

# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear Readers,

This is the last regional issue before summer. The upcoming July issue of the Swiss Review won't have a regional section. The next regional issue will be published at the end of September 2019. Please note that contributions for this issue are due August 19.

My husband and I will be volunteering at the Farragut State Park

located at Lake Pend Oreille in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains in Northern Idaho. The park grounds were formerly the Farragut Naval Training Station, a major training base of the U.S. Navy during World War II. Over 293,000 sailors received basic training at Farragut during its 30 months of existence. Should you happen to be in the area, don't hesitate to call me.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer time.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

### Bern, Switzerland: Swiss-American Delegates are Guests at the Bundeshaus and the Rathaus in Bern

The seed for a direct exchange between the global delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad and the Parliamentary Group Swiss Abroad was planted during the August 2017 Congress of the Swiss Abroad proceedings in Basel. After a successful first meeting in 2018 that exchange was continued at the Federal Palace in Bern on March 21st 2019.

The goal of the meeting was to facilitate informal exchanges between the two institutions covering key topics reflecting the needs and interests of the 760,200 Swiss nationals living abroad. Discussion points included topics such as:

- The official government position in regards to internal affairs of host countries
- Treatment of foreign dignitaries during official visits to Switzerland
- Being ambassadors of tolerance
- Cyber security concerns about making e-voting available to all registered Swiss residing abroad as well as the 2019 federal elections which will take place towards the end of the year.

National Councilor Carlo Sommaruga, Co-President of the Parliamentary Group, moderated the discussion. The mutually beneficial meeting concluded with a reception in the "Galerie des Alpes".

On March 23rd, seven U.S. delegates joined their global colleagues at the Rathaus in Bern for their spring meeting of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA). On any given day, the Rathaus is the political center of the Canton and City of Bern. However, on this particular day, the doors were opened to welcome the Swiss delegates from around the world. The purpose of this semi-annual meeting is to raise awareness, represent and, at times, even fight for the multifaceted needs and interests of the Swiss living abroad. Some key agenda items were:

- The current state of affairs pertaining to a framework agreement between Switzerland and the European Union
- E-voting for all Swiss Abroad
- Equal access to PostFinance services for Swiss nationals living

abroad

- The Swiss Compensation Fund - practical tips
- Federal elections 2019 - manifesto and recommendations ([www.aso.ch/en/politics/federal-elections-2019](http://www.aso.ch/en/politics/federal-elections-2019))
- Preparations for the election of the CSA 2021 - working group representation of the CSA
- The Memorial for the Swiss Victims of National Socialism - historical framework and conceptual cornerstones
- Value creation of Swiss nationals abroad
- Events such as the Congress 2019 in Montreux and the Fête des Vignerons
- Archiving documents of Swiss Clubs as well as recognition of associated societies (Tucson Swiss Club, the Pro Ticino Spagna, Andorra and Portogallo, Macao)

Calling all fellow Swiss: we invite you to make plans to join us at the 97th Congress of the Swiss Abroad in Montreux, August 16th - 18th, 2019! More info at [www.aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/congress-2019](http://www.aso.ch/en/offers/congress-of-the-swiss-abroad/congress-2019)

DAVID W. MÖRKER  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, ORGANIZATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD  
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From left to right: David Mörker, Max Hächler, Jeannette Seifert-Wittmer, Tom Neidecker, Franco Zimmerli, Nathan Kunz, Jean-Pierre Mittaz

**Florida: Swiss Club Miami**

**Picnic** - On Sunday, April 7th our annual picnic took place at the Tropical Park and once again we had a great turnout with close to 100 people attending. A little shower did not bother - Miamians never use an umbrella because the sun is usually back in half an hour or less. The kids had so much fun on the bouncing castle and with the games. I don't know what it is, but kids seeing other kids in Swiss T-shirts seems to create a great camaraderie and they all enjoy playing together.

Swiss-style Bratwursts and Cervelats from our usual expert butcher in Fort Lauderdale were very popular and expertly grilled by our BBQ master Thomas Schmied. Nicole Unternaehrer and Ronald Schmid were amazing volunteers, but the biggest thank you goes to the board members of the Swiss Club Miami: their endless work and dedication to support the Swiss Community in South Florida is outstanding and therefore a big bravo to Roland Bandelier, Astrid Artho, Anne-Claire Minet, Christian Gschwind, Patrick Luthy, Marko Naegeli and Mariana Wachter (the latter having sent us a Picnic greeting from her travels during that weekend).



