Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO

Newsletter

www.arizonaswisssociety.com

Visit us on Facebook

WINTER 2025 / 2026



Altdorf, Canton Uri

Message from the President



Dear Members of the Arizona Swiss Society,

This year's Fall Fest was a wonderful success! We welcomed 138 members and guests who enjoyed beautiful weather, great company, and delicious food. A heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers who helped with setup, food service, and cleanup. Your efforts made the event truly special.

As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to announce that our Christmas Party will be held at the beautiful McCormick Golf Club in Scottsdale.

We also invite you to participate in our fundraising raffle, which will benefit the Swiss Foundation's Scholarship Fund and the Scottsdale Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program with Interlaken. The lucky winner will have the opportunity to choose one of three stunning bronze sculptures generously donated by Andreas Schwab.

We are also pleased to share that all open positions on our board have been filled. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve. We look forward to officially welcoming you at our Annual Meeting on February 22, 2026.



I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and look forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas Party!

Warm regards,

Roland Ulrich
President, Arizona Swiss Society

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



First of August Celebration on August 3, 2025 at Arizona American Italian Club, Phoenix



The Arizona American Italian Club in Phoenix welcomed us with assigned parking for the AZ Swiss Club. In the small, cozy hall, the decorations were done with a special touch: red/white roses on each table. A warm Thank You to everyone who puts in hours and extra time to make an event like that happen. All the attending members and guests truly appreciate all of you! The Italian menu was enjoyed greatly by 51 attendees and 2 children, and oh, the fabulous dessert Roland brought: assorted Italian cookies, donated and 2 trays of Tiramisu (purchased).

The First of August Speech in German by Bundesrat Karin Keller-Sutter we listened to with interest and a bit of nostalgia. New members were introduced and welcomed to the Club .









The Swiss/Arizona Quiz — save the best for last — by our president, Roland Ulrich —the Quiz Master— that was awesome! A heartfelt DANKE for his time spent on all the fantastic questions about Switzerland and Arizona.

First place winner is: James Werth – American – James worked in Bern at the American Embassy for 3 years (1993-1996).

Congratulations to all the winners!





























Youth Activity Page

1st AUGUST Lunch / Party 2025



Only 2 kids in attendance, at the Italian American Club in Phoenix: Sedona and Fiona (all others must have been away in camp, at the beach, simply on vacation, away from sizzling Arizona).
The two girls were the stars, especially when they handed out the questions for the Quiz. **Thank you to both!** A tremendous help in distributing, counting, correcting, etc. Perfect job!







I thought that it was a pretty well-thought-out get-together. It was very fun and exciting hanging out with other Swiss people in Arizona. The food was really good and the desserts were excellent. The quiz was very fun, but I think we were all a little surprised with who won. So in my opinion, it was a really great party with really great people

By: Fiona Reuter, Age 11

We just celebrated the 1st of August with the Arizona Swiss Society. There we had fun with new and old faces. The food was delicious. We enjoyed some mouthwatering chicken Alfredo and noodles with sausage, with a side of Caesar salad. Although I don't enjoy sweets it was a pleasure to see everyone else digging into all the various desserts. After, we had a great time participating in a quiz about Ticino and Arizona. We found out who knew their stuff! The winners received fun prizes and some were homemade. All in all, the party was a success, and I find it important that we keep the traditions alive, especially for us kids.

Sedona Uhlrich, age 12



Youth Page



Arizona Swiss Society, August 3rd Quiz 2025





First Name | Last Name

What is the largest city in Ticino?	A: Bellinzona C: Ascona	B: Lugano D: Locarno
Which is the Largest Lake in Ticino?	A: Lake Lugano C: Lake Di Mognola	B: Lake Ticino D: Lake Maggiore
What was the population of Ticino in 2024?	A: 351,000 C: 425,000	B: 315,000 D: 530,000
How Many Hours of Sunshine does Ticino has on avarage per day? One Year Average per day	A: 4 Hours C: 5.5 Hours	B: 6.5 Hours D: 7 Hours
How many Michelin Star Restaurants are there in Ticino in 2024?	A: 5 C: 9	B: 12 D: 19
Which Food Dish is considered the most popular in Ticino?	A: Risotto C: Spaghetti	B: Polenta D: Pizza
How Many 5 Star Hotels are in Ticino?	A: 21 C: 29	B: 32 D: 41
Which one is the biggest Grocery Store in Ticino?	A: Coop C: Denner	B: Gusto Ticino D: Migros
What percentage of the Swiss population speak Italian as their main Language?	A: 5% C: 11%	B: 8% C: 15%
How many Lakes and Reservoirs are in Arizona	A: 90 C: 130	B: 60 C: 75
The Grand Canyon National Park is how many Square Miles?	A: 1550 C: 1904	B: 1249 D: 2325
The City of Sedona was Named after Who?	A: Sedona Mariposa C: Sedona Shinn	B: Sedona Schnebly D: Sedona Ploog
How many Costco stores are in Arizona?	A: 12 C: 17	B: 20 C: 25
Which one is the smallest City in populatrion and Land area in Arizo	A: Oatman C: Pine Lake	B: Mormon Lake D: Winkelman
In which Year did Arizona became a State?	A: 1863 C: 1912	B: 1890 C: 1925



