

REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

As your new Regional Editor USA, I'd like to introduce myself. I am a Chicagoan with international sensibilities, shaped in part by my German father, who hails from the North Rhine–Westphalia region. Thanks to my family's roots, I spent meaningful time growing up in Germany and traveling throughout Europe. My partner is Swiss, and together we divide our time between Chicago and Lucerne, his hometown. We met while serving together on the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International program and together led a dual artist mural project in 2024. The LUV BRIDGE can be visited on either side of the Sentisteg footbridge in Lucerne.

By profession, I am an art historian and work with Chicago-based collectors as well as domestic and international museums, institutions, galleries, artists, and private corporations, assisting with collection care and exhibition needs. Currently I am leading a substantial cataloging effort for the City of Chicago's Public Art Collection.

When not registering or traveling with priceless works of art, I enjoy exploring the historical sites and traditions

of Switzerland. My love for the country began at sixteen, when I first learned about the medieval town of Lucerne in my high school German class. Less than a year later, I found myself in Lucerne walking over the historic Chapel Bridge—hours before it caught fire. Today I have become a frequent visitor to Lucerne and have assisted the City of Lucerne with an artist exchange program and managed their Lucerne Atelier program in Chicago. Some of you may also know me as the Sponsorship Director of the Swiss Club of Chicago or by reading my past contributions to the Swiss Review.

I look forward to reading your stories and engaging your support to the Swiss Review USA in 2026. Your contributions are what make this publication successful and I encourage you to continue to participate however you can to make our regional news informative and exciting for other Swiss living in the United States.

Lastly, a huge THANK YOU must be expressed to Doris Bernath Cunningham, who's tenure with the Swiss Review USA shows how successful the role of Editor can be. Her dedication and constant support have been unwavering through this transitional period.

THERESE MARIE PESKOWITS, EDITOR

Lessons Learned From an OSA Delegate

In the spring of last year, I was elected as a delegate to the Council of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) for the Atlanta district in the United States. Like many candidates, I entered the role with only a vague understanding of what it entailed. The United States is represented on the Council by eight delegates serving approximately 83,000 Swiss citizens. Within this framework, the Atlanta district alone spans 11 U.S. states and represents roughly 17,000 Swiss nationals—an area about 50 times the size of Switzerland. Together with my colleague Olivier Brack, who is based in Texas, we cover close to two million square kilometers, a geographic scale that poses unique logistical challenges.

OSA delegates serve on a voluntary basis for four-year terms, contributing both time and personal financial resources. Each year includes three Council meetings—one virtual and two held in Switzerland—preceded by preparatory sessions at the national level. These discussions shape voting positions and policy priorities from the perspective of Swiss citizens living in the United States. Delegates also meet regularly with representatives of the Swiss federal administration, as well as members of the National Council and the Council of States. Beyond formal meetings, the role involves maintaining close ties with local institutions. Olivier Brack and I have established regular contact with the Consul General and consular staff and make a point of attending events organized by Swiss clubs throughout the district.

Why take on such a responsibility without material reward? For me, the motivation is two fold: to give back to both Switzerland and the United States, countries that have shaped my personal and professional life, and to help Swiss citizens and businesses better navigate the specificities of Swiss-American relations. The return on investment is not financial, but social: the opportunity to engage with dedicated individuals and to contribute meaningfully to a global Swiss community.

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

Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

Christmas Luncheon at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club



To enter the amazingly decorated Pavilion was a treat in itself, a splendid location, surrounded by the green of the Golf Club. One hundred and seventeen elegantly dressed members and guests, including sixteen children waiting anxiously for Santa, who arrived after a program to remember. A heartfelt speech by our Swiss Consul, Mauro Saladini, started the Holiday Lunch.

Thank you to everyone who was a part of making such a fabulous event possible. A special Danke for the Christmas concert on screen, enjoyed tremendously by all: Marc Hächler in Horgen, Switzerland (Max and Elsbeth's grandson), Shane Naughton (Susan Oake's grandson) on Saxophone who just started playing in 2025, and Sedona Ulrich on piano (Roland (President) and Chantel's daughter). As every year, the US Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" was present, happy to receive countless gifts for youngsters in need. More children than usual made Santa extra busy. Sadly, we in the back could not hear the kids! 12-year-old Fiona Reuter's words: "I liked the singing and waiting for Santa. I loved my mug and hot chocolate packets from Santa, and also that there were so many kids this year. A few were around my age." Rose Marie Sieger, a long-time member commented, "When I walked in, the spectacular setting looked like Christmas. The strings of twinkling lights cascading down from the pinnacle were magical. Tables draped with white linen and red, vibrant poinsettias adorning each table added sparkle to the Swiss Christmas Luncheon. I am so grateful to all those for their effort and time."