**Raclette on the Beach** - Our 2nd "Raclette on the Beach" was held March 14th and 99 adults and 3 kids came to the prestigious Setai Hotel in Miami Beach. Kudos to our host, the GM of the Setai Hotel, Alex Furrer, and of course the Swiss Chef for an unforgettable Swiss cookout including Swiss wine. An applause also goes to our sponsors ABB and Gourmet Foods International for the delicious Raclette. Not to forget the exciting fire dancer who heated up the night with Swiss hip hop music in the background!

Everyone left with Swiss feelings and some went home while others left for the bar. And some went home at 11:00 pm and others at 3:00 am! We love when the Swiss community gets together and has fun!



**Sunday morning Kayak** - March 10th at 10:00 am 22 people were ready to head off on kayaks at Deering Point, Palmetto Bay. The weather was perfect, we all had a lot of fun and got to know some unknown parts of the few remaining Miami wetlands. There was even some competition developing between some of the kayakers, but I won't say no more . . . . .



**Onshore-raised Salmon Farm visit in Homestead Miami** - On March 2nd Atlantic Sapphire has given the Swiss Club Miami members this unique opportunity to visit a 100 percent onshore-raised salmon site. This is an exciting and totally new concept and will eventually revolutionize the way organic salmon is raised. The Norwegian company that is constructing this 3 phase project is investing over \$800 million. The 380,000-square-foot facility will hatch, grow and process strictly organic salmon and plans to start its production still this year!



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

January 6, The Epiphany, King's Day, 12th Night, however you refer to it, kicks off carnival season in New Orleans. There are several celebrations held across the city from King Cake parties, to formal balls, streetcar parades, and masked celebrations. It's the beginning



Swiss 12th Night Revelers



Swiss maskers riding in Iris

of "King Cake" season going on through to Mardi Gras Day, March 5 this year, making it one of the longer carnival seasons. Our celebrations were as vast and diverse as our group itself. Along with the variety of king cakes enjoyed throughout the season, there is no shortage of other "parade food" enjoyed during Mardi Gras. With the long days, and even longer nights spent parade watching, bead catching, street dancing, attending balls and parties, easy "finger foods" and "large pot" meals like fried chicken, jambalaya, Po'boys, boiled crawfish, grillades and grits, muffulettas, gumbo, red beans and rice, and the list goes on, become "aliments du jour". Specialty cocktails such as Blood Mary's, Brandy Milk Punch, French 75, daiquiris, ice coffee, along with a LOT of water also hold their place of distinction, day or night during Mardi Gras.

Whether marching or riding on a float in the parade or taking it all in watching from a balcony or on the street, it's a celebration like no other. It's a family affair, for young and old, surrounded by friends, new and ancient, filled with music, fun, feathers and glitter, lots and lots of glitter. We like to remind visitors, especially first timers "Remember to pace yourself, Mardi Gras is a marathon not a sprint".

On, Sunday, March 17, our Treasurer Don Schwarzenbach generously arranged for a screening at Gulf Coast Bank & Trust of the documentary film "New Orleans Concerto" by long time SASNOLA member, our former Vice President, musician and composer extraordinaire, Roger Dickerson. Members snacked on popcorn, soda and a variety of movie candy while thoroughly enjoying this extraordinary film.

The screening was held in advance of a performance of one of Roger's compositions, "Orpheus and his Slide Trombone", which was performed a few days later at the St. Louis Cathedral. The performance of Roger's piece was part of "Direct From New Orleans" concert presented by The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and The Historic



Right to Left: Composer Roger Dickerson, Roger Dickerson II, Pauline Lambert, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Carbo (Roger's sister and brother-in-law), Mrs. Paula Grieves and Mrs. Carole Schlatter of Roswell N.M. (former President and Founding members, both, of the Roswell Jazz Festival in 2005 with Roger Dickerson and Frank Schlatter, late husband of Carole Schlatter).