Please send us the answer /The solution will be published in the next newsletter

Culture & Activities in Altdorf and Surrounding Region

Altdorf, Capital of the Canton Uri





The name Alttorf was first mentioned in 1223, which suggests that there was already an "old village" on this site in the early Middle Ages. It is certain that the Alemanni lived in this area in the 7th century.

Throughout its history, Altdorf has been hit by fires several times: The first serious fire raged in 1400, and further large fires destroyed the town, partly severely, in 1693 and 1799. While the French occupied Altdorf, a fire broke out on April 5, 1799, destroying approximately 400 buildings, including 225 residential buildings. Six years later, in 1805, the architect Niklaus Purtschert began construction of the new town hall. It was completed in 1808.

Altdorf experienced a boom in 1899: From that year on, it was possible to travel over the Klausen Pass from the Schächental to the Linthal valley in Glarus. This popular connection is still in use today.



In the center of Altdorf, on the town hall square, the **Tell Monument** is impossible to miss. Along with the **Türmli** (little tower), it is one of Switzerland's most famous national monuments. The origins of this medieval residential tower date back to the 13th century. In 1517, the canton of Uri acquired the building, which was damaged by fire at the end of the 17th century. In 1694, Karl Leonz Püntener had it extended. At the same time, the frescoes, visible from the street side, depicting motifs from the liberation and Tell's story, were created. The dome crown was created in 1813/14. An exterior restoration was carried out in 1993. The **Tells Plays** in Altdorf are among the most famous cultural events in the canton of Uri. The Tell Play Society is passionate about ensureing that the tradition of performing Friedrich Schiller's Tell, which began in 1899.

Historical Museum



The neo-Gothic Historical Museum of Uri (basic building 1906, extension and reconstruction 2000) is the most comprehensive collection of the cantonal art and cultural heritage.The focal points of the permanent exhibition are ecclesiastical art (among others and important collection of wooden sculptures), portraits, the replica of the Celtic gold treasure from Erstfeld, the Alemanni grave from Altdorf, models of castles in Uri, flags, weapons, traditional costumes, folk customs and folk piety as well as traffic.





Culture & Activities in Altdorf and Surrounding Region

Tellskapelle





Nestled in a breathtaking natural setting, the chapel not only offers insight into the legendary story of the Swiss national hero William Tell, but also picturesque views of the lake and the surrounding mountains.
A chapel was built as early as 1388 on the spot where, according to Swiss legend, William Tell is said to have escaped from the boat of his tormentor Gessler. The Tell Chapel, as you can admire today, was built in 1879/80. The impressive four magnificent frescoes inside the chapel, designed by the Basel artist Ernst Stückelberg; tells the story of Wilhelm Tell and his courageous fight for freedom and justice. They depict "the Rütli Oath", "the Shooting of the Apple" "Tell's Leap" and "the death of Gessler in the Hohle Gasse" (Hollow Lane). King Ludwig II of Bavaria also had the idea of erecting a gigantic figure of Tell in the water - intended to symbolize Tell's leap.
it was to be so big that even steamships could navigate between the feet of the figure (similar to the Colossus of Rhodes), but the idea never bore fruit.
Away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, the Tell Chapel offers a place of reflection and tranquility. The peaceful atmosphere and natural beauty of the surroundings invite you to pause for a moment and absorb the history and nature. You can reach the Tell Chapel by boat or drive to the Hotel Restaurant Tellsplatte. Just above the chapel, you'll find Switzerland's largest carillon. The Tell Chapel is located directly on the Swiss Path, which is ideal for a hike.

