Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY eCHo

Newsletter

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SPRING 2020



Sissach BL





Christmas-Party

December 9, 2019







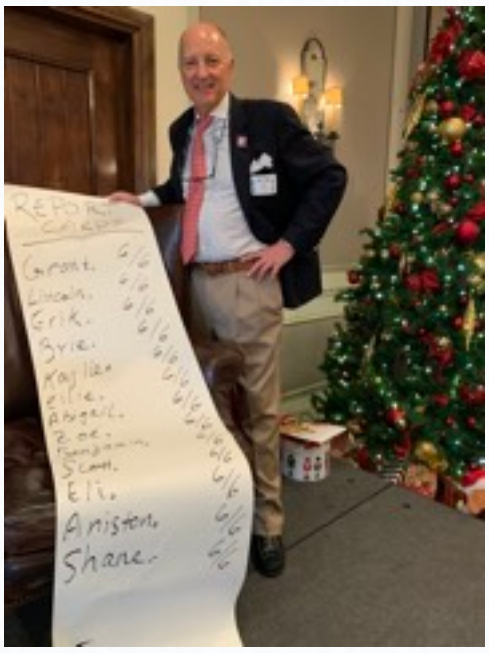


















Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society:

I am honored to serve, once again, as our club's president and I look forward to the challenge of following in the footsteps of our past president, John Thornton. John's constant dedication, enthusiasm and professional contribution to our Society was and is always admired. I hope to serve you all as close to John's devotion as possible.

What a wonderful annual meeting at the Arizona Italian American Club we shared back in February. Thank you, to the forty-six Society members that were in attendance and the great staff at the Club that provided such a delicious buffet lunch. After John Thornton called the annual meeting to order, he gave the benediction, welcomed all members, introduced new members and then we received reports from the following committee members: Sylvia Bruner Reichen reported on our newsletter the "Valley eCHo", Philippe Reichen reported on our web site, Fred Kohler reported on the Society's investment fund at Vanguard, Vivian Stearns Kohler reported on social media, Susan Oake reported on our activities and events, Ueli Zaugg reported on our Jass tournaments, and Jason Price reported on our upcoming "Winter Day in Flagstaff" event. Many thanks go to all the committee members for their reports and for their dedicated involvement during the past year. I would also like to give a special thank you to our Honorary Consul and his wonderful wife, Dr. Werner & Irene Bonadurer, for attending and providing a report on consular affairs. After lunch was served John Thornton introduced my father, Max Haechler, to manage the election of new directors. The proposed slate of new Board of Directors for 2020-2021 was unanimously elected as follows:

President	Anthony P. Haechler
Vice President	Viktor Stuart
Treasurer	Sibylle de Marignac
Secretary	Victoria Stuart-Haldeman
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake, Jason Price & Amaelia Haechler
Membership Chair	Helene Block & Philippe Reichen (Directory)
Past President	John Thornton

Congratulations to the new board!! I am looking forward to working with you all and serving our Society together. Also, thank you to John Thornton for taking over from Fred Kohler the roll as chair of the investments committee.

Upon completion of our business meeting we held a raffle and live auction with all the wonderful gifts donated by our members. The proceeds from the raffle in the amount of $510.00 were donated to our Society and the proceeds from the live auction in the amount of $605.00 benefited our Foundation. Thank you kindly to all the members for donating these prizes and to everyone that purchased raffle tickets or bid on a live auction item. One of the memorable actions, was when a heated bidding war took place when an authentic Swiss cowbell previously owned by Ruth Brandi was up for auction.

In March we had our first "Winter Day in Flagstaff" event organized by Jason Price and Susan Oake. There were ten members and friends that joined this event which comprised of either skiing/snowboarding at Snow Bowl or visiting the Museum of Northern Arizona during the day. Then we all joined up for dinner at the Greek restaurant "Taverna." It was a great day of snowboarding followed by a wonderful Greek meal enjoyed by all. Thank you to Jason and Susan for putting this together. We will definitely schedule more of these special events in the future for members to enjoy.

Unfortunately, due to recommendations by the CDC regarding the prevention and containment of the coronavirus (COVID-19) we had to cancel our Spring Picnic which was scheduled for March 29 at Desert Breeze Park. Our next event is our 1st of August celebration & hopefully the COVID-19 pandemic will have safely passed us by and we can all come together to celebrate the 729th Birthday of Switzerland. We will continue to monitor the recommended health guidelines set forth by local, state and federal agencies and will keep you all informed as to the status of our next event. Please know that myself and other board members would also like to offer our services to anyone in need during these uncertain times. For your information, you'll find information on COVID-19 and how to protect yourself published by the CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/. A couple of members are sewing face masks on their Berninas. Contact me if you need one.

