Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO

Newsletter

www.arizonaswisssociety.com

Visit us on Facebook

Follow us on twitter

WINTER 2019/2020



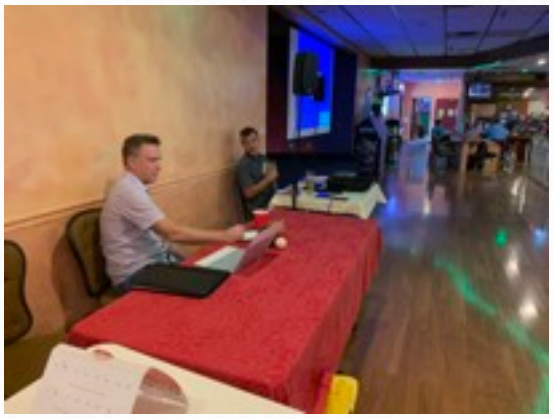
Engelberg



1st of August Celebration

At the Arizona American Italian Club
Saturday, August 3th 2019















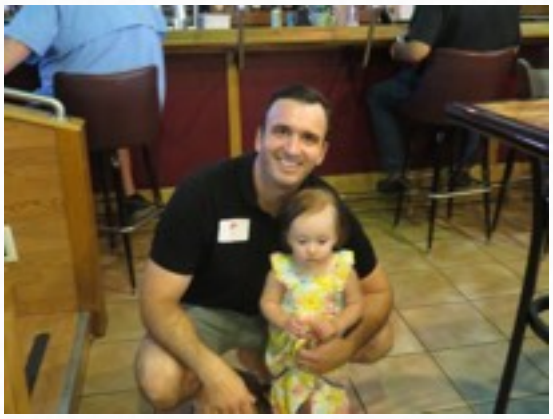


















Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society;



Well, if you're like me then you're eagerly looking forward to cooler nights so that we can bring out the fondue or raclette in front of a fire at home. The Danish have a word "hygge" (sounds sort of like whouugah) and they've elevated it to a bit of an art form. We have a German word for it "gemütlichkeit" and the best translation in English is maybe "coziness" but the Danes really have it down. So, I'd like to propose you try your hand at Swiss hygge this fall. It might involve a dark and cold night, loved ones, fondue, Swiss hot chocolate, candles, a fire and blankets.



We had a spectacular time at Swiss Fall Fest on October 12. See my e-mail report that I sent right after the event if you weren't able to attend. We welcomed our Consul General Thomas Schneider who came with his wife Yibei all the way from San Francisco. Consul General Schneider introduced our new Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Phoenix Dr. Werner Bonadurer who is a clinical professor of finance at Arizona State University. Previously, Dr. Bonadurer had sixteen years of international senior management experience with UBS. Dr. Bonadurer has an MBA degree from Wharton and a Doctor of Business Administration from the University of St. Gallen. He has lived and worked in the U.S., Europe and Asia and is fluent in English and German.

Our annual Christmas party is right around the corner. You would have gotten the email with reservation already. Please do R.S.V.P. as soon as you can but certainly by December 02. Sibylle is doing a fantastic job as one of the activities chairs coordinating reservations for events and printing off nametags and that all takes a bit of time so please help her out. The $35 adult rate is subsidized by $20 or so, in other words you get the value of your entire Swiss Society membership dues back (or more if you're a senior or family) if you attend the event. We can have such low pricing because of returns on our investments. I'm telling you, membership in the Arizona Swiss Society is the best investment you can make! We have a room occupancy maximum this year so R.S.V.P. today.



Thanks as always to Sylvia Brunner Reichen who edits our Valley eCHo. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of this edition.