The Fifth Season







For one week a year, almost the entire population of the Uri adventure region is in a state of emergency: Carnival, the fifth—and for many, the most important and beautiful—season, begins and is ushered in with the **Ytrummelä** (start with the drumm, traditional folk music). Discover the **Chatzämüüsig-Marsch** (Cat-Musique a traditional Swiss folk music festival) in the canton of Uri, and let yourself be swept away by the colorful hustle and bustle. Anyone who can stand on two feet takes up drums, timpani, trombones, or trumpets. The "**Chatzämüsig March,**" taught even to the youngest children, resounds from every corner. Groups of **"Maschgeradä"** (masquerades) "**gend gah gässlä**" (parade through the streets with their instruments) and play the **Katzenmusik March**. "Zoooogäää"!

Events for every taste
Children's parades and small street **cat bands** ("Oxächatzämüsig," "Nussbäumlichatzämüsig," etc.), masked balls, and many other carnival events in every community will make every carnival-goer's heart beat faster.

A Sad Farewell
This joyful festivities come to an abrupt end with the "Ustrummälä." In Altdorf, the **"Üsstrummet"** is particularly impressive: hundreds of men (in tailcoats) and women (in skirts), dressed in black and wearing hats, stand in line. No trumpets or trombones – just drums and timpani. Goosebumps for everyone who participates, as well as for the numerous spectators lining the streets. And after the last sounds, plans for the next carnival begin.



Fall-Fest



Saguaro Ramada, Golden Eagle Park, Fountain Hills
Sunday, October 26, 2025

What a Fall-Fest Celebration!

Record attendance thanks to Roland who had sent a letter to the Embassy of Switzerland and asked them to mail it to all Swiss residents in Arizona which they did. The letter contained information about the Swiss Club and what we do, asking for more people to join. Lots of responses and some showed up Sunday. A couple from Payson, who had no idea there is an Arizona Swiss Club, they truly enjoyed the well-organized yearly picnic on a perfect clear Arizona Sunday in October.
THANK YOU to EVERYONE who volunteered and worked extremely hard and spent their time for all things to turn out smooth with lots of fun at the Golden Eagle Park.
The setting was beautiful, the food tremendous oh and the many platters of dessert surely enjoyed by 87 members, 41 guests and 10 children.

See you at the Christmas Party!























Fall-Fest

Sedona and Fiona had a fun time drawing numbers (each table had a number: Sedona's creations, **wow!**) to tell who is next to get food!

Thanks for the great idea, and helping!



























SWISS Sport Sensation
Kambundji springs to World Championship GOLD in Tokyo



Swiss hurdler sprinter **Ditaji Kambundji** has written Swiss sports history: With a sensational 100-meter hurdles run, the 22-year-old from Bern secured the gold medal at the World Championships in Tokyo – as the first Swiss woman ever. With a time of 12.24 seconds, she not only outpaced all the favorites behind, but also beat her own national record by a remarkable sixteen hundredths of a second.
In a trilling final, Kambundji beat the Nigerian world record holder Tobi Amusan and the American Grace Stark. Her performance now places her among the seven fastest hurdles sprinters in history.

The young athlete has continuously worked her way up to the top of the world in recent years. Her triumph in Tokyo now marks the highlight of her career so far.

Armon Orlik is the new Swiss Wrestling Champion



56,500 Swiss wrestling fans witnessed a historic event in the Mollis GL arena. At 5:51 p.m. on Sunday evening, after 16 minutes of wrestling, the final bout was decided - there was no winner.

The two wrestlers from northeastern Switzerland, Samuel Giger and Werner Schlegel, were chosen. And the Central Committee of the Swiss Wrestling Association had already decided before the final round: just in case, the festival winner, **Armon Orlik** would also be crowned Swiss Wrestling King.

Orlik already reached the final round of the ESAF in Estavayer-le-Lac in 2016, but lost. Now Orlik, the brother of Curdin Orlik, beams and tells SRF: “It's huge for me, but it was a team effort across the board.”

For the first time since 2007, when Jörg Abderhalden from Toggenburg won his third title, a Northeastern Swiss Wrestler sits atop the Schwinger throne. As a prize, the Maienfeld native Armon Orlik will take home **Zibu,** a bull (cattle cow) worth around CHF 30,000, back to Graubünden.