TRUDY WELLS-MEYER
WWW.ARIZONASWISSOCIETY.COM

California: San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes

A Celebration of Swiss Music and Culture

Join the San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes on Saturday, April 11, 2026 for a Grand Concert, Banquet, and Dance. Attendees will have the special opportunity to experience Echoes of the Alps, celebrating the rich traditions of Swiss music and culture. The event will bring together sixty five singers from five Swiss clubs across the United States, representing Ripon, Los Angeles, Portland, Salt Lake City and Tacoma. United by a shared love of Swiss choral music, these singers will gather to perform and celebrate the cultural heritage that connects them across generations and distances. This year's festival is especially meaningful as it will be celebrating the San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club's 100th Anniversary. This Centennial year highlights the club's long-standing commitment to preserving and sharing Swiss traditions. Participants and guests alike will enjoy the sounds and spirit of the Alps, showcasing the beauty of traditional Swiss songs and music, and the camaraderie that makes these gatherings so meaningful. It promises to be not only a musical event, but also a joyful celebration of friendship, tradition, and cultural pride.

For more information, please email sjvswissechoes@gmail.com or call 510-996-2377.

MARGRITH REICHMUTH, SECRETARY
WWW.SJVSCRIPONSWISS.COM

Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

A Santa Claus Afternoon in Sunny Fort Myers



Fifty two cheerful guests strolled into the festively decorated Silverlakes Clubhouse in Fort Myers, immediately proving that Santa has excellent taste in winter getaways. Before long, bartender Urs Brunner was pouring the apéro wine, and the room filled with lively chatter, laughter, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Once everyone had settled in, our president Vicki Burkhard welcomed members, guests, and honorary members, and introduced the board members—the hardworking elves who made this merry afternoon possible. Vicki gave a quick overview of the next three events and a reminder that all the information and event pictures are available on our website.

Next came the moment as the Wanderpokal was presented to Chris Stern, winner of our Mini Golf Challenge back in October—for the second year in a row. Chris then took the floor in his role as our representative to the Council of Swiss Abroad, sharing a few updates and keeping us all in the loop.

No Swiss gathering would be complete without a little drama—this time in the form of a last-minute Fleischkäse challenge. Luckily, our events director Urs Pfister stepped in with a quick vendor switch and by producing his very own homemade Fleischkäse. Crisis solved. Pia added an extra sweet note by bringing chocolate straight from Switzerland, and Santa himself surprised us with leaving a traditional Gritibänz. When dinner was served, the room fell quiet—always the clearest sign of a successful meal. Dessert followed shortly after, featuring an irresistible selection of homemade Christmas cookies baked by some of our talented members.

The afternoon flew by, and guests clearly weren't in any hurry to go home. When it was finally time to close the doors, everyone left smiling, and grateful for a wonderful afternoon spent with friends—and proof that the Swiss American community knows exactly how to celebrate Santa Claus day, Florida style.

Upcoming Events

- February 7: Fondue Night
- March 21: General Assembly and Dinner

VICKI H. BURKHARD
PRESIDENT
WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM

Florida: Swiss Club Miami

In December the members of the Swiss Club Miami were invited by the Swiss American Chamber South Florida to a welcome reception featuring Dr. Rahul Sahgal CEO of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce. He gave us an interesting outlook of the economic relationships and projects between the two countries. The event was hosted by LeverX, an innovative AI company, in their headquarter office in Brickell Miami.

The Swiss Club Miami finished the year with the traditional Christmas Brunch Party on December 14, and we welcomed around seventy guests. Everybody loved the rich and delicious lunch buffet

at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami Downtown. As every year Santa Claus surprised the kids with his presence and little gifts. At the event we participated at the Annual Voices for Children Toy Drive to benefit the children in the Miami-Dade Foster Care System, and all participants donated toys.

Also, a big THANK YOU to all our event SPONSORS! This year we are focusing on increasing the memberships by adding more activities and family friendly events. Stay tuned on for all upcoming events on our website.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and successful 2026!