Yours in Swiss love and affection,

John Thornton, President

Arizona Swiss Society

Visit us on:

www.facebook.com/ArizonaSwissSociety

Visit us on Facebook

Follow us on:

www.twitter.com/ArizonaSwiss

Follow us on twitter

Culture & Activities in Engelberg



Engelberg is an alpine town in Central Switzerland. In the center is Kloster Engelberg, a 12th-century monastery. Trails weave up Mount Titlis, and ski runs zigzag down, while revolving Titlis Rotair gondola-lift leads to the summit, the Titlis Cliff Walk suspension bridge and a glacial park. Trübsee, a glacial lake, lies nearby. Northeast, Rigi-dalstock mountain's steep face is lined with via ferratas (climbing ladders).

Things to Do



Skiing, or Snowboarding, or Cross-Country Skiing
Covering an altitude difference of 2,000 meters from the glacier to the village down below, this mountain is the perfect destination for skiers and snowboarders. The longest downhill run in the TITLIS ski area covers more than 12 kilometers and an altitude of 2,000 meters. Boasting 82 kilometers of slopes, the Engelberg-TITLIS ski area offers plenty of variety. Most slopes are snow-safe from December to April. Skiing is possible on the glacier from October through until May. The lower-lying slopes around Trübsee, Gerschnialp and Untertrübsee play host to a selection of easier runs.



Tobogganing on Titlis
Covering a distance of 3,500 meters and an altitude of 250 meters, our toboggan run is guaranteed to set pulses racing. Once you have your toboggan pass, you can have as many goes as you like. The toboggan day pass includes a ride to Trübsee. This means you can treat yourself to a delicious meal at Trübsee restaurant.
At the Trübsee snow park, you can whiz down the slope on a snow-tube, mini-bob or sit-ski.



Snowshoe Hiking / Schneeschuhlaufen in Engelberg
Your snowshoes will help you make great progress through the snow. Picture the scene: The forests and meadows have been coated with a layer of fresh snow, the sun is shining in the pale blue sky. It's the perfect time to strap on your snowshoes and make yeti-like tracks in the powdery white stuff.
Two beautiful snowshoe trails beckon on the slopes of TITLIS.



Unique ice skating in igloo at Trübsee
Beginning this winter, you can ice skate at 1,800 meters above sea level in the unique atmosphere of our igloo at Trübsee middle station. The
Igloo on Ice is free and open daily throughout the winter season.

From Christmas to the end of March, cable cars will also be running on a Saturday evening between Engelberg and Trübsee. In addition to Trübsee snow park, the ice disco will also be open on Saturday nights. Celebrate your Saturday evening dancing on ice in our igloo.



Snow-park

This fun snowmobile driving experience is unique in Switzerland. Turn the throttle and race through the snow with your friends. Rent an electric snowmobile and have great fun racing around the closed circuits. Reach your drifting limits and use all your physical strength to negotiate the snowmobile around the tight bends. The unique driving experience and exciting racing atmosphere will make the snowXpark the highlight of any team outing this winter.



Candlelight Dinner

The moon shines big and bright in the clear night sky. The snow glistens, the stars sparkle, and the lights of Engelberg shine brightly in the valley below. Inside the Panorama Restaurant, the atmosphere is intimate and homely. The room is bathed in warm candlelight and soft music plays in the background, providing the perfect setting in which to enjoy a delicious fondue chinois with your loved one or close friends. An unforgettable evening is guaranteed. Fondue chinois à discrétion including cable car ride.

Top Events



VIESSMANN FIS World-cup Ski-jumping Engelberg

Every December, the world's top ski jumpers gather in the village of Engelberg. The FIS Ski Jumping World Cup will take place on December 21 and 22, and as a final test of form before the world-famous Four Hills Tournament, it promises to be an exciting event. Come and cheer on the Swiss athlete and the rest of the athletes with us! On the Gross-Titlis ski jump, spectators will be closer to the ski jumpers than ever before.

150 years ago, a Basler discovered the DNA



Bild: Wikimedia

Friedrich (Fritz) Miescher was born in 1844 in Basel Switzerland and was a Swiss physician and biologist. His father was an professor for anatomy and physiology in Basel and Berne. Friedrich's uncle, Wilhelm His, was a well-known embryologist. So it was not strange that he stepped into his father's shoes and studied medicine in Basel and Göttingen Germany.