Lost the Game . . . But Won Switzerland’s Hearts
Women’s Euro 2025



Hopp Schwyz! Quarter Final: Spain / Switzerland. Electric atmosphere, roller-coaster emotions, near-misses, magic on grass, nail-biting, in the 65th minute, **Hope Alive**, we still believed. . . Spain hit the post 3 times, 2 penalties, one missed, and one saved by Livia Peng, cool and collected at 23 years old – the heroic warriors with a Wilhelm Tell mentality kept on fighting, leaving the country of red and white extremely proud. After all, Spain is the World Champion in Football, called Soccer only in America. A nation ready to dance . . . a shot at glory not meant to be . . . Oh, the meaning of **One Goal!**



A glorious failure! Spain: 2:0. They named it **A Summer Fairytale.** The Nati-march in Bern will remain in my memory as a jubilant time in my homeland, which hosted the most record-setting Women’s EURO. Women’s Football/Soccer is here to stay! Sold out, record attendance stadiums in Switzerland for 1 month: Basel, Zürich, Genf, Luzern, Bern, Thun, Sion, St.Gallen. **England, EURO Champion 2025**.
Congratulations! Did the rain in Basel, the day of the Final, favor England? Penalty shoot-outs can be cruel . . . Such is Soccer/Fussball!

The World Cup is comming to America, Mexico, Canada

Summer of 2026: June 11th to July 19th (for the first time, 48 countries)
The Draw will take place on December 5th at the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC. Who plays who?

Anyone who likes to attend or help plan some games, like Switzerland, to watch at a Sports Bar (Roosters in North Scottsdale?) let Trudy Wells-Meyer know.

Club News / Sunshine Committee

Hiking Season has started!

As soon as the cooler weather arrived, hikes will once again be organized and led by Greg Master.
Members and guests, everyone is welcome to join the hike.

On November 9, 2025 this hike led us to:
Basalt Ridge Overlook from Brown's Mountain Trailhead
Scottsdale, McDowell, Sonoran Preserve



The Trail started at the Brown's Ranch Trailhead and followed the Upper Ranch Trail to the Basalt Ridge Trail and the Overlook. The trail was mostly flat with a few dry creek crossings. There were scenic views of Cone, Brown's and Granite Mountains.
8 people on the hike, led by Greg Master.



It was a beautiful day in Arizona!















Club News / Sunshine Committee

Look who is Great Grandma —Urgrossmutter



Pia Stoppa, first woman President of the Arizona Swiss Society from 1981-1983, became Urgrossmuetti on July 25, 2025. With unmeasured joy, her grandson Eric and his wife Tarren welcomed a baby girl, Sofia Pia.

Pia turned 90 in April 2025.
Happy belated birthday!

Max Haechler's words:
"Pia's leadership and dedication was much enjoyed by the members". Pia still to this day cherishes the nice **Swiss Cowbell**, her parting gift given by the Swiss Club.
INSCRIPTION:
"ARIZONA SWISS SOCIETY TO PIA STOPPA"
for her dedicated services as president!
Pia and her late husband Gino arrived in Chicago in 1958 and moved to Arizona in 1971. They owned the Gino of Switzerland Salon in Scottsdale for 54 years. Gino passed away in 2001.

All the very best to Pia, a valued long-time member.



Happy Birthday!

To all our dear Swiss friends and members who have - had - and will have a birthday in 2025, we wish you the best of everything and good health. May you be blessed abundantly in the days to come. Happy Birthday and many more . . . Celebrate!



With our deepest sorrows and a heavy heart we must inform you that

Rudolph Wood

our Honorary Member has passed away in April 2025.
Over 10 years he was the newsletter distributor before he stepped down in 2014.

He will be greatly missed!



Club News / Sunshine Committee

The new Jass Season has started!



The first Jass event for this season starts in November.
If you are interested in hosting for the month of February, March or April 2026, please let me know. Newcomers and beginners are always welcome and needed.

Ueli Zaugg, Jass Coordinator uzaugg@protonmail.com

Gratulation!



Max, he handed the certificates to the sisters **Abby and Heidi Wolf**, and **Melanie Breeding** who have been awarded a 2025 scholarship from the **Arizona Swiss Foundation**.



We are proud of these well-educated young people.

Keep up the great work!

We Welcome New Members

Collins Michael & **Lief Collins** (Sohn), Gilbert
Inez Arrigo & **Regina Weier,** Apache Junction
Ernst & **Claire Walder**, Goodyear
Jean & **Annabel Pougnier,** Scottsdale
Fuhrmann Melina & **Marc,** Sedona
McLallen David, Tempe
Marcel Pitton, Peoria
Vuichoud Gabi, Cave Creek

Upcoming Events

Christmas-Party

Sunday, December 7th, 2025

Reserve the dates

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February, 22nd, 2026



&



Arizona Swiss Foundation

7525 East 6th Avenue, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Tel: (602) 405-7767
e-mail: anthonyhaechler@yahoo.com

Dear Friends of Switzerland
Dear Members of the Arizona Swiss Society,

October 1, 2025

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in this year's fundraising raffle, benefitting the Arizona Swiss Foundation's Scholarship Endowment Fund and the Scottsdale Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program with Interlaken.