Roger Dickerson preparing to conduct The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra performing "Orpheus and his Slide Trombone" at the St. Louis Cathedral

**New Orleans Collection.**

As stated by Consul Alexandra Mora: "It was a beautiful piece, narrated by Norman Robinson, which translated the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice into the vernacular of New Orleans." Consul Mora also noted: "One other small but interesting Swiss connection was an organ piece, called Banjo, which was performed by John Walthausen who studied in Basel."

Festival season is in full swing in New Orleans. We are enjoying the food and music and the opportunity to delight in our glorious spring weather as most of these celebrations take place outdoors. We are welcoming a couple of Swiss bands to New Orleans in May: Klaus Johann Grobe at Gasa Gasa on May 5 and the sounds of Virum at Southport Hall on May 19. These are just a couple of the bands from Switzerland that will be touring the South this year.

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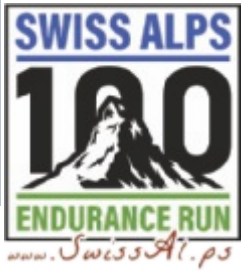
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**Southern California/Southern Switzerland: Swiss Alps 100**



What does Southern Switzerland and Southern California have in common? The Swiss Alps 100, which is a 50KM, 100KM, and 160KM ultramarathon running event held every August in the midst of the Swiss Alps.

The Swiss Alps 100 is organized by Jakob Herrmann who grew up in the Oberwallis but has been living in California for 20 years. Jakob, being a runner himself with almost 100 ultramarathon finishes, had a vision for a race in the Swiss Alps back in 2015. The inaugural event was in 2017 and this event has now grown to over 200 participants from at least 19 countries worldwide.

Having grown up in Southern Switzerland and missing it living in Southern California, it's Jakob's way to allow runners from all over the world to experience this incredibly scenic environment by running it. The three different courses are specifically laid out to have runners not only run inside the green valleys but also go up to the Alps where they can see the beauty from the top.

The start and finish for all three distances are in Münster right next to the airport. Starting on Saturday, August 17, 2019, at 12:00 pm, we will be offering grilled food and cold drinks. If you're close by, we would welcome you to come by and cheer all the runners at the finish line after they have run 50KM, 100KM or an incredible 160KM. More info at [www.SwissAlps.ps](http://www.SwissAlps.ps).



JAKOB HERRMANN  
SWISS ALPS 100 RACE DIRECTOR  
[WWW.SWISSAL.PS](http://WWW.SWISSAL.PS)

**From the Swiss Alps to the Sierra Nevadas: The Memoirs of Heidi Thut Siegel**

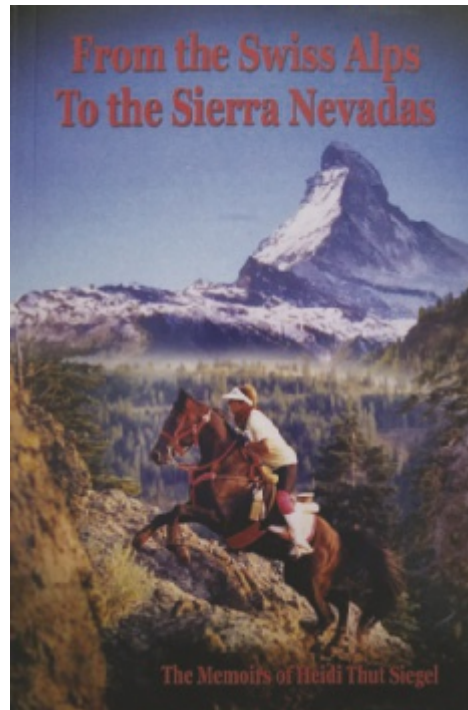
Heidi was born in Baden, about 16 miles from Zurich, in Switzerland in 1933. She writes about her life in vivid details in her self-published book. Heidi describes her writing style as 'the way I talk'.

Her life's journey brought her to the U.S. in 1962. She has lived in Boston, Palm Beach/FL, New York, Chicago, Palos Verdes (Southern California) and has ended up in Fernley in Northern Nevada. She has traveled extensively all over the U.S. and the world.

Heidi got married in 1964 and through her husband got involved with harness horse racing and horse breeding. They have two children and four grand children and were very successful with their business.

When the marriage ended after 20 years, Heidi was devastated and to stop thinking about her situation during that time, she had started in endurance riding with 50-mile races and by 1983 she managed her first 100-mile race over the Sierra Nevada mountains. Heidi has been rescuing trotters from the slaughterhouse and finds a good home for them ever since she got involved in the racing business.