Actually, he wanted to examine the proteins that make up cells. The Basler Friedrich Miescher discovered the DNA 150 years ago, triggering a revolution, however, it began to roll very slowly. When Miescher started his work on leukocytes, proteins were considered to be the main component of cells. Nothing was known about the DNA, the genetic (hereditary) molecule. It was not until 1944 that the US researchers Oswald Avery, Maclyn McCarty and Colin McLeod were able to prove that DNA, and not proteins as previously assumed, is the carrier of genetic information. In 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick decoded the double-helix structure of DNA based on data from Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins.

In the following decades, scientists developed methods to decipher the order of the building blocks of DNA, cracked the "Code", represented by this order, learned to reproduce specific sections of the genetic material and installed as a blueprint in bacteria or yeast cells to make proteins for medical to produce applications. For example, the decoding of the order of the DNA building blocks and, consequently, of the genome of humans allowed them to discover the genetic causes of diseases, to incorporate analogous gene modifications into the genetic material of experimental animals and to investigate the mechanisms of disease in more detail. This enabled the development of therapies.

Although Miescher has been at the root of these developments, his name is far less well-known than those of Watson and Crick, who decoded the DNA double helix. In Tübingen, however, his legacy sounds in the form of a Friedrich Miescher Laboratory, in Basel by the Friedrich Miescher Institute (FMI). Both were launched around 100 years after the discovery of the Basel scientist.

In the end, Miescher remained loyal to his place of birth: in 1872, he took over the professorship of physiology at the University of Basel, which his father had previously held. Despite his pioneering research, he was very reluctant to publish, as the FMI writes on his website. As part of his research career, he published only nine papers; many of his ideas have been handed down only through letters to friends and colleagues. In 1895 he died of tuberculosis at the age of 51.

It would be years before the role of nucleic acids were recognized. Miescher, himself, believed that proteins were the molecules of heredity. However, Miescher laid the groundwork for the molecular discoveries that followed.

Scottsdale International Film Festival Showed a Swiss Movie

THE REFORMER (ZWINGLI - A LIFE'S PORTRAIT)



Screening Dates and Times:
Sunday, November 3 - 1:25 PM &
Sunday, November 10 - 11:00 AM

Director: Stefan Haupt

Summary: Zurich in 1519. The young widow, Anna, is leading a meager existence between her fear of the Church and worries about her three children's future when the arrival of one man causes a stir in the city. The young priest Ulrich Zwingli takes up his new position at Zurich Cathedral and triggers heated discussions with his sermons against the abuses of the Catholic Church. He inspires hope instead of fear and oppression and insists on education and charity. Zwingli's revolutionary ideas initially frighten Anna, but then a love affair quickly develops between the two. Zwingli's success becomes dangerous within a very short time. His ideas almost trigger a civil war, with a struggle for power and sovereignty beginning at the same time within the inner circles of the movement. Zwingli has to make some difficult decisions when Catholic forces begin to form across Europe. Is he ultimately prepared to die for the Reformation, thereby sacrificing his love?

Principal Cast: Max Simonischek, Sarah Sophia Meyer, Anatole Taubman



Some Arizona Swiss Society members saw the film and afterwards went to a nearby restaurant together.

They had fun!









Advertise in the Valley eCho

Business card size	$ 10.00 per insert,	(no discount)
¼ page	$ 25.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
½ page	$ 50.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
Full page	$ 100.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off



Fall-Fest

Golden Eagle Park, Fountain Hill
Sunday, October 12th 2019
Over 100 people including helpers attended the Picnic

Picture by Alain Butzberger































WorldSkills Competition in Kazan 2019
Switzerland Ranks High



Switzerland dominates at the WorldSkills competition in Kazan: 16 medals, 5 world titles!

The Swiss national team has once again proved its mettle, taking home 16 medals including 5 world championship titles from the WorldSkills competition in Kazan, Russia. The five gold medals were won by restoration specialist Martina Wick (Arnegg / SG), baker-pastry chef Sonja Durrer (Kerns / OW), plate maker Renato Meier (Seengen / AG), electronics engineer Florian Baumgartner (Biel / BE) and the two landscape gardeners Mario Enz (Giswil / OW) and Fabian Hodel (Oberkirch / LU).

