Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO

Newsletter

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SPRING 2023



Sarnen, Obwalden

Christmas Party, Sunday, December 11th, 2022

At the private Paradise Valley Country Club, sponsored by Max and Elsbeth Hächler.





A festive success thanks to everyone who helped putting on an event to remember and especially, a huge DANKE to Max and Elsbeth, for every year arranging the Swiss Club's favorite party of the year. A celebratory banquet room greeted all the 120 elegant, in holiday attire Swiss Club members, including 10 kids.

Highlights: Music performances by children: Marc Hächler from Switzerland on the screen playing the piano and flute. Zoe Naughton played the Saxophone, and Sedona Ulrich on the piano, in the corner by the patio door, even though she hurt her hand and arm the evening before (rushed to Urgent Care). Sedona's piano sounds of Silent Night touched many hearts. Oh, and a new fun addition: Accordion Musician, Tony Putrino in his Santa hat added cheerfulness and sing-a-long Christmas songs with smiles on everyone's faces. A special visit by Santa after the Storytelling by Elsbeth Hächler and Helene Block, Christmas stories to the kids and grown-ups. The yearly Magic show by John Thornton left the crowd and youngsters in awe. The elaborate Buffet-style lunch went smooth and surely enjoyed by everybody.

The many gifts from Swiss members participating in the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program were happily received.




























TOYS FOR TOTS



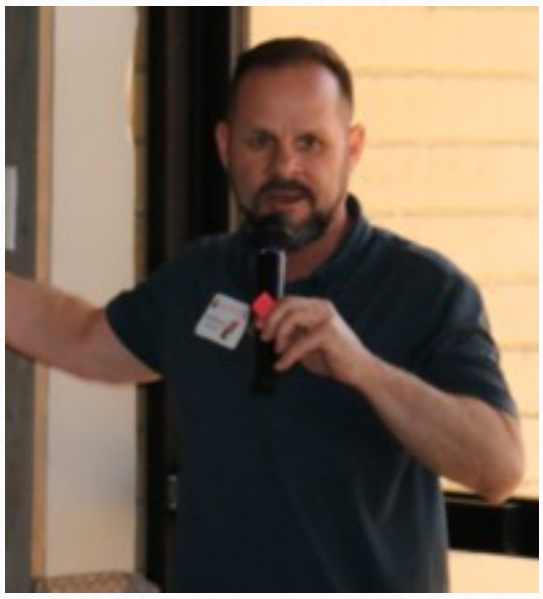






Message from the President

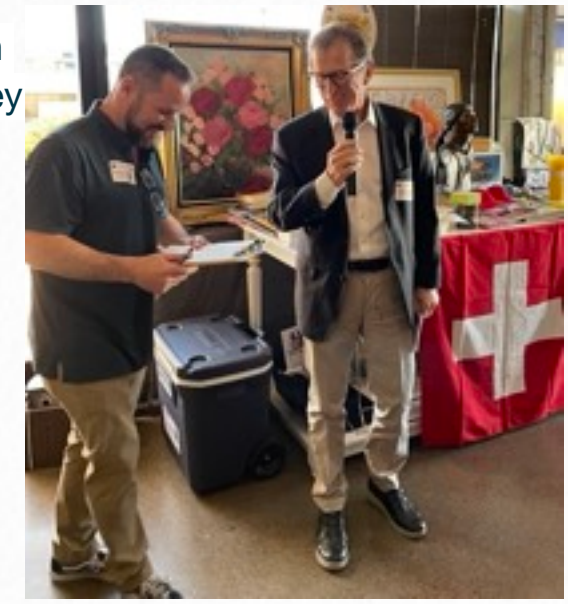
Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society:



I am honored to serve, once again, as our club's president and look forward to be a part of the great Board. As in previous years, we have planed many more fun activities.
What a wonderful annual meeting at Treffpunkt* in Scottsdale AZ, thanks to Susan for the organisation.
A huge thanks to all the Board Members for their outstanding work during the year:

President	Anthony P. Haechler
Vice President	Roland Ulrich
Treasurer	Sibylle de Marignac
Secretary	Helene Block
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake, & Amaelia Eckert Haechler
Membership Chair	Sibylle & Alex Zaugg-Reuter
Past President	John Thornton (helping Roland Ulrich to get to be president after 2024)

We have a new Committee for the **Youth Activity** with Sedona Ulrich and Fiona Reuter. Thank you both for taking care of the children. They are the future of our Association.



