Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO

Newsletter

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SPRING 2026



Appenzell Innerrhoden

Christmas Party at the Mc Cormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale
Sunday, December 7th, 2025



To enter the amazingly decorated Pavilion was a treat in itself, a splendid location, surrounded by the green of the Golf Course. 117 elegantly dressed members and guests, including 16 children waiting anxiously for Santa, who arrived after a program to remember. A heartfelt speech by our **Swiss Consul, Mauro Saladini,** started the Holiday Lunch.



Thank You! EVERYONE who was a part of making such a fabulous event possible. A special Danke for the Christmas concert on screen, enjoyed tremendously by all: Marc Hächler in Horgen, Switzerland (Max and Elsbeth's grandson), Shane Naughton (Susan Oake's grandson) on Saxophone, he just started playing in 2025, and Sedona Ulrich, piano (Roland and Chantel's daughter).



As every year, the US Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" was present, happy to receive countless gifts for youngsters in need.



Rose Marie Sieger (long-time member), her comment: "When I walked in, the spectacular setting looked like Christmas. The strings of twinkling lights cascading down from the pinnacle were magical. Tables draped with white linen and red, vibrant poinsettias adorning each table added sparkle to the Swiss Christmas Luncheon. I am so grateful to all those for their effort and time."











Message from the President

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society,



When I had the honor of being elected Vice President of our wonderful Society in February 2024, some members congratulated me as the “future President.” At the time I assumed they were joking. Two years later, it turns out they were not—and here **I am writing my first “Message from the President”!**

I am truly grateful for your trust and look forward to serving you and our Society alongside our dedicated Board and Committee members.

Did you know that 22 volunteers currently serve the Arizona Swiss Society across various roles? This reflects a deeply rooted Swiss value: volunteering. In Switzerland, nearly two out of three people (64%) engage in some form of volunteer work each year. Our Society is a wonderful example of that same spirit here in Arizona.

To all our volunteers—thank you. Your time, energy, and commitment are what make our community possible. I would also like to extend a special thank you to our **former President Roland Ulrich**, former **Treasurer Alex Reuter**, and former **Membership Chair Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter** for their outstanding contributions. I am especially pleased that Roland remains on the Board—having a professional chef involved is certainly a bonus given how central food is to many of our events!

Much like the Arizona temperatures, our **2026 events calendar** has already heated up. We kicked off the year with our Annual Membership Meeting in February at Nami’s Korean Kitchen & Sushi, welcoming 46 members and several new faces—always a highlight for our community.

Looking ahead, our annual Spring Picnic in Chandler is just around the corner on **April 12**. You should have received your invitation already, and I hope you will join us for what promises to be a wonderful gathering.

Thank you again for your support, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the picnic.

Daniel Fahrni, President



The Board of 2026/27



Christmas continued

















Youth Activity Page

After a grand lunch, more children than usual made Santa extra busy. 12-year-old Fiona Reuter's words: "I liked the singing and waiting for Santa. I loved my mug and hot chocolate packets from Santa, and also that there were so many kids this year. A few were around my age." (Sadly, people in the back could not hear or see the children!)

























Dä Samichlaus mit äm Schmutzli chunt
















Culture & Activities in Appenzell Innerrhoden



Appenzell and the canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden are located in a terrain, to the north of Säntis. This area is known for its traditions like alpine festivals, genuine folk tunes and customary dances along with top notch hiking routes, in the Alpstein area.

The town of Appenzell showcases its history post the fire in 1560 through its architecture. The charming wooden houses, with gables and intricate designs give the town a distinctive character, especially evident on Hauptgasse street lined with well preserved terraced houses. The “Kreuz” and “Raben” houses on Hauptgasse and the cluster of buildings near the Falken Inn on Gaiserstraße represent the style.



The **Landsgemeindeplatz**, adorned with a lime tree is surrounded by buildings of varying heights and architectural styles, in a manner.

Every year on the Sunday, in April, the eligible voters of Appenzell come together at Landsgemeinde square to select officials and make decisions on important matters affecting the canton.

During the Landsgemeinde they choose the Landammann, members of the Estates Commission, President and Cantonal Court members.