Go to ttps://results.worldskills.org/results?event=364&offset=0&member=10 for complete Swiss results and to see all the gold, silver, bronze and medallion for excellence awards. You'll be impressed.

Our SwissSkills Team is among the best in the world.
Each year our professional national SwissSkills team participates in either WorldSkills (odd years) or Euro-Skills (even years). For decades, Switzerland has been one of the leading nations in international profes-sional championships - thanks in part to our Swiss vocational training system which ensures high-quality, practical and versatile basic vocational training. However, as international competition has become increasingly severe, additional preparation for World and EuroSkills competitions has become increasingly important in recent years.

Young professionals can only participate in WorldSkills and EuroSkills once, and there is an age restriction (WorldSkills 22 years / EuroSkills 25 years). They are supervised and coached by an expert in their respective professions during the intensive several-month long preparation phase. The support of the employer and the professional association as well as the personal environment plays a very central role for the members of the SwissSkills team.

Congratuations, we are proud of these young Swiss people!



Totally Medaillen for the swissSkils Team

Gold	5
Silver	5
Bronce	6
Diploma	13

Jeniffer Lutz from Tusson Swiss Club just published a new children's book about Dust Bunny Tales, Curious Claire, illustrated by Jenny Zandona. Written with curious children in mind and with a focus on exploration and learning, this engaging rhyming book is a fun addition to anyone's personal library. Among the illustrations are clues that the story takes place in the beautiful Sonoran Desert and other elements designed to spark a child's curiosity. It is perfect for small children and early readers.



Jennifer@DustBunnyTales.com
www.DustBunnyTales.com



Club News / Sunshine Committee

Scottsdale Progress

LOCAL AUTHOR FINALIST IN NATIONAL SHORT STORY CONTEST

Award for Trudy Well-Meyer from Switzerland is a AZ Swiss Society Member



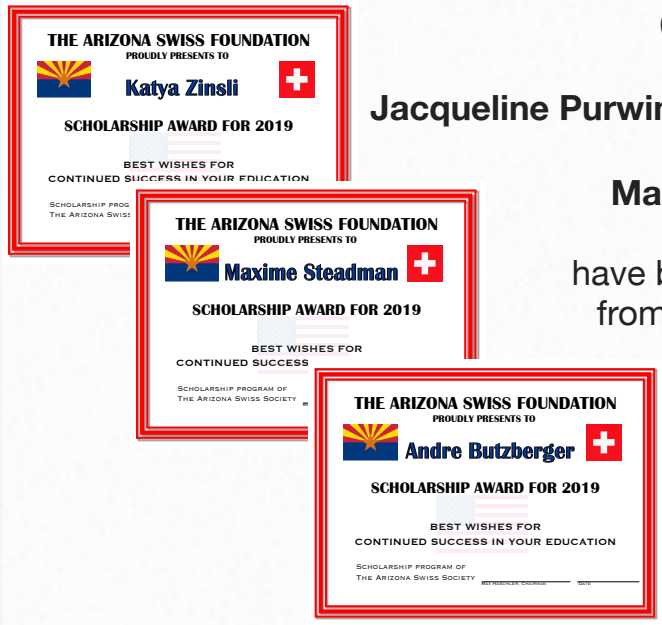
Trudy Wells-Meyer has won yet another prestigious writing award. Her short story, ‘The Ring’, has been chosen to be included in the third edition of Stories through the Ages Baby Boomers Plus.
Trudy Wells-Meyer lives in Scottsdale AZ with her husband. Trudy is a successful retired hair designer and writes in her second language. Writing has become her American life since 9/11 when she wrote her first story: “The Power of Prayer” one of her readers claimed is of rare storytelling that makes one believe in fate . . . and God. (in her upcoming book: “Some Things Are Simply Meant to Be”) Trudy also writes Poetry, the most precise form of expression that language has given her, when emotions find words, published many times. Her first poem written in 2008 won 1st prize and 250.00.
Growing up in a small, modest village in Switzerland, in an old house, where even dreaming had its limits, she never knew of her country’s admired beauty worldwide. The power of possibilities took over her life at a young age, an urge to go confidently in the direction of her dreams, hopeful for a place that would change her life. She arrived in New York in 1965, speaking and understanding little English (not American English.) She traveled alone, on a massive German ocean liner from England, for hours gazing at the brilliant sea, like dancing diamonds, endless time to wonder about that dream of Coming to America . . . Fear a constant companion. She was 23. Trudy believed something extraordinary was possible and wondered how life would turn out; her boldest guess couldn’t have been near the truth. She learned how truly fascinating daily life can turn on a small decision . . . mystery and myth of fate. A happy legal immigrant who waited eleven months for a green card, a working visa, believes in the power of words and knows: “One does not choose the time to write . . . it chooses you.”
‘Act of love . . . a client’s promise, an amazing diamond ring for one final hair-do at the mortuary to travel in style to the big garden in the sky, called heaven’ is included in the book of short stories, ‘Stories through the Ages, Baby Boomers Plus 2019’.
The eBook and paperback can be found on Amazon or the paperback ordered through the publisher’s website: Livingspringspublishers.com.



