cultures are not as far apart as they might seem. In fact, they have long inspired and learned from each other.

Benjamin Franklin often cited Switzerland as a model, and both nations built their constitutions and systems of government on remarkably similar principles: individual liberty, civic responsibility, and a deep belief in the power of the people to govern themselves.

Switzerland was founded in 1291 through the alliance (Bundesbrief) of three cantons resisting Habsburg domination. The growing Confederation grew into a formidable European power. But unity did not come easily. Switzerland has endured more internal conflicts than many realize, culminating in the last civil war of 1847, and finally adopting the Federal Constitution in 1848.

Federalism has always been both Switzerland's secret strength and its greatest challenge. The two World Wars reinforced the nation's commitment to independence and armed neutrality. Until 1989, Switzerland did not merely have an army — it was an army, with roughly 15% of the population under arms in a sophisticated militia system rivaled only by Israel's defense forces. Although this readiness softened after the fall of the Berlin Wall, recent geopolitical tensions have renewed appreciation for the Swiss model of preparedness and resilience.

At the heart of that model lie enduring principles: federalism, respect for the individual balanced by the obligation to contribute to society, cautious openness to new ideas, and an acceptance of diversity across four languages and cultures. Being Swiss is not effortless — it requires participation, discipline, and a commitment to community.

During my own years in Switzerland, I served 22 years in the Swiss Army, completing over 1,300 days of service and rising from private to captain and company commander. That experience shaped my understanding of Swiss citizenship as both a privilege and a responsibility.

Living in the United States today, I often hear that Americans could learn much from the Swiss model. Perhaps. But I believe the U.S. doesn't need to import Swiss principles — it simply needs to return to its own. The foundation is already there, embodied in the Pledge of Allegiance: "...to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

If Americans — and indeed, all free citizens — can once again honor these words, listen to one another, and defend collective decisions made in good faith, we would strengthen the very fabric of democracy.

In my view, the essence of both Swiss and American civic life can be distilled into three simple but profound habits:

1. The willingness to listen to the other side.
2. The discipline to think before speaking.
3. The humility to hope the other side will do the same.

Two republics, two traditions — united by shared ideals.

CHRISTIAN STERN, U.S. DELEGATE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

A Stroke of Luck!

Sometimes that's all it takes — and that's exactly how we all felt at our Mini Golf Tournament at PopStroke. This was our 5th edition, and we celebrated with our highest attendance ever! A big thank-you to the 17 players who came out to compete, and to the extra guest who joined us for lunch. We truly appreciate your enthusiasm and love seeing such strong participation at our events.

Now, let's talk golf!

The 17 players split into four groups and took on both the Red and Blue courses. It wasn't easy out there — some of us struggled while others clearly showed off their putting prowess. After 36 holes of golf, we gathered around a large dining table and enjoyed a delicious lunch while Lily and Urs tallied the scores. After some careful recounting and double-checking, the results were in:

- 1st Place: Chris Stern: Par (repeat champion from 2024)
- 2nd Place: Thomas Muhlethaler: +1
- 3rd Place: Hans Kessler: +4

Congratulations to Chris, Thomas, Hans, and all the players for a fantastic competition! It was a day filled with fun, laughter, and friendly rivalry — all under a glorious Southwest Florida sun.



Lily Kraft (C) & Urs Brunner (R) are handing the trophy to 1st Place Winner Chris Stern (L)

Upcoming Events:

- New Year's Brunch 2026 Saturday, January 10
- Fondue Night 2026 Saturday, February 21
- General Assembly Saturday, March 21

Please visit our website at Events & Activities - Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida for more information and to register for any given activity and event!

Text and photo by Urs Brunner

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Swiss Clubs in the U.S.

Since the earliest days of the U.S., the Swiss have tried to preserve the traditions of their home country. Wherever a few Swiss citizens met, they formed a club where they could socialize and maintain the traditions from Switzerland. Swiss clubs provide opportunities to share experiences, exchange views, and learn useful information from compatriots about Switzerland and the U.S.

"Let us be united, as two Sister Republics"

Johann Rodolph Valltravers to Benjamin Franklin, April 14, 1778

The Embassy of Switzerland is proud to present you with a link to your Swiss clubs. Contact them directly to find out about membership and their current activities.

<https://tinyurl.com/swissclubs>

Search for Heirs

The Judge of the District Court of Vallemaggia (Ticino, Switzerland), calls forward whoever considers an heir as descendant of **Elvezio Fridolino Scarpellini** – Swiss citizen born on 09.07.1871, married with Kat(i)le Toroni, emigrated to California and resident at Sonoma, deceased on 29.04.1951 to come forward and present him or herself to the Trial court within **one year** from the date of this notice and provide the documentation that gives ground to the family ties.

Any direct descendants are known.

The deceased had a sister, Maria Dominica Paolina, married with Pietro Baccalà, she had five children:

- Assunta Giacomina Ida Corina "Carrie Marie" Andrews (1876-1958)
- Joseph Kelly Baccalà (1884-1913)
- Peter J. Baccalà (1887-1946)
- Delia Elizabeth Perry (1890-1959)
- Henry Joseph Baccalà (1892/4-1937)

After the term has expired, the estate of the deceased will be devolved to the known heirs alone.

The Judge Petra Vanoni
Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia
Via Pretorio 2
Switzerland - 6675 Cevio

Swiss Choirs in the U.S.

- The United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast (USSSPC) is a parent organization for the purpose of holding singing and yodeling festivals (Saengerfest), similar to those held in Switzerland.
- Swiss Singing Society Harmonie, Los Angeles, CA www.swissharmonie.com
- Swiss Echoes, San Joaquin Valley, CA [website](#)
- Swiss Singers (San Diego County Swiss Club), San Diego, CA [website](#)
- Swiss Chorus Edelweiss, Salt Lake City, UT [website](#)
- Helvetia Alpengluehn Singing Society of Portland, OR [Facebook](#)
- Jodelklub Edelwyss of Portland, OR (541) 745-7207
- Enzian Swiss Ladies Choir, Tacoma, WA [Facebook](#) [website](#)
- The North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA) celebrates Swiss culture through music and organizes singing festivals (Saengerfest). [Facebook](#)
- Toledo Swiss Singers, Oregon, OH www.YodelToledo.com
- Schweizer Männerchor Helvetia of Allegheny City (Pittsburgh Swiss Singers), PA [Facebook](#)
- Monroe Swiss Singers, WI [Facebook](#)
- Männerchor & Jodlerklub, New Glarus, WI newglarusswissmusic@gmail.com
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