On a side note, do not forget our higher-education scholarship program. The Arizona Swiss Foundation offers scholarship awards to those who qualify and are vetted by outside educators or evaluators. The application form for the academic Year 2020/2021 can be found on our web site at, ArizonaSwissSocitey.com. Deadline for the scholarship award submissions is July 31, 2020.

I hope that this letter finds everyone safe and sound.

With kindest regards,

Anthony P. Haechler, President (602) 405-7767 cell anthonyhaechler@yahoo.com

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Culture & Activities in Sissach BL

Sissacher Wappen

Originally it was the Wappen of the Sissach family, which was documented in Liestal in the 13th century. The male tribe of the “von Sissach” family died out at the beginning of the 16th century. The Wappen of the “von Sissach” family was adopted in 1918 by the Sissach community, and this year the Wappen was carried on a ban day flag for the first time on ban day. Since 1927 it has also been the Wappen of the municipality.



Sissach Municipality

Sissach is first mentioned around 1225-26 as Sissaho and the capital of the district of Sissach in the canton of Basel-Land. The population is of about 6,702 and most of them are speaking Swiss-German.



Banntag Chienbäse

Banntag is an important date for Sissach, and takes place on Saturday before Ascension day. Traditionally only men participate in this event, and is acoustically accompanied by the sounds of drums and whistles, as well as the pounding of muzzle-loaders and guide pistols.

Originally, it was a civil obligation to conduct a border inspection, i.e. to regularly check the border if the stones were not willfully moved by the neighbors. With the introduction of modern surveying, this custom got lost in some places. In the second half of the 20th century however, it was rediscovered in many communities and most transformed into a folk and family festival.

The loud custom (with Banntagsschiessen) is organized in Sissach by the Bürgergemeinde (public community).





Eierlesete

In odd years, Sunday after Easter, for decades the gymnastics club has maintained this custom. A peaceful competition, when raw eggs are thrown into a spreader tube from a certain distance without breaking. The winner is, the one who has thrown the most unbroken eggs.

What to do in and around Sissach?



Sissacher Market

Many visitors from the surrounding communities are attracted to the three commodity markets - each in spring, summer and autumn. Especially the "Autumn Market" in November that is considered a secret Sissacher holiday, and schools remain closed.



Sissacher Fasnacht Carnival



The carnival parade in Sissach is a vital part of the Upper Basel Carnival. Around 70 groups and various small and very small formations are now involved in the parade.
A must buy are the Plaketten. You can buy these badges from street vendors, from carnival participants and from a number of kiosks in town. Each year a new design is chosen.





History

The first documentary mention of the Hutzgüris in Sissach and the surrounding area dates back to the year 1600. It is apparently a pagan custom of God (requesting gifts) that goes back to the Alemannic period. In the second half of the 19th century, the Hutzgüri was transformed into a custom for poor children. The Hutzgüri did not reappear in Sissach until 1961 but forgotten a few years later. In 1973 the mask of the Hutzgüri was also lost, the custom seemed to have finally ended. Fortunately, the beast resurrected about twenty years ago and has since enriched the Sissach carnival season.



Sissacherfluh for hiking

The Sissacher Fluh (650 - 700 m above sea level) can be reached on foot, by bus or by car. On Sunday driving is prohibited on the Flubergweg. This is only possible for disabled people on request by the municipality. On top the Sissacherflu one finds a restaurant to relax and enjoy the wonderful panoramic view. Information boards provide visitors with further info. The view-point is in the middle of a popular hiking area with plenty of good trails. Especially during the springtime when cherry trees are in bloom, it is a unique and unforgettable feast for the eyes.





Not far away from the Sissacherfluh are the Bischof-stein ruins, and remains of the wall can still be seen. The well-preserved ruin with barbecue areas and an amazing view invite to take a long break. For children also.



The lords of Eptingen built the Bischofstein castle around 1250, and later handed over to the Bishop of Basel - as was customary at the time - and received back as a fief (Lehen). The family was now called von Bischofstein. The castle was destroyed in the earthquake of 1356. Originally it was as-sumed that it got rebuilt, however, this assumption is doubtful because of incorrect dating of glass finds. The castle was probably left to decay. In 1560, after several changes of ownership, the ruins passed on to the city of Basel.
Driven by historical interest, the first excavations took place from 1914 to 1916 and continued in 1926. The castle ruins were finally completely exposed and renovated in 1937/1938.