The auction was a great success. The money goes to the Arizona Swiss Foundation and helps for the scholarship.

With kindest regards,

Anthony P. Haechler, President
anthonyhaechler@yahoo.com or 602-405-7767







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

Swiss Community Reception

Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at DC Ranch





A classy, proud-to-be-from-Switzerland event, at the elegant Country Club DC Ranch in Scottsdale, already decorated with festive Christmas lights. The invitation by email had arrived from the **Swiss Consulate in San Francisco** to RSVP there. A huge DANKE to our **Honorary Swiss Consul Werner Bonadurer** for making this Swiss Community reception possible, to greet the Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States, Mr. Jacques Pitteloud, and, the Consul General of Switzerland in San Francisco, M. Balz Abplanalp. Both were extremely personal and fun to listen to. The country-club-casual dress code added to the festive room and evening. Raclette with a view — city lights in the distance — immensely enjoyed by about 80 Swiss members who thank Elsbeth Hächler for cooking the potatoes.
The Ambassador's speech was informative (Lew, the American, was impressed) a special THANK YOU for coming to Arizona, and, DANKE to the new Swiss General Consul in San Francisco.
Switzerland, what a great country to be from.

Trudy Wells-Meyer











Dinner at the Wrigley Mansion

on November 30th, 2022

The next day, the dress-elegant dinner at the famous Wrigley Mansion was also held for the Ambassador, the Swiss Consuls, Swiss Club Members, and other Arizona Representatives.



Culture & Activities in Sarnen and Surrounding Region



Sarnen is the canton capital of Obwalden with around 9,900 inhabitants and is 473 m above sea level, on the quiet, dreamy Sarnersee. Excellent shopping facilities and cultivated hospitality characterize a small-town atmosphere in Sarnen. A place that has a lot to tell thanks to its eventful history and lively culture - let yourself be inspired...

Sarnen Historical Museum



The former Sarnen barracks at Brünigstrasse 127 in Sarnen has housed the Obwalden Historical Museum since 1928. The building itself is classified as worthy of protection by the canton and is classified as a B-object under monument protection. The building was constructed around 1599 as an armory and barracks on the lower Freiteilallmend. The builder was Peter Winmann, then the owner of the mill in Schoried near Alpnach. In 1711 the building's function as an armory was withdrawn and only used as barracks. On June 16, 1855, it was decided to carry out the increase and expansion proposed by the treasurer, architectural draftsman and doctor Simon Etlin. This expansion work began on April 1, 1856 and was completed in December of the same year.

Sarnen Cantonal Library / Grundacherhaus



The Grundacherhaus in Sarnen is a residence dating from 1593. Originally built as a simple farmhouse, it was later converted into a grand town house.

Founded in 1895, the Obwalden cantonal library has been housed in the Grundacherhaus since 1980. The building is classified as a national cultural asset and is listed as an A-object. Its interior retains the character of a noble manor house to this day. The richly stuccoed ballroom serves today as a reading room, while the small garden has been given a baroque layout.

Traditional Costume Group Sarnen / Trachtengruppe Sarnen



A particularly demanding task of the Sarnen costume group is to promote and maintain the wearing of the Obwalden national costume, the cultivation of folk dance and old customs.
On September 26, 1926, the first Swiss Sunday for traditional costumes took place in Obwalden. On this occasion, costume pictures and postcards were sold in every community with the idea of reviving the costume scene. The Sarnen Costume Group was foundet in 1945. https://trachten-ow.ch/geschichte/

Central Swiss Costume Festival, June 23. - 25, 2023
in Melchsee-Frutt OW www.innerschweizer-trachtenfest.ch

Melchsee-Frutt / Playcround for Children







Obwalden's numerous great playgrounds are ideal for family outings. For children, playing is more than just fun and something to do. It's about discovering the world, acquiring important skills and learning all kinds of things.