Wells-Meyer can be contacted through her Email: Trudy.wells@cox.net

Congratulation Trudy !!!

Club News / Sunshine Committee



Gratulations

Jacqueline Purwins, Katya Zinsli, Andre Butzberger
and
Maxime Steadman

have been awarded a 2019 Scholarship
from the Arizona Swiss Foundation.
We are proud of these young
well educated people.

Keep up the great work!







Mary Strasser
She was in Rehab is going to her new home
8525 E. Pasadena Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Tel: 480-696-0656

We wish you a good recovery. Visitors are welcome!

We Welcome New Member and returning Member

Fred and Brenda Battles
Ed and Sveta Battles with children Nikolas, Anastasia, Steven, Andrew, Analina and Luca
Zack Houser
Joerg and Anita Auer
Ken Ross

Upcoming events

RESERVE THE DATE

Christmas-Party

December 8th 2019



Annual Meeting

February 23th 2020



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year





Children's page

and young at heart



Christmas cookies: Zimtsterne



Ingredients: 3 Egg Whites
300 gr. Sugar
300 gr. Almond-meal
1 Tablespoon of Cinnamon

Icing: 100 gr. Powdered Sugar
1/2 Egg Whites
Maybe some Lemon Juice

Direction: Beat the egg white. Then mix with the sugar, then add the fine almond-meal and the cinnamon and stir quickly into a dough.
Roll out the dough about 1/2 cm thick. Cut out stars and place it on a buttered and floured baking tray. After you let it dry for a few hours bake it in at low heat.



Preheat: 10 min
Bake: 15 min in at low heat

Old recipe from my mother. I love them
Sylvia

Enjoy!!!







Board Members 2019

President	John Thornton
Vice President	Anthony Haechler
Treasurer	David Campell
Secretary	Viktor Stuart
Chairs	Susan Oake Kurt Schittli Sibylle De Marignac
Membership Chair	Helene Block
Past President	Christian Bucher

Ex-Officio:

Honorary Swiss Consul Thomas Schneider, San Fransisco
Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler

Committee Members:

Newsletter	Sylvia Brunner Reichen Editor Doris Torres John Thornton
Sunshine Committee	Elsbeth Haechler Activity Yvonne Zaugg
Historian	Sigrid Kuster
Webmaster	Philippe Reichen
SocialMedia Coordinator	Vivian Stearns-Kohler
Entertainment Coordinator	vacant
Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair David Campell Fred Kohler
Adviser/Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

Arizona Swiss Society
Sylvia Brunner Reichen
7101 W. Beardsley RD #1103
Glendale, AZ 85308