For a copy of her book, contact Heidi directly at [hspintos@att.net](mailto:hspintos@att.net) or 775-575-2358.



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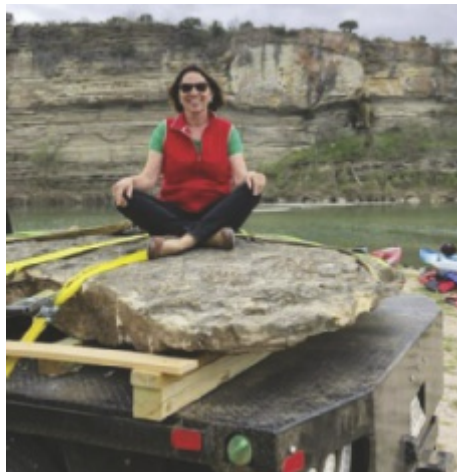
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**Texas:** Swiss American Society of Houston

The Swiss American Society is live and well in Houston with its various events, involvements and partnerships with other associations.

One great event was a trip to Mason about 5 1/2 hours from Houston, organized by Prof. Andre Droxer and Lilian Tade, President of the Swiss American Society. Andre Droxler is the Professor at the Department of Earth Science and currently the Track Director of the Science Master's Program - Subsurface Geoscience. His research has focused on studying the morphology of and the sediments accumulating on slopes and basin floors surrounding coral reefs and carbonate platforms.



Lilian Tade, president of the Swiss American Society Houston, is sitting on the pre-Cambrian stone

The trip with the Swiss American Society was to enjoy the beautiful location at the Honey Creek Ranch but also to walk and discover the cliffs, go on the raft in the river, and view the cliffs overlooking the river. Those cliffs were once underwater, eons ago, and formed part of the North American coastline and offshore reefs during the early Paleozoic/Upper Cambrian period.

During the trip on March 22, the Swiss members with the Professor came about a very heavy stone that dates back to that pre-Cambrian period. The stone was transported to Houston for research.



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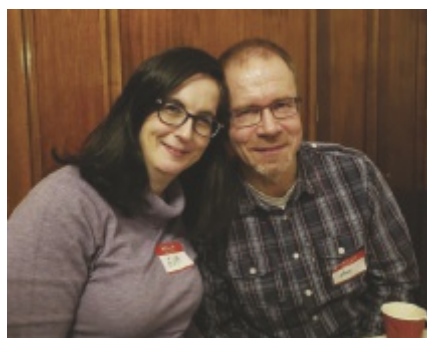
**Minnesota:** Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Carnival / Cheese Fondue Party 2019 - Despite the wintery conditions on the day of the party, we were able to celebrate at the Germanic American Institute on February 23, 2019. Unfortunately, some of our members from southern Minnesota were not able to



make it due to some roads being closed. Nevertheless, this has become one of our most popular events of our club, and it was sold out even before the deadline! During the social gathering, many members took the opportunity to talk with each other and share stories of previous winter storms.

Our kitchen crew and event volunteers prepared the delicious traditional Cheese Fondue. It was not an easy task since there were



around 15 caquelons that had to be ready all at the same time. However, our experienced kitchen crew rose to the occasion and fulfilled the task without problems. The fondue was accompanied by some excellent baguettes. For those who

had saved room, there was a great dessert buffet including contributions from many of the members.

Many thanks to everyone who made this event such a success. There are too many to list here, but we do appreciate our great kitchen crew and the rest of the helpers!

This is an event our members look forward to every year and I'm sure the party in 2020 will prove to be another success.

**Sausage Sale** - A couple years ago we started a sausage sale for our members. We wanted to give our members the opportunity to have good Swiss Brats or Cervelats from the grill in the coming season. Based on the number of sausages ordered, it seems that our members appreciate the opportunity.

Yes, that's Minnesota - within a short time after a big winter storm, we are talking again about grilling.

MARKUS HOESLI  
BOARD MEMBER TCSAA  
WWW.SWISSCLUBMN.ORG

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

The general meeting was held Sunday, March 10, at the St. Andrew Golf Club in Punta Gorda. After a brief meet and greet cocktail, President Maria von Atzigen opened the meeting and welcomed all. A condensed version of the minutes of past year's annual meeting was presented by the Secretary. The President then gave a brief overview of the events of the past year and a preview of up-coming club activities. The Treasurer's and Auditor's reports were presented and approved.

