Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO

Newsletter

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SPRING 2024



Leukerbad VS

Christmas Party, Saturday, December 9th, 2023

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



On a glorious Saturday in December the elegant Swiss Club Christmas Lunch, a Buffet with all the trimmings and desserts European style, was held at a special venue. THANK YOU, Max and Elsbeth, members of the private Country Club, for making it possible to open the doors to this classy place for 120 Swiss Members and guests to enjoy.
Thank you to the Swiss Club for subsidizing every year. DANKE!





A warm welcome by Anthony, the president, and a speech by the Honorary Swiss Consul Werner Bonadurer started the festivities. Christmas music, on video, from Switzerland . . . on the Piano Marc Haechler, also on piano Shane Naughton, his sister Zoe on the Saxophone (Susan Oake's grandkids), and Sedona Ulrich, piano. How very special! DANKE!



Highlights: Toys for Tots, a yearly Charity hit with a table full of Christmas gifts. Helene Block's Nutcracker Christmas story, surrounded by children. The children's crafts table outside missed some of the kids this year who had other commitments. Toni Putrino on the piano during our meal, afterward changed to Accordion for a sing-along-Christmas-Songs. Then we heard the bell, Santa was here! At his best for EVERYONE to love and hope he will be back next year!






























Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society,



Thank you for electing me as your new President of the Arizona Swiss Society, I appreciate your trust in me.

I have been an active member of this club for a few years and have seen the club's enormous growth as well as its many accomplishments. As I step into my new role as President, I am aware of the big shoes I have to fill. First, I would like to thank Anthony Haechler for serving as our President for the past several years. His loyalty, effort and constant behind- the -scene work to this club set the bar high. He did an amazing job organizing all of our wonderful events throughout the years. I also want to thank all of the board members for everything they do. You have tirelessly given your time and resources to planning and organizing our events. Please know that all these achievements would not have been possible without all of you at the helm. A special thank you goes to the volunteers of our numerous committees, we truly appreciate you.

Our annual meeting at Chompies was a success. We had a great turnout and raised money for the Scholarship Foundation. Thank you to all of you who donated raffle and auction prizes.

I am looking forward to our future events and hope to get to know more members.

Roland Ulrich, President



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

Youth Activity Page









Fiona Reuter (age 9) her thoughts and words about the Christmas Party:

- How did you like Santa? Did you like the present from him?
  I did like Santa. Yes I loved it.
- Were you surprised there were not more kids?
  A little because there were only 7 kids younger than 12!
- How did the crafts table go? What kind of crafts did you do?
  Good. Ornaments.
- What did you think of the children's performances?
  Good. I liked the songs and the Christmas hats.













Youth Activity Page

Letter from Sedona



Unfortunately, my family and I were unable to attend the beautiful Christmas party in December. Christmas time is always a very busy time for me because of piano and dance recitals. My passion for dancing started when I was 3 years old. I am currently part of two dance companies (Ballet and Flamenco) which take up a lot of my time. My weekends during the month of December are especially full because of Nutcracker and this is the reason why I couldn't come. I had two performances that weekend. Every year I hope it will be on a different date that doesn't conflict with my dance performances. Looking forward to the performances. Looking forward to the Spring Picnic. **Best, Sedona**

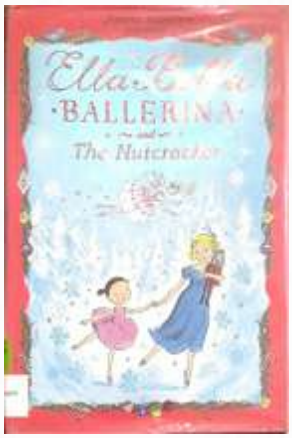








Picture about the book Helen Block was reading to the children.









Culture & Activities in Leukerbad VS

Leukerbad is about 1400 meters high

In Leukerbad you will find the best of nature and culture - picturesque mountains, ancient springs that have been bubbling hot mountain water up to the surface in its purest form for millions of years, breathtaking nature and a wealth of history. Visit our surrounding communities of Albinen, Inden and Varen, who are waiting to impress you with their hospitality, delicious cuisine and cultural values.

Thermal Bath and Spa





Europe's largest alpine thermal bath. Let yourself be pampered in the 10 different pools - 28°C to 43°C degree - vitality pool to the sports pool or pedal pool, water slides as well as a modern sauna area and a wide range of wellness and natural healing options make the Leukerbad Therme the largest thermal pool in the entire Alpine region. The calcium sulfate water with remarkable fluoride content and the majestic view of the Daubenhorn massif complete the experience full of peace and relaxation. And if you like something a little more extravagant, there are events such as the Aqua Mystica or a champagne breakfast in the pleasantly warm water.