150 years Swiss Fire Brigade Association



The Swiss Fire Brigade Association was founded 150 years ago. This special stamp is designed to show gratitude to the 85,000 men and women who work with pride to keep their fellow human beings safe.



Firefighters in Switzerland are poised day and night to rescue fellow citizens and to avert any loss or damage. Some of these firefighters are of course professionals, but the vast majority of them (over 98%) are from the militia. The Swiss Fire Brigade Association (SFV) represents the interests of these individuals. It provides training and networking, works in public relations and also has substantial dealings with the organization Feuerwehr Koordination Schweiz (FKS), as well as with authorities, partner organizations and politicians. The Swiss Fire Brigade Association also aspires to help shape specialized training and transfer knowledge nationwide. This special stamp seeks to reinforce the positive image of the Fire Brigade. The historical aspect is illustrated with an image from the past: in the foreground, you see a firefighter in modern gear, in the background, a firefighter in a traditional uniform. Firefighters and the service they provide are at the heart of the anniversary. This milestone year, which will include 12 separate events all across Switzerland, is intended as a heartfelt thank you to all those 85,000 firefighters who provide a service for the public benefit. Two of the anniversary's highlights include the open day and night, which attracted large numbers of visitors throughout Switzerland in late August 2019, and the anniversary parade of 150 fire engines, including some vintage vehicles, is set to be held in the city of Zürich on May 10th 2020.

For up-to-date information on all the events taking place in the anniversary year, please visit the Swiss Fire Brigade Association website: swissfire.ch/jubilaeum

Several Anniversary Stamps



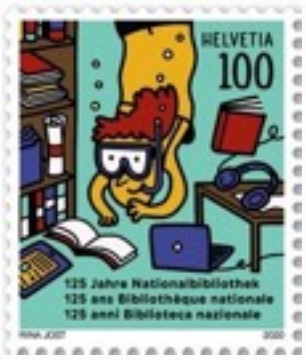


Eishockey-WM in Switzerland
In 1920, Switzerland took part in an Ice Hockey World Championship for the very first time. 100 years later, the country is hosting the 2020 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship. From May 8 to the 24th. The 16 best ice hockey nations in the world will be competing for the coveted world championship title in Zürich and Lausanne.



100 years Swiss Federation of livestock farming of the Hérens breed
The moment just before the two rivals meet, dust is thrown up by their hooves and their eyes are locked on one another – this typical moment of the Hérens cows is captured on the special stamp marking the 100th anniversary of the Swiss Federation, the Hérens breed of livestock farming.

125 years National Library
What does a diver have to do with the Swiss National Library? It's simple: you can truly dive into a sea of knowledge and discover a new world to all the National Library has to offer in its collection of books, prints, websites, magazines, audio materials and more.



ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

The scholarship program of the Arizona Swiss Foundation is designed to stimulate and encourage the academic success of members and children of the Arizona Swiss Society.

The Arizona Swiss Foundation hopes to take a role in encouraging tomorrow's leaders by providing scholarship support to deserving students. Scholarships awarded by the Arizona Swiss Foundation have helped many young people achieve their educational goals. High emphasis will be placed on scholastic or vocational merit.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must either be Swiss nationals or of Swiss descent, with at least one grandparent or great-grandparent being a Swiss national
2. Applicants must be a member or a legal dependent of members of the Arizona Swiss Society
3. Applicants must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a college or vocational/technical school for the coming academic year as full-time or part-time students (minimum 6 credit hours per semester)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please download the scholarship instructions and application for 2020-2021 from **Arizonaswisssociety.com**
Send the completed application and supporting materials, including transcripts, to

Charlene Klumb
11333 N 92nd Street, #1135, Scottsdale, AZ 85260
Tel. 480 551 0651 e-mail cjklumb@aol.com

For questions, contact Charlene Klumb. If you cannot reach her, please contact
Anthony P. Haechler Tel. 602 405 7767 anthonyhaechler@yahoo.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2020

Emphasis will be on a complete and timely submission of the application. Applications for 2020-21 will be available after May 15, 2020.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for a scholarship, please complete and submit the scholarship application form with the following documents:

1. Essay (maximum two pages), covering the following points:
   a. Educational and career goals
   b. Ties to Switzerland and the Arizona Swiss Society
   c. Community involvement and service
   d. Personal interests
   e. What it means to you to receive this scholarship
2. Official transcripts of all course work completed at the college or university level
3. Graduated High School Seniors only: Official High School transcripts including grades for the Senior year. After a year of study at the college level, a High School transcript is no longer required
4. Copies of the ACT, SAT or other college level entrance examination (High School Seniors only)
5. Letters of recommendation from two unrelated individuals, stating the relationship to the applicant. Recommendations must be from the current year. Copies of previous recommendations are not acceptable.

NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JULY 31, 2020

AWARDS

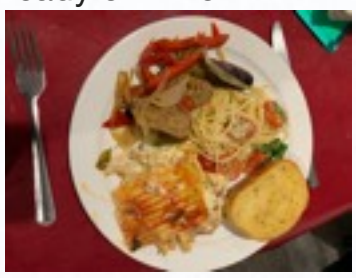
A total between $3000 and $4000 will be distributed to three qualified students. The recommendation of scholarship recipients is at the sole discretion of a panel of Arizona educators independent of the Arizona Swiss Society. Successful applicants will be notified before the annual Fall Picnic. They will be recognized at this event and are expected to be present for the occasion. Award checks will be made payable to the applicant's school.

Club News / Sunshine Committee

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, February 22, 2020



President John Thornton opened the meeting one final time and started his report followed up with interesting news and some official business because the meal was not ready on time.





After we enjoyed a great lunch, he followed up with the election of the **Board Members.** New and existing members were elected.



Max Haechler introduced the Board Members and thanked **John Thornton** (he is not Swiss born) for his outstanding engagement as past President and awesome knowledge of Swiss culture.



Congratulation to all the Board Members:

President Anthony Haechler,
Vicepräsident Viktor Stuart,
Treasurer Sibylle de Marignac,
Secretary Victoria Stuart-Haldeman,
Activity Chairs Susan Oak, Amaelia Haechler and Jason Price,
Membership Chairs Helene Block and Philippe Reichen
Past President John Thornton



John Thornton thanked the board members who have retired, for their tireless efforts over the past few years and presented an envelope with gift cards to **Kurt Schittli,** past Activity Char Member and **Fred Kohler,** past Treasurer and Member of the Investment Committee,



We all thank the Board for the hard work they are doing during the year for our AZ Swiss Society!













Not only did we like the meal, dessert and the coffee, but also all fun and cherished contact to other members.





Following the official part was **raffle ticket** time, with lots of great prizes to win and chose.





Afterwards, John Thornton did an out-standing job in motivating members to **bid** for various great pictures, special cookies, a Swiss cow bell and a hand-made blanket. An auction to remember. We had such fun!





The revenue goes to the **Swiss Foundation**



Club News / Sunshine Committee

Obituary for Mary Strasser



Mary Strasser (nee Hofer) passed away on Thursday morning, December 5, 2019. She was 101 years old. She was born on **March 1,1918 in Bettenhausen**, in the canton of Bern, Switzerland and was one of five children. Her father was the postmaster for 2 villages and her extended family members were upstanding members of Bettenhausen. The village was a farming community of about 250 inhabitants. Mary and her family grew vegetables and raised chickens and rabbits.

After completing primary and secondary school, Mary traveled to Geneva where she learned French, and then to England where she studied English. After a summer job as a teaching assistant in Bern, she obtained an accounting apprenticeship at the Hotel Bellevue in Bern and worked for 5 years in accounting and hotel registry. She and a friend wanted to live in the United States. In 1948, they were able to secure nanny/housekeeper opportunities in Cleveland, Ohio. They traveled by train to Paris and sailed from the port of Le Havre on the Queen Elizabeth, arriving in New York. While working as a nanny/housekeeper, Mary went to night school where she studied accounting and Spanish. After completing her studies, she obtained an accounting position with John C. Lincoln. Lincoln and his family were snowbirds in Scottsdale, AZ and their positive feedback of the area convinced Mary that it would be a good place to live. She worked as an accountant at the Flame Restaurant for a year until it burned down! Mary's competencies helped her get hired by the Camelback Inn, where she was employed for 7 years. In addition to accounting, she made up the schedule for women visiting the Elizabeth Arden spa for facials and other services. While there, she met and married Rudy Strasser, who was the chef for the Elizabeth Arden facility. They married in 1961 and moved to Paradise Valley. Rudy, with his gardening talents, turned their acre into a botanical garden which they enjoyed for many years.