Upcoming Events

- February 4: The annual General Assembly at the Mutiny Hotel in Coconut Grove
- March 29: Swiss Picnic Event at the Shelter in the Tropical Park

CHRISTINA SCHOELZEL
PUBLIC RELATIONSHIPS
WWW.SWISSCLUBMIAMI.ORG

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Georgia: Savannah Swiss Club

On December 6th the Savannah Swiss Club hosted our annual Christmas Raclette party at the home of Dr. Eric Andreae. What made this year's event so special is that we celebrated Eric's 100th birthday! Our consul Urs Brönnimann joined us along with his wife and son.

Eric is a treasured member of our group who always has interesting stories to tell and is still sharp as a tack. He hosts our August 1st party every year and is more active in our club than members half his age. He was born December 13, 1925 in Geneva and served as a cardiologist for many years in New York before retiring to Georgia. His daughter Elizabeth and her husband Hank Booth were on hand to help make sure the night was memorable.



CHRISTINE & PATRIK ROSENAST
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/665497106988448](https://www.facebook.com/groups/665497106988448).

Illinois: Consulate General of Switzerland, Chicago

Francophonie Month with the Alliance Française de Chicago

On February 27, 2026, The Alliance Française de Chicago will host their annual Soirée Commune, the Kick-Off Party of the Festival de la Francophonie. During this event, guests are invited to taste regional delights and libations from the French-speaking world. Switzerland will have its own delicious raclette room hosted by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago. Every year, they serve about 300 portions of cheese with potatoes, paprika, and pickles. Representatives of the Consulate General of Switzerland will be in attendance. Tickets to the event can be purchased on the The Alliance Française de Chicago website: www.af-chicago.org

On March 19, A Soirée Suisse will be hosted at the Alliance Française de Chicago, during which we will have a theatrical reading of letters from the book "Time Passes Too Soon", translated by Alta L. Price. These letters have been written by Alberto Giacometti to his family throughout his life, and mainly while he was in his studio in Paris. In 2025, we held three very successful events around this book and Alta L. Price. Free and open to the public with mandatory registration on the Alliance Française's website.

The mobile passport station will come to Chicago in 2026, emails have been sent out to those in the Midwest region for appointments.

Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

Fondue Fundraiser & 69th Swiss Club of Chicago Annual Meeting



The night commenced with the 69th Swiss Club of Chicago's annual board meeting, where members were briefed on the successes, events, and the financial position of the previous year, providing a comprehensive overview of the club's activities and achievements. This gathering served as an important forum for members to reflect on past accomplishments and strategize for the future, reinforcing the club's commitment to its mission and the Swiss community in the Chicagoland area.

After the board meeting concluded the doors opened for the Annual Fondue Fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors, the large raffle boasted a diverse array of prizes, ranging from traditional Swiss items to unique offerings from local businesses. Attendees enjoyed a delightful evening of camaraderie and indulged in delicious fondue, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere reflective of the Swiss Club's mission. The Consul General of Switzerland, Pascal Borno, was in attendance as was the leadership of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago. The event served as a testament to the strength of community spirit and the importance of supporting cultural initiatives.

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

Upcoming Events

- February 14: Ski Weekend in New Glarus and Tyrol Basin, WI

THERESE MARIE PESKOWITS
SPONSORSHIP DIRECTOR
SPONSORSHIP@SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM

Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association

Samichlaus: A Annual Cozy Christmas Celebration



The TCSAA 2025 ended with the annual Christmas event, Samichlaus: A Cozy Christmas Celebration. Our annual Christmas celebration took place on Sunday, December 7, returning to the cozy Oakwood Room at French Regional Park in Plymouth. A festive crowd of thirty-four guests—twenty-four adults and ten children—gathered for an afternoon of good food, warm drinks, and holiday cheer.

Guests enjoyed chili and mac & cheese, along with a delightful selection of beverages, including a hot chocolate bar, chai tea, and festive Christmas cider made with apples and oranges. A special highlight was the charming table decor: napkins folded into Swiss crosses and topped with 3D-printed reindeer with red Lindt chocolate noses. These creative touches were a big hit and brought smiles all around. While the adults chatted and caught up, the children stayed happily entertained with holiday crafts and activities as they awaited the afternoon's highlight. Before long, the sound of bells drifted into the room, and Samichlaus arrived. Each child enjoyed a personal visit and received a small gift bag filled with peanuts, clementines, Swiss chocolates, and candies.

The TCSAA extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended and contributed cookies, helping to make this gathering another wonderful tradition. A special thank you goes to our Samichlaus, René Vanoni, for once again bringing joy and holiday spirit to the celebration.