Two children's pools and two slides make not only children's hearts beat faster.

Enjoy the revitalizing and mineral-rich thermal water from our own springs, in the middle of an impressive mountain world. Al thermal baths-water are between 28°C, and 43°C.

Snow-Park / Sports Arena: Leukerbad





Alpine skiing on Torrent, cross-country skiing on the Gemmi Pass: Leukerbad offers around 53 km of ski slopes, 30 km of cross-country ski trails and a large sports arena with a climbing wall, ice and curling hall, indoor tennis courts, squash courts and a weight room. For winter hikers, the path from Gemmi Pass to Sunnbüel (approx. 9 km, 2.5 hours hiking time) is kept open in winter if weather conditions permit.

There is a real ski paradise for children right next to the Leukerbad sports arena. Equipped with three conveyor belts, a carousel as well as a drag lift and a button lift, the Snowpark Sports Arena is the ideal place to learn snow sports. The ski instructors on site make it easier for young and old to get used to the snow and the equipment.

Children's snow lands

Learning to ski with fun and games – this is the perfect mix for teaching children about winter sports! In the Valais children's snow regions, the little ones are accompanied and supported by ski instructors and can thus have their first snow sports experiences.

Albinen im Kanton Wallis has a unique way trying to repopulate

News outlet Courier Mail shared this cool update in a TikTok video on Wednesday, January 3, and if you've ever had dreams of packing your bags and starting a new life in Switzerland, this is your big chance!

Apparently, there's a village called **Albinen/Wallis** in the Swiss Alps that's facing a declining population and needs to rectify the problem fast, so they're offering families of four $90,000 to move there.



There's one catch, though: Employment opportunities in this Swiss village are rare, which is contributing to the fact that people keep leaving, so this is ideal for remote workers who won't have to worry about finding local employment.



And since the goal is to repopulate the village, there are a few stipulations to ensure they reach that goal: everyone in your family needs to be under the age of 45 or be a Swiss citizen already. If you take them up on this offer, you have to agree to stay for 10 years, or you'll have to pay the money back. Sounds like a reasonable deal.

They've Already Had a Huge Response

Since they began advertising this offer, the Alpine village has received hundreds of requests from people hoping to move there, and as of April 2023, they'd only been able to approve 17 families to move in who fit the requirements.

As the program continues, mayor Nicole Köppel told Watson.ch that before applying, prospective residents should go in with eyes wide open.

“Albinen has no school, no bank, no post office, one remaining pub, one shop and a bus every hour. You have to anticipate that beforehand and accept it when you’re here,” she said.
For the right person, this sounds like a dream come true — as long as they're prepared for it!

Provided by **Ueli Zaugg**, who found this place last September while traveling through the Valais with his Swiss friend Johnny Stockalper, who lives in Sierre, on their bicycles.
They had coffee in the only restaurant. It’s a beautiful place and the pictures above were taken by Ueli.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 24, 2024,

at the Chompie's Phoenix Location, AZ



Our Annual Meeting was held at a new venue, Chompie's, a place ready for the Swiss, a perfect room with a red ceiling and all-white chairs — the Swiss flags on the tables looked fabulous. 43 members attended, and 2 guests became members. **Anthony's final speech and reports, as President** of 4 years, will be remembered. A giant THANK YOU for his service and all the hours he spent for the Arizona Swiss Society. We all greatly appreciate Anthony. DANKE! He loved receiving an American Airlines gift card. After the Buffet lunch and fine assorted pastries for dessert, Napoleons, Rugalach, etc. various reports with slides were provided by our Board and Committee members, including a touching moment when Susan showed pictures of Kurt Schittli . . . the weekend of his birthday. He is missed! The election of Board Members was next. To **Roland Ulrich**, our new incoming **President**, and **Daniel Fahrni, Vice President**: WELCOME! To all new and long-time Board and Committee members, thank you for everyone's time!



A huge THANKS to **Sibylle De Marignac**, Treasurer for 4 years, the position now accepted by **Alex Reuter.** Thank you, Alex, for stepping in.





To Vivian **Stearns Kohler** THANKS for her excellent help as Social Media Coordinator for 10 years. We wish Vivian all the best in everything. To **Evan Livesay**, our youngest Social Media Coordinator, we are happy he said yes; thank you. We hope Evan will have fun in his new Swiss Society adventure. He is the grandson of Yvonne and Ueli Zaugg.