An acquaintance advised her to get into the booming business of real estate. She was given the tip to contact Mrs. O'Malley, who was very active in the Scottsdale real estate community. Again Mary was recognized for her intelligence and professionalism and she obtained her real estate license. In her first year, she had 23 real estate deals in escrow. Mary said her success was due to the fact that people liked her and she took good care of them.

Mary and Rudy enjoyed many years of companionship with other Swiss friends in the Valley, celebrating holidays, singing, yodeling and telling funny stories about their new experiences in this country. She became a member of the International Arizona Women's Club, enjoying monthly luncheons and meetings with women from all over the globe, with many different languages and backgrounds. She and Rudy were very hospitable, inviting every new person they met to a lovely dinner at their home. She was also a wonderful tour guide and was very knowledgeable about the state of Arizona.

Mary's husband Rudy died on December 4, 2008. They were married for 48 years. After Rudy's death, she donated their home to the Nature Conservancy to honor their love for the disappearing desert landscape. She moved to McDowell Village, a retirement community in Scottsdale, where she lived until recent health issues compelled a move to a small group home with assisted living. She had enjoyed reading books in English, German, French, and Spanish, playing cards and dominoes, and listening to music.

Mary was a member of the Arizona Swiss Society for over 60 years! She was especially active in the Swiss jass group and was an avid player of Swiss cards.

Mary credited her longevity to good genes, healthy nutrition, and healthy habits. Reflecting on her long, well lived life, Mary said, "I am very proud to be Swiss!" Many people treasured her friendship and she will be missed.

Mary's friend Gordon produced a video on youtube of her interview and slide show at McDowell Village when she was 96. Here is the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkJgiL0pUWU

Club News / Sunshine Committee

Sadly we have to inform you that our oldest honorary member,



Mary Strasser nee Hofer

has passed away December 5, 2019

She never missed a Jass only when she was really ill. We will miss her immensely.







Upcoming events

Saturday, August 1, 2020

Swiss Independances Day

RESERVE THE DATES





Swiss Jass Club

You Can't be Swiss If You Don't Jass



You don't know how to Jass? No problem there will be an Anfänger-Kurs shortly!

Please contact Ueli A. Zaugg for more informations.
Email uzaugg@aol.com or call 602-999-3835

We Welcome New Member

Chris and Mike Perea, Mesa
Veronique and Arween Singh, Glendale

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



Children's page
and young at heart



Puff Pastry Easter Bunnies



Recipe

Ingredients (for 8 pieces):

Cinnamon Sugar

- 50 g sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

Shape the Bunnies

- 1 puff pastry dough, rolled into a rectangle, halved lengthwise
- 2 tbsp water to glaze

Filling

- 100 g full cream, whipped until stiff

How it's done

Cinnamon Sugar
Mix the sugar and cinnamon

Shape the Bunnies
Brush the dough with water, sprinkle with the cinnamon sugar. Cut the dough halves into thirds lengthways, then roll each one up lengthways. Cut the rolls in half lengthwise, twist the strands with the cut sides facing up. Starting from the middle, twist each roll twice, leaving a hole of approx. 3 cm. Transfer the bunnies to a tray lined with baking paper.

Bake approx. for ca. 15 mins. in the center of an oven preheated to 200 Celsius. Remove and allow to cool slightly.

Put the whipped cream into a piping bag with a serrated nozzle (approx. 10 mm in diameter), use the cream to make tails.

Enjoy! En Guete!



Board Members 2020

President	Anthony Haechler
Vice President	Viktor Stuart
Treasurer	Sibylle De Marignac
Secretary	Victoria Stuart-Haldeman
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Jason Price Amaelia Haechler
Membership Chair	Helene Block and Philippe Reichen
Past President	John Thornton

Ex-Officio:

Honorary Swiss Consul	Werner Bonadurer
Swiss Consul Emeritus	Max Haechler

Committee Members:

Newsletter	Sylvia Brunner Reichen, Editor Trudy Wells-Meyer John Thornton
Sunshine Committee	Elsbeth Haechler Yvonne Zaugg
Historian	Sigrid Kuster
Webmaster	Philippe Reichen
SocialMedia Coordinator	Vivian Stearns-Kohler
Entertainment Coordinator	vacant
Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair Anthony Haechler Sibylle De Marignac
Adviser/Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

Arizona Swiss Society
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