The blue and yellow Fruttli train is the special summer highlight for young and old guests of Melchsee-Frutt. If you don't want to hike from the Melchsee-Frutt mountain station to the Tannalp or vice versa, change to the Fruttli train at one of the stops (mountain station - climbing garden - chapel - Distelboden - March - Tannendamm - Feuerstelle -Tannalp). On the leisurely ride there is enough time to admire the beautiful mountains. There are 2 Fruttli trains on the route.

There are ten stations around the Melchsee for young and old guests, which promote knowledge about the marmot in a playful way. Here you can learn new things about Fruttli and devote yourself entirely to the playgrounds and their attractions.

Another incentive is the opportunity to solve tasks for the marmot, which will be rewarded accordingly at the end. The Fruttli Pass can be obtained free of charge at the new mountain station of the sports railways and at the old mountain station on Melchsee-Frutt. On the way around the Melchsee, several fire pits with appropriate wood supplies and seating invite you to rest and "barbecue".

Life and work of Niklaus von der Flüe and Dorothee Wyss-von der Flüe

Niklaus von Flüe (1417–1487) is one of the most influential leading figures in Switzerland. He is a role model in mysticism and spirituality, society and politics as well as a person with his strengths and weaknesses. The importance of his wife **Dorothee Wyss (1430/2–1495/6)** for his life is undisputed.
Supported by Dorothee Wyss, Niklaus von Flüe had responsibilities in his family, job and in public.
At the age of 50, Niklaus left everything that was dear to him and from then on lived in Ranft as a God-seeker and prayer "Brother Klaus". Dorothee became the head of the family.
Niklaus and Dorothee stand for a world with profound values, real encounters and personal modesty. This includes renunciation and the search for God, striving for mediation and balance as well as a positive image of God.
By 1481 at the latest, Niklaus von Flüe had become a national, historically significant personality in connection with the "Stans Verkommnis". The fascination for the Ranft-hermit did not end with his death. More and more he became a «Swiss Moses», a «father of the fatherland». People looked to him for help and confidence in times of need and distress. He became a source of information and a highly recognized authority.

If you like to know more:
A reading booklet on Dorothee Wyss von Flüe, which draws on Roland Gröbli's basic dossier, was published on the anniversary of Niklaus von Flüe's death on March 21, 2021.ISBN 978-3-905197-24-2, available at the pilgrimage site, in bookstores and in the online shop https://bruderklaus.com/shop/





Painting on the back wall in the lower Ranftchapel



Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 18, 2023,

at the Treffpunkt, Scottsdale AZ



A new venue, “Klein aber Fein“, for the Swiss Club Annual Meeting/Lunch. The scrumptious menu: Mixed Salad, Geschnetzeltes with Rösti, (reason to take a day off from being a Vegetarian) Seasoned Vegetables, and Sacher Torte. The fabulous German wine was a great addition. Anthony, the new Grosspapi, handled the wait for food with smiles by starting the Raffle, and 41 members attending (every seat filled) got their minds off being hungry. (Sedona helped Anthony with the Raffle.)



Highlights. Report from our still President for another year, Anthony Haechler — Election of the Board of Directors for 2023, and Committee reports — Treasure report by Sibylle De Marignac — Susan Oake talking about past and future events (the Club is so lucky to have **Susan, THANK YOU!!!**!) — Ueli Zaugg talking about Jassen 2023. Coming attraction: Teaching Jassen, for beginners, and Brigitte Metzger’s short speech about the Sunshine Committee. A huge DANKE to everyone!























A special tribute to **Helene Block for her 7 years Membership Chair** as Anthony presented her a gift Certificate for the appreciated service. Have fun shopping!