Over the past 25 years, the Arizona Swiss Foundation has funded 79 higher education scholarships to 39 local recipients, totaling over $ 88,250.00. The Foundation has also supported 13 student exchange trips between Interlaken and Scottsdale. Just imagine how many lives have been touched over the years by these scholarships and student exchanges.

You can support those wonderful programs for our youth, by participating in a raffle for a limited-edition Bronze Sculpture, donated by our Swiss Artist, Andreas Schwab. The raffle drawing will take place at the Arizona Swiss Society Christmas Party at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club Pavillion, Scottsdale, on Sunday, December 7, 2025. Invitations will be sent to all Donors and Members of the Arizona Swiss Society. However, you do not need to be present to win.

For every **$25 tax-deductible** contribution you will receive one raffle entry. Please pick any of the below listed categories and mail your check to the address above. Please select one of the following categories:

$ 500 (20 raffle entries)	$ 200 (8 raffle entries)	$ 50 (2 raffle entries)
$ 250 (10 raffle entries)	$ 100 (4 raffle entries)	$ 25 (1 raffle entry)

The recipient of the winning raffle ticket will be able to choose from one of three Bronze Sculptures donated by Andreas Schwab (see attached flyer). The Bronze Sculptures are valued at approximately $5,000 to $7,000.

GOOD LUCK, and thank you for supporting these wonderful programs, which benefit the future leaders of our multicultural world.

With kind regards,

Max Haechler, Chairman
Arizona Swiss Foundation

Anthony P. Haechler
Arizona Swiss Society, Past President
Arizona Swiss Foundation, Treasurer



Le Satisfait

Andreas Schwab, Sculptor

As a child growing up in Switzerland, Andreas Schwab had two loves. One was art and the other was fast, fine automobiles. To a boy on a bicycle in postwar Europe, the automobile was the very expression of freedom.

Young André completed automotive professional training and came to the United States in 1971 when he answered an advertisement, "Rolls-Royce/Jaguar mechanic wanted in sunny Arizona." He eventually managed the entire service operation of the Scottsdale dealership, phasing out in 1990 to give full time expression to his artistic concerns.

André has always "worked in clay." From his nativity scene sculpted in kindergarten to the completion of today's fine bronze sculptures, art has been ever present in his life. He completed art classes in Bern, Switzerland, and courses through Famous Artists School in Amsterdam, Holland.

Working with a broad range of subjects, his greatest interest is in sculpting the human form. Concerned with authenticity, he researches his subjects in great detail looking for that perfect balance of anatomy and motion. From the powerful expression and commanding presence of a warrior to the curious face of a child reaching for a forbidden feather, André's sculptures capture the emotion of that moment in time.