For other activities and updates, please check our Facebook page or visit our website.

Upcoming Events

- February 14: Annual Cheese Fondue Party at the Germanic American Institute

MARKUS HOESLI
VICE PRESIDENT, TCSAA
WWW.TCSAA.US.COM

New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

Meet the SBS of New York

The Swiss Benevolent Society of New York has been active since 1832 serving the Swiss-American community in the greater New York area.

Our mission is to help people of all ages live more active, independent, safer, healthier and happier lives through social service programs and regular social events for our members and friends. We support students and their families with scholarship programs.

We host monthly social meetings in Manhattan, Queens, Long Island, Westchester and New Jersey. There are also special events throughout the year and for 2026 we plan on having an Easter Brunch, our annual August 1st Dinner, a Fondue Night, Holiday Luncheons and more. We would love to welcome you at one of our events!

We offer a wide range of services to our members and friends and run a number of sizeable scholarship programs.

Visit our website www.sbsny.org for more information. You can reach us via email at info@sbsny.org or by calling us at (212) 246-0655.



SBS Holiday Luncheon December 2025

MARKUS BRUDERER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WWW.SBNY.ORG

New York: Swiss Society of New York

Swiss Gala 2026

Join us on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the iconic 583 Park Avenue in New York for the Swiss Gala 2026 — an unforgettable evening celebrating Swiss culture, excellence, and community.

We are honored to welcome Kathryn Bradney, Swiss-American

Artistic & Executive Director of the Prix de Lausanne, as our Guest of Honor. A former Principal Dancer with Maurice Béjart's Ballet Lausanne, Kathryn has built an exceptional international career as a performer, teacher, and choreographer. Since 2018, she has led the Prix de Lausanne—the world's premier ballet competition—continuing its mission to discover and nurture young talent across the globe..

This year's Gala will feature a delicious three-course dinner, including a vegan option, along with an open bar, and a scrumptious candy corner. Guests can capture memories at our photo wall and photo booth, enjoy an engaging fireside chat with our Guest of Honor, have the ability to win exclusive prizes in our exciting silent auction, and dance along the live band entertainment into the night. The evening promises plenty of opportunities to connect and celebrate in a vibrant, festive atmosphere.

Discover all event details and buy your tickets: www.swissociety.org/gala

SILVAN LEHNER
PRESIDENT, SWISS SOCIETY OF NEW YORK
WWW.SWISSOCIETY.ORG

Oklahoma: Oklahoma Swiss Club

Christmas Lunch



The Oklahoma Swiss Club Christmas lunch on December 13 was a fine and festive gathering, filled with good company, Swiss spirit, and plenty of smiles. With twenty nine members' RSVP, we enjoyed a strong turnout — including a couple of welcome new faces, always a particularly happy sight as the club continues its efforts to attract younger members.

Adding to that optimism was a very special guest, our first toddler in years! Even better, the youngest participant in the room had no trouble finding playmates, proving that Swiss hospitality clearly starts early.

The room itself was beautifully decorated for the season, featuring twinkling Christmas lights, Swiss flags, and a sweet surprise — little chocolates waiting at each table. Throughout the event, a slideshow of Swiss landscapes and scenes played in the background, adding a warm Alpine touch to the atmosphere.

The event began with a relaxed social hour, giving everyone time to catch up before sitting down to order lunch. Rico, current Chair of the Swiss Club, officially welcomed members and guests. Later, he seamlessly changed hats to address the group in his role as Honorary Consul, sharing updates and highlights from his recent trip to the Consulate General conference in Atlanta. Fun fact: the Chair of the Swiss Club and the Honorary Consul are the same person — a logistical efficiency worthy of Swiss precision.

After lunch, members were treated to a special Advent-themed picture slideshow, accompanied by a short story about the tradition of Advent calendars in Switzerland. The presentation highlighted how Advent calendars are more than just a countdown — they reflect family traditions, community spirit, and, of course, a love of chocolate and light during the dark winter days.

To conclude on a playful note, a small game was held using two chocolate Advent calendars — one for male and one for female members. Each participant opened a window and memorized their number. At the end, two numbers were drawn from a bag, and the lucky winners each received a bottle of Swiss wine — a fitting prize to end a Swiss Christmas celebration.

All in all, it was a warm, festive, and joyful afternoon that captured exactly what the Swiss Club is about: tradition, community, and a shared sense of belonging — with just the right touch of fun.