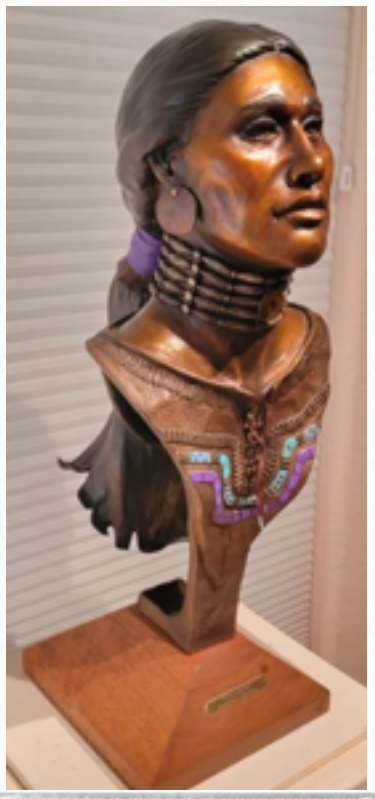


An Honorary Membership was given to Sylvia Brunner Reichen for her fantastic, continuous work on the Newsletter (3 times a year) and to Philippe Reichen, Website Coordinator. Thank you both for all your dedication to the Swiss Club.

Dr. Werner Bonadurer informed us about Switzerland and the Passport change for the next generation after the actual Passport expires.

The afternoon ended with Raffle Time and Auction of a fantastic sculpture, called “Birdsong” by Andreas Schwab. ‘Sold’ went to John Thornton.
Our president has a new ‘hobby’ — Auctioneer — great job Anthony!



















Max Haechler, Sibylle Reuter-Zaugg, Susan Oak, Roland Ulrich, Helen Block, Sibylle Marignac, John Thornton, and Anthony Haechler,

ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

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 2023-2024 from
Arizonaswisssociety.com

Send the completed application and supporting materials, including transcripts, to

Lisa White
3034 Dawa Ovi,
Flagstaff, AZ 86005
Tel. 480 980 3468
e-mail arizonasun74@gmail.com

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

Contact Lisa White if you did not receive a confirmation email by July 3rd of receipt of your application and all necessary documents.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2023

Emphasis will be on a complete and timely submission of the application. Applications for 2023-24 will be available after April 15, 2023.

ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

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 JUNE 30, 2023

AWARDS

A total between $4000 and $6000 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







Switzerland 3 Serbia 2, final score,
Friday, December 2, 2022





Ten of us at Rooster Tavern, 2 tables reserved, to watch the exciting, thrilling, deciding game **Switzerland/Serbia**. Cowbells ringing, 3 times (waking up non-fans in the Sports Bar in Scottsdale). You win . . . you are in! A date with Ronaldo, at 37 who got offered 211 million, (one season), by Saudi Arabia. He said YES. Do the math, how big is Soccer? Football, only America calls Soccer. The World Cup, no other event like it captivating fans all over the Globe, once again had the world spinning for 1 month in November/December, in Qatar, a setting never seen before. Saudi Arabia, after they beat Argentina in their first-round match, declared a National Holiday the next day and rewarded each player with a brand-new Rolls Royce. Excitement in every corner of the world. 32 countries qualified. Qualifications started on June 6th, 2019. The magnitude of one GOAL of this Global dominated sport, only the one that understands the power of one Goal, understands what FIFA (headquarters in Zürich Switzerland((Sepp Blatter) has done to countless countries, small and big.

P.S. On **December 6th Samichlaus day in Switzerland,** again we watched, the round of sixteen: **Portugal/Switzerland**, same Sports Bar, same tables, more Swiss flags, ready in red and white . . . Cowbells silent, no-need for cheers, a no-chance game against Portugal, with Ronaldo benched, no start for him, (never before at a World Cup game). His replacement, a new face, and hat-trick (3 goals) hero at 21, Gonçalo Ramos. The collapse and agony of defeat, 6:1, the biggest loss at any World Cup for Switzerland, even with Goalie Sommers back from illness. Akanji's Ehrentor did not matter. Portugal did not even need Ronaldo.
Elsbeth Hächler saved the day, handing out a Samichlaus to the group (picture of Christa holding the chocolate Samichlaus) , reminding us Christmas Season is here, the season to be jolly.
Argentina, World Champion 2022. France, drowning in a sea of tears.
The best World Cup Final I have ever seen.