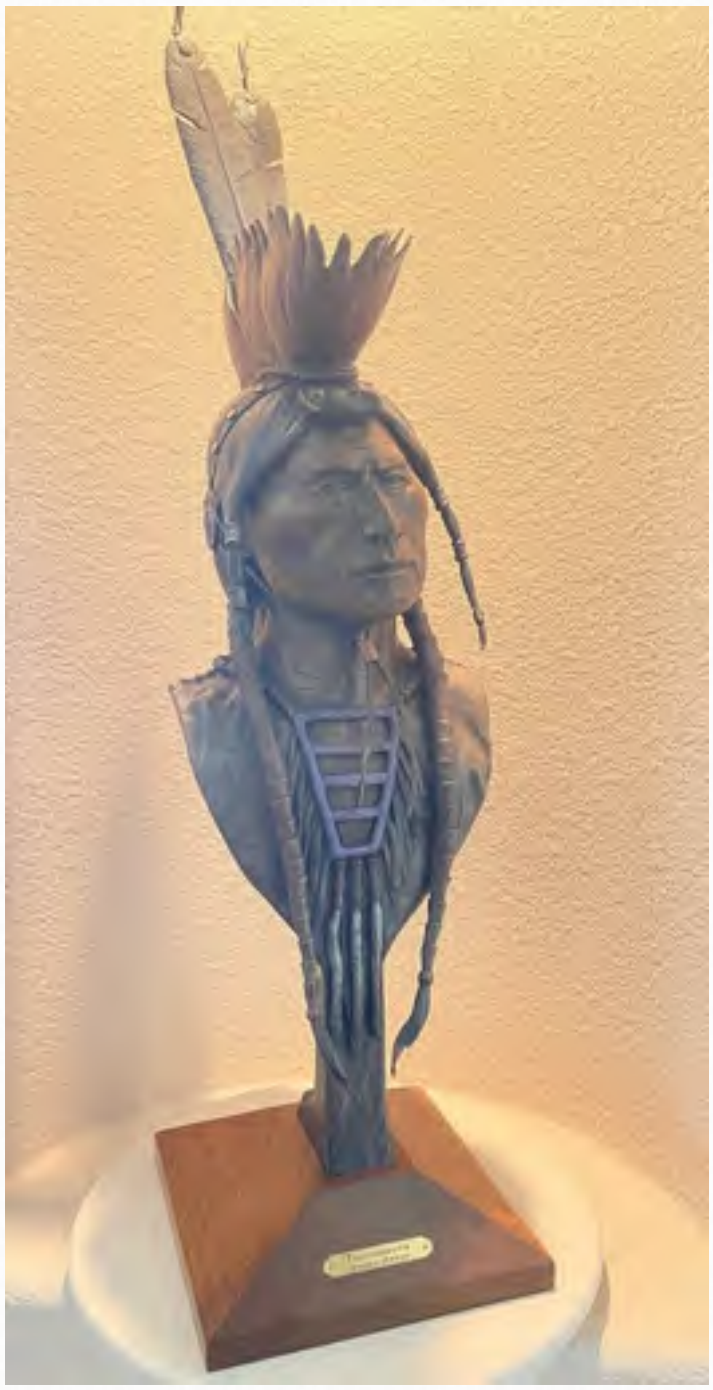
André Schwab works in art clay, then casts his pieces in bronze using the lost-wax process. With keen attention to detail and high artistic standards, he oversees every step of the casting process including the complex patina finishes.

The quest for perfection in his work is a driving force. "You can't force a sculpture into place," he says. "You may have to walk around a piece for awhile to see it just right, but when it's finished, you know." André Schwab signs his work "Le Satisfait," which translates from French, "I am satisfied."

André Schwab's superb craftsmanship and dynamic renderings make this artist one to collect today and to watch in the future.

Web: http://TheSchwabs.com Email: Andreas@TheSchwabs.com

Bronze Sculptures



Name: Thunderhawk (no. 3 of 20)
Size: 38”H x 10” W (approx. Value: $7,000)



Name: Pronghorn (no. 2 of 20)
Size: 18”H x 15” W (approx. Value: $5,000)



Name: Determination (no. 2 of 12)
Size: 15”H x 21” W (approx. Value: $5,000)



Cook's page
for everyone



Rispor from Uri

As its name suggests, this dish is made with rice and leeks. The recipe for Rispor—or Ryys and Porree—is very old, its first traces dating back to cookbooks to the 18th century. The name Boor (leek) comes from the **Romansh-speaking** region of the neighboring canton of **Graubünden.**

Ingredients for 4 servings

800 g	long-grain rice
400 g	leeks
100 g	butter
1 piece	onion
1.5 l	broth
1 pinch	salt and pepper
1 pinch	nutmeg
2 pieces	bay leaves
300g	grated Sbrinz or Parmesan cheese





Preparation

1. Wash the leek, cut it into slices, and dice the onion. Sauté the vegetables together in hot butter. Pour in the meat broth and bring to a boil. Season with salt and spices.
2. 30 minutes before serving, add the long-grain rice and mix well. Bring to a boil once, then let it simmer.
3. Fluff the mixture with a fork and season to taste.
4. Finally, carefully stir in the grated cheese.

En guete!





Board Members 2025

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

Committee Members:

Newsletter	Sylvia Brunner Reichen, Editor Trudy Wells-Meyer
Sunshine Committee	Yvonne Zaugg
Historian	Sigrid Kuster
Webmaster	Philippe Reichen
Social Media Coordinator	Evan Livesay
“Jugend” Youth Activities	Sedona Ulrich, Fiona Reuter
Member Directory coordinator	Evan Livesay
Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair Anthony P. Haechler
Adviser/Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

Honorary Swiss Consul Mauro Saladini
Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler

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