ED ZWEIACHER, BEATRICE BUCHLI, AND CONSUL GENERAL RICO BUCHLI
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/P/SWISS-CLUB-OF-OKLAHOMA-61577038536664](https://www.facebook.com/p/swiss-club-of-oklahoma-61577038536664)

Pennsylvania: Swiss Benevolent Society of Philadelphia

2025 Year End Report

We are happy to inform you that our society had a very good year through 2025. The assistance to a needy family in Philadelphia continued and we will reevaluate the situation in early 2026. The creation of the Dolf Herger Scholarship Program was a great success with the celebration at the Union League on April 2, 2025. The DHS Committee was excited to present the first award to the daughter of a member family. We appreciate all donations received to set a solid foundation to keep it going in years to come.

A fundraiser for an attempt to pay off a student loan for one of the daughters of our supported family had a great response and we hope donations will continue to arrive until the end of this year. Thanks to all of you who helped us with this fundraiser.

If you are new to the society, we urge you to visit our website for more information and we hope you will decide to become a member in 2026. On behalf of our Directors and Members I wish you a very Happy and Healthy 2026.

DOLF HERGER
 PRESIDENT SBS PHILADELPHIA
WWW.SBSPHILADELPHIA.ORG

Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, Philadelphia

Annual Christmas Party with Fondue Dinner on St. Niklaus Day



This year, we were very excited to celebrate our Annual Christmas Party with Fondue Dinner on St. Niklaus Day, December 6th, at the beautifully decorated William Penn Fire Hall in Hulmeville, PA. Close to one hundred and eighty guests enjoyed a delicious fondue neuchateloise, cooked by our awesome fondue team of Karl, Marshall, Justin, Harini and Tom. Santa arrived in a red truck and the kids went crazy for excitement. Watching their happiness when they receive their hand sewn Santa Bag is always a big highlight. Listening to the Silent Night played on the trumpet by Colette and Michael started the Advent Season in a touching way with many memories of how it was back home when we were younger. Thank you to all the organizers and volunteers who made our Fondue Dinner celebration a beautiful one. Happy New Year and good health to all!

DANIELA K. KOVALCIK
 PRESIDENT
WWW.MYSWISSCLUB.ORG

Your donations to the "Swiss Review" are more important than ever

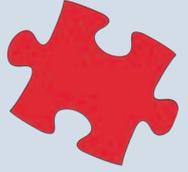
Reader donations—whether large or small—already play a vital role in supporting the "Swiss Review", and we are deeply grateful for your generosity. At this moment, your support is more important than ever. The federal government has announced reductions in subsidies across multiple areas, including funding for the "Swiss Review", placing increasing pressure on our ability to continue producing and distributing the magazine as we have in the past. As a result, the financial margin that allows us to offer the print edition free of charge is becoming ever narrower.

With your continued help, however, we can safeguard the future of the "Swiss Review" and ensure that it remains a trusted, independent voice for Swiss readers abroad. Your donation directly supports the high-quality journalism our editorial team is committed to delivering—journalism that informs, connects, and reflects the diverse perspectives of the Swiss community worldwide.

Your solidarity also helps make it possible to publish the Regional News five times a year instead of four, an expansion that has been warmly welcomed by readers in our region. By donating, you are investing not only in the sustainability of the "Swiss Review", but also in the continued strength and vitality of our shared platform. We warmly invite you to show your support and help secure the future of the "Swiss Review" for years to come.

TERESE MARIE PESKOWITS, REGIONAL EDITOR USA

1/800,000 Fifth Switzerland Puzzle



Swiss Review is bringing the "Fifth Switzerland" to life—one story at a time—through a growing series of short, personal portraits of Swiss citizens living around the world. Each contribution represents a unique piece of a larger picture, capturing the diversity, experiences, and perspectives of the Swiss abroad. Together, these individual stories form a rich and multifaceted portrait of the global Swiss community.

These portraits are being carefully collected and showcased in a special Swiss Review dossier titled the "Fifth Switzerland" Puzzle, where readers can explore how Swiss identity is lived and expressed beyond the country's borders. The project highlights the connections that unite Swiss people worldwide, while also celebrating the many different paths their lives have taken.

To learn more about the project and see how the puzzle is coming together, visit www.revue.link/puzzle3. If you would like to contribute your own story and become a piece of the "Fifth Switzerland" Puzzle, we warmly invite you to get in touch. To find out how you can participate and help complete this collective portrait of Swiss life abroad contact: swissreviewusa@gmail.com.



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