Trudy Wells-Meyer

Message from Jassen

Next Jass Party will be held on **March 25, 2023** at Ursula and Fred Gmehlin's home.

At the last Annual Meeting of the Arizona Swiss Society the question came up if it is possible to have beginner's Jass classes, including children. Since we want to promote our Swiss Heritage, we can certainly do this. If you know anyone interested, please contact me. I can see 2 to 3 lessons at 2 to 3 hours at someone's home on Saturday or Sunday's. Or you can join us at one of our regular Jass Party.



Looking forward to see you

Ueli Zaugg, Jass Coordinator
uzaugg@protonmail.com

Club News / Sunshine Committee



Congratulations!

We welcome **Ashton,** born an **Sunday, January 1, 2023**
to
Amaelia and Adam Eckert Haechler.
Grandfather/Grosspapi; Anthony Haechler
and
Grand-grandparents/Urgrosseltern; Urgrossmami Elsbeth
and
Urgrosspapi Max Haechler are so proud.





Swiss and Austrian Club Members Hike
Dragon Tail, Jewel of the Creek Preserve, Cave Creek AZ
Sunday, January 22, 2023

An easy 1.8-mile loop trail, 108 feet elevation change in the Cave Creek Riparian area. Saguaros, dragonflies, butterflies.... and more.



Sadly we have to inform you that our Swiss Club Member,

Michele Juessen

has passed away on May 22, 2022,

and

long-time Swiss Club Member,



Bruno Josef Karl Hahl

has passed away on February 1, 2023, in Fountain Hills, at 92 years old





Spring Picnic

Desert Breeze Park in
Chandler April 15th, 2023



We Welcome New Members

Glen Loveland, Scottsdale
Joanna and David Zych with Matthew and Ava, Glendale
Paula and Tim Cullison, Phoenix
John and Molly West, Phoen
Dieter Bollmann and Merrill Leffmann, Sedona

Lifetime Members: Christine Gisler, Martin and Nicole Deflorin



Cook's page
for everyone



Sarner Älplermagronen (Swiss Alpine Macaroni and Cheese)

The simple recipe for the Älplermagronen is quickly prepared. A heavenly, vegetarian dish from the oven.

Recipe

Ingredients for 4 servings:

3 tsp	butter
300 gr.	pasta – preferably penne or macaroni (Hörnli)
400 gr.	potatoes
300 gr.	grated cheese
1 pinch	nutmeg
1 pinch	pepper
200 ml	full or light cream
1 pinch	salt
2 pieces	onions



Directions:

(1) For the traditional Älplermagronen, peel the potatoes, cut into small pieces and pre-cook for 15 minutes. Finish cooking the pasta with the potato pieces.
(2) Then peel the onions and cut into strips and sauté in a pan with butter until translucent. Add the cream to the onions and stir in a third of the cheese until it has melted slightly and a nice cheese sauce has formed.
(3) Finally, season the potatoes, pasta and the remaining cheese with salt and pepper and place in a casserole dish. Pour the cheese sauce on top and put in the oven at 160° for 10 minutes.

A sweet applesauce goes well with the classic Älplermagronen.

! En Guete und proscht!



Board Members 2023

President	Anthony P. Haechler
Vice President	Roland Ulrich
Treasurer	Sibylle De Marignac
Secretary	Helene Block
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Amaelia Eckert Haechler
Membership Chair	Sibylle and Alex Zaugg-Reuter
Past President	John Thornton

Honorary Swiss Consul Dr. Werner Bonadurer
Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler

Committee Members:

Newsletter	Sylvia Brunner Reichen, Editor Trudy Wells-Meyer
Sunshine Committee	Yvonne Zaugg Brigitte Metzger
Historian	Sigrid Kuster
Webmaster	Philippe Reichen
SocialMedia Coordinator	Vivian Stearns Kohler
Youth Activity	Sedona Ulrich, Fiona Reuter
Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair Anthony P. Haechler Sibylle De Marignac
Adviser/Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

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