Three members left the board of directors: the treasurer, the secretary and one director. They were thanked by the president for their service and given a bouquet of roses, an award certificate and a thank you gift. Three new club members were elected with applause to replace them. The remaining



board members were re-elected for another two years, and so was the President.

After an interesting discussion the membership decided that in the future official club business will be conducted in English.

After the close of the meeting everybody enjoyed a fine dinner and lively discussion.

On Sunday, April 7, members and guests enjoyed a visit to Rosy's Tomorrow Heritage Farm in North Ft. Myers. This is an all organic farm with a variety of animals, fruit trees, vegetables, and plants. The weather was perfect and the 27 members and guests enjoyed the setting, the music and the perfect food. The open space gave the right ambiance. After strolling around the farm it was time for a hearty lunch. Everybody was able to choose from a large offering. The sausages made from the Wattle pigs and the eggs were delicious. And not to forget the homemade bread!

For more information on our club, go to the webpage: [www.swissamericanclub.com](http://www.swissamericanclub.com).

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ROSMARIE STROTHER  
PAST SECRETARY  
[WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM](http://WWW.SWISSAMERICANCLUB.COM)

**Philadelphia: New Helvetic Society (NHS)**

The first ever winter weekend getaway for the New Helvetic Society took place at beautiful Elk Mountain, PA, on the third weekend of February 2019. Justin Kulp, Laura Sturzenegger and Karina Kovalcik were the driving force for getting the next generation involved with a new event. 50 people enjoyed a delicious Swiss Raclette on Saturday night and the camaraderie and happiness of the members was palpable.



Some people enjoyed skiing on Elk Mountain, others went for walks, some played Jass and some more were enjoying the two hot tubs. Young and old had a wonderful time and as one of the members remarked: "The winter weekend getaway was not an event but an experience!" It is with great pleasure that the Board is looking forward to organizing the next one in February of 2020.

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](http://www.myswissclub.org) and [www.sbsphiladelphia.org](http://www.sbsphiladelphia.org)



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**Texas:** Swiss Community of Texas

The Swiss Community of Texas had two Raclette parties. The first one was in February at “Times Ten Cellars” in Dallas. We had quite a good turn-out despite the fact that it was the same day as the “Academy Awards”. Our Racleur and his assistant did a great job melting and scraping the cheese, keeping the supply chain of potatoes and pickles going, and making sure nobody left hungry. Some members brought delicious desserts to round off the evening. The leftover cheese ended up amongst the raffle prizes, which included two gift baskets and some bottles of wine.




The second Raclette party was in Spicewood (near Austin) in March at the private residence of one of our event organizers and had a fantastic turn-out! The hosts did a miraculous job of organizing and decorating everything. People came from up to 250 miles away to participate at this event. Everybody had a splendid time!

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**Nevada:** Swiss Club of Northern Nevada

The Swiss Club of Northern Nevada had its General Meeting February 24, 2019. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious Raclette dinner. The event was well attended and everybody had a fun time and went home satisfied.

OTTO KLAY, PRESIDENT  
OK2LMKR@AOL.COM



Otto Klay: "Raclette anyone?"



Marguerite, Tricia, Gerda, Ute



The Dobbert family and Osi

**Forum Schweizer Geschichte Schwyz.**  
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An exhibition, developed in collaboration with the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, that looks at the history of the Swiss Abroad with a special focus on the life histories of individual emigrants from the past and present day.

**SWISS REPRESENTATIONS:**

ADDRESSES OF ALL SWISS EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEB-SITE: [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) Click on "Representations"

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**REGIONAL NEWS 2019:**

Number	Deadline USA	On Website	Mailed from CH	Arrival in US
1/2019	December 30, 2018	January 23, 2019	January 31, 2019	approx. 3rd week of February
2/2019	February 18, 2019	March 20, 2019	March 28, 2019	approx. 3rd week of April
3/2019	April 15, 2019	May 22, 2019	May 28, 2019	approx. 3rd week of June
4/2019	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>			
5/2019	August 19, 2019	September 18, 2019	September 26, 2019	approx. 3rd week of October
6/2019	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>			