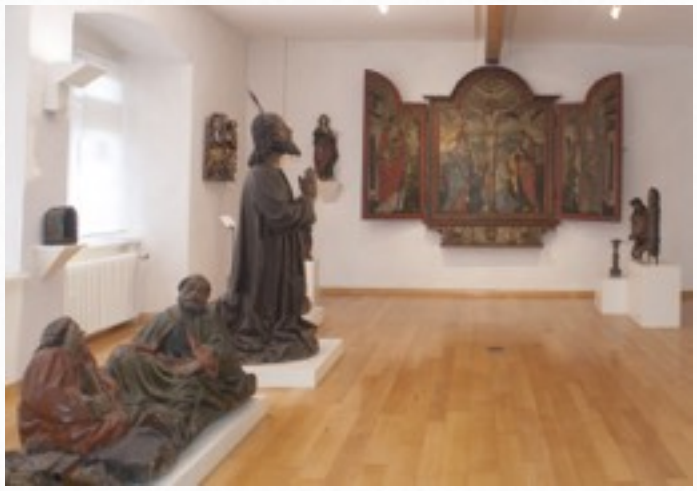
Appenzell with its population of around 7000 people serves as a hub for politics, economy and culture in Switzerlands canton. Appenzell Innerrhoden. The charming car free old town filled with quaint alleyways and boutique shops is perfect for walks and shopping.

The region is known for its adorned painted houses. The museum located in the town hall provides a look, into the cultural heritage of the area.

The Museum Appenzell is dedicated to the rural, distinctly Catholic cultural history of the canton of Appenzell I.Rh. The focus is on topics of folklore and popular everyday culture. With the once world- famous Appenzell hand embroidery, the museum provides insight into a fascinating piece of women's, social and economic history. In addition, topics such as popular piety, peasant and furniture painting or archaeological finds from the Wildkirchli cave, have their place. Trouvailles from the museum's important photo collection lend the special exhibitions, which are often enriched with artistic interventions, a refreshing immediacy and closeness to the public. Didactic films as well as museum educational activities complete the versatile exhibition program.







Olympia 2026 in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo



Franjo von Allmen (Keystone)

6 Gold, 9 Silver, 8 Bronze: The Swiss have won 23 Medals in Milan Olympia.

Triple Olympics Champion **Franjo von Allmen** (24) from Boltigen BE in the Simmental, the village of 1272 inhabitants. He won his first Olympia Medal, and it was **Gold** in the Alpine Skiing downhill.

Thanks to his success, von Allmen becomes the fifth Swiss downhill Olympic Champion. Before him were Bernhard Russi (1972), Pirmin Zurbriggen (1988), Didier Défago (2010) and Beat Feuz (2022).



Tanguy Nef & Franjo von Allmen (Keystone)

After a thrilling Slalom run, a Swiss Team is on the podium. **Franjo von Allmen** and **Tanguy Nef** secure the **Gold** Medal with a commanding performance.



Eileen Gu, **Mathilde Gremaud,** Megan Oldham (Picture AP)

Mathilde Gremaud, 26, from Freiburg, won **Gold** in Ski Freestyle and defended her title from Beijing.

Switzerland's **Marianne Fatton** won **Gold in** the Ski Mountaineering, a debut first-ever Sport at the Olympics.



Marianne Fatton

Marianne Fatton and **Jon Kistler** won **Silber** in the mixed relay in the Mountaineering Race (Olympic premiere). A historic success for the Swiss.



Marianne Fatton & Jon Kistler (Keystone)

What a finish for Switzerland!

A 23th medal, **Silver** in Women's Curling:
Alina Pätz, Silvana Trinzoni, Carole Howald, Selina Witschonke, Stefanie Berset.



A. Pätz, S. Trinzoni, C. Howald, S. Witshconke, S. Berset

Medals won by the Swiss:

Bob	1 Bronze
Curling	1 Silver, 1 Bronze
Hockey	1 Bronze
Ski Alpine	4 Gold, 3 Silver, 2 Bronze
Ski Freestyle	1 Gold, 3 Silver,1 Bronze
Ski Mountaineering	1 Gold, 1 Silver
Cross-Country Skiing	1 Silver, 1 Bronze
Ski Jumping	1 Bronze

Annual Meeting

At Nami's Korean Kitchen & Sushi in Phoenix on Saturday, February 28, 2026



A giant Welcome to the new Board Members of 2026, and a sincere thank you to all Board Members for their time and caring for the Arizona Swiss Club.

46 of us attended a lunch on Saturday, February 28th at a newfound location where a search for forks was on, for those of us who do not know how to use chopsticks.



Swiss music was missing (a comment by an American member), but not all the fun and good times had by everyone.





















ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

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 2026-2027 from Arizonaswisssociety.com

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

Lisa White
3034 Dawa Ovi
Flagstaff, AZ 86005
(480) 980-3468 arizonasun74@gmail.com

For questions, contact Lisa White. If you cannot reach her, please contact Anthony P. Haechler (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, 2026

Emphasis will be on a complete and timely submission of the application. Applications for 2026-27 will be available after April 15, 2026. https://www.arizonaswisssociety.com

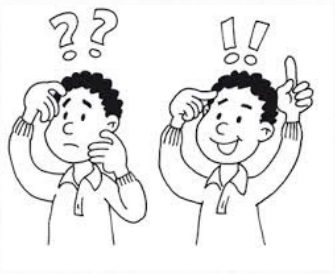
Arizona Swiss Society, August 3rd Quiz 2025





First Name | Last Name

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



Easter – this is how they celebrate in Switzerland



Easter is colorful – and not just because there are colorful spring flowers and painted eggs. The different customs and traditions also make Easter in Switzerland a particularly diverse and joyful celebration.
For Christians, Easter is the feast day on which the resurrection of Christ is celebrated. For many, today is simply a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family or friends and enjoy the mild spring weather.