The yearly raffle tickets event, with countless donated items, was as usual exciting, especially fun for all the winners. A short auction concluded the enjoyable Swiss afternoon.









ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

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 2024-2025 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 31, 2024

Emphasis will be on a complete and timely submission of the application. Applications for 2024-25 will be available after April 15, 2024.

ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

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, 2024

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

4-year Anniversary of "Treffpunkt"

On Tuesday February 13, several members of the Arizona Swiss Society attended the 4-year Anniversary of "Treffpunkt" and German Honorary Consul Carolin Gey. Among the many that attended were several Honorary Consuls from various countries in addition to special guest German Consul General Andrea Sasse from Los Angeles.

"Treffpunkt", a nonprofit organization, is a meeting place and restaurant for Germans, Austrians, Swiss, and anyone who would like to learn more about Germanic culture.



Photo: Carolin Gey, Victoria and Saul Stuart, and Brigitte Metzger

Hike on November 19, 2023

The last hike of the year was at **Bartlett Lake,** a recreation place.

It was a good group and the weather was perfect to enjoy the beauty of the lake.













Spring Picnic

Desert Breeze Park in Chandler

April, 14th 2024



Message from Jassen

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 Parties.



Looking forward to see you on the next Jass Party:

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 2:00 pm in Gilbert

Ueli Zaugg, Jass Coordinator

uzaugg@protonmail.com

Club News / Sunshine Committee

We are happy to report that **Wolfgang Klien,**
former Austrian Honorary Consul and longtime member of the Arizona Swiss Society,
is making an amazingly fast recovery after a December 2023 kidney transplant surgery (his daughter was the donor).
On behalf of the Swiss Society, Brigitte Metzger delivered chocolate and plant „get well wishes".
Wolfgang, Jean, and their 4 dogs are now busy planning their move to Austria later this year after Wolfgang's complete recovery .
We continue to wish him well!





Our friend **Hans Gamma**
has passed away on **January 27, 2024**
at the age of 96 in Fountain Hills
He will be greatly missed.



Statistics about the AZ Swiss Society

Club: For 2023 membership year

- 16% of prior year members did not renew membership.
- the average year of birth for all members is 1964, or 1955 without children (under the age of 18).
- the top 3 cantons by members (where this information was provided): 1) BE (29 members), 2) ZH (28 members), 3) AG (10 members)



For 2024 membership year (through Friday February 23, 2024):

- 104 renewed or existing members, lifetime membership and honorary members,
- 38 members are pending renewal which counts for 27% of prior year members,
- 3 new members,
- Newly introduced online payment options are accepted well and 26% of renewals were paid.

Provided by Alex Reuter



Happy Easter!



We Welcome New Members

Uta Behrens, Phoenix
Evan Livesay, Scottsdale
James Werth, Scottsdale
Daniel and Rose Troller, with Benjamin and Matthew
Christian Fleury, Phoenix
Jacqueline Purwins, Tucson
Neil and Susan Ciarfalia



Cook's page
for everyone



Walliser Gsottus / Valais specialty

The recipe for a Valais Gsottus from the Swiss canton of Valais is a little more complicated to prepare, but it is a delicacy!

Ingredients for 4 persons:

- 2 pears fresh or dried
- 1 Kg dried or smoked sheep, beef, pork
- 250 g potatoes
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 leek
- 2 beets
- pepper black and salt
- 200 g bacon
- 500 g white cabbage
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves and a bay leaf



Instructions:

1 Fill a wide pot with cold water. Then add the meat and bacon to the pot and let the whole thing rest for 12 to 14 hours. The meat must be completely covered with water.

2 Now spike the onion with 1 bay leaf and 3 cloves and add them to the pot with the meat. Then bring the water to boil and let the meat steep in the boiling water for about three hours. When the pieces of meat are cooked, gradually remove them from the water and set them aside.

3 Then add the sliced potatoes, white cabbage, leek, beets, and the pears to the soup, and cook for about 15 minutes.

4 Meanwhile, put the meat back into the broth and let it steep. So it's getting hot again.

Tip:

Enjoy this meal with a piece of Valais rye bread or white bread and Valais mountain cheese.

! En Guete und proscht!



Board Members 2024

President	Roland Ulrich
Vice President	Daniel Fahrni
Treasurer	Alex Reuter
Secretary	Helene Block
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Amaelia Haechler-Eckert
Membership Chair	Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter
Past President	Anthony P. Haechler

Committee Members:

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

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

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