Easter Tree



There is no way around eggs at Easter, even in Switzerland. Egg dyeing is a tradition that is closely linked to the holiday. It doesn't matter whether you paint hard-boiled eggs or the blown-out shells - the main thing is to be colorful and creative. A particularly nice way to present the blown-out Easter eggs is an Easter tree, which is set up in many families at home in the living room. Branches of willows and hazel bushes are placed in a vase and decorated with blown-out eggs.

Eiertütschä



Egg patting is almost a popular sport in Switzerland. Each player takes a hard-boiled, colorful Easter egg. Then the first player hits the tip of his opponent's egg with the tip of his egg. Then it's the next one's turn. The goal is to break the opponent's egg. The winner is the last person to have an intact egg. You can play egg patting with the whole family. In the city of Bern, Eiertütsch duels have even been officially held every Easter Sunday since 1892.

Zwänzgerle in Zuerich



Zwänzgerle is a unique Easter custom in Zuerich that was practiced as early as the 18th century. It fell into oblivion during the Second World War, but was revived in the 1960s by the district association of District 1 on the right side of the Limmat. On Easter Monday, children and adults gather at Rüdenplatz and under the arches of the Limmatquai in Zuerich's old town. The children hold a hard-boiled Easter egg in their hands, while the adults try to throw a 20-centime piece on the egg so that it gets stuck in the shell. If this succeeds, the thrower receives the egg and the coin; however, if the coin bounces, the child gets to keep both. The origins of this custom are not exactly known, but the Zwänzgerle still enjoys great popularity today and is an integral part of Zuerich's Easter traditions.

Eierläset in the Basel region and Aargau



The "Eierläset" is an old spring and fertility custom to drive away winter, which is practiced by local gymnastics clubs in numerous municipalities in the cantons of Aargau, Solothurn and Basel-Landschaft. Two strips, each with eighty to a hundred heaps of sawdust, are laid out and an egg is embedded in each pile. Two groups face each other, one representing winter, the other spring.

Each group, in turn, consists of several runners and one or two catchers. The race between spring and winter begins. The runners run to the furthest egg on the track, pick it up, hurry back and throw it to the catcher and his bowling tub. If an egg falls to the ground, the distance must be walked again, but without another egg being brought to the catcher. All other runners perform the same task. For every tenth egg, there is also a special task to be solved. The group that has deposited all the eggs with the catcher first wins. However, corrective intervention is occasionally taken to ensure that spring prevails.

After the competition, participants and spectators often gather for a joint meal, where the collected eggs are consumed in the form of egg dishes. This convivial conclusion promotes a sense of community and rounds off the traditional event.

Youth Page





Spring Picnic

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Desert Breeze Park, Chandler, AZ



Club News / Sunshine Committee

Congratulation!

Christine Schaefer, winner of the raffle at the Christmas Lunch, drove up from Tucson a few days later to claim her prize. Christine had selected the bronze sculpture by Andre Schwab, **the skier, "Determination"** and is so happy to win it.



The Club's fundraising efforts did very well. We had 26 people purchase 98 tickets, which contributed $2,450.00 into our Foundation.



Roland Ulrich

A simple Thank You doesn't seem adequate enough for Roland, our fantastic President of the Arizona Swiss Society for 2 years and 2 years as Vice President. Roland is stepping down due to a job promotion (more traveling). The Club's members join me in wishing Roland only the best of everything in his future. We will greatly miss your caring way; bringing extra food, what a bonus. A huge DANKE from our hearts for your time, simply for EVERYTHING! We hope to see you, Chantel and Sedona at all the yearly Club's functions.

Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter and Alex Reuter



Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter (Membership chair) and Alex Reuter (Treasurer), have stepped down. A heartfelt thank-you for all your time and undeniably perfect work for the Swiss Club and all of us lucky members. We wish Sibylle only the very best in her new adventure and future: Real Estate. Next time we see you, as regular members, enjoying the festivities! You both will be missed greatly!

Club News / Sunshine Committee

Jacob's Crosscut to Siphon Draw Junction Superstition Wilderness



On Sunday, January 18th, 2026 the day was sunny, and nice. The hike was an In and Out trail from Crosscut trailhead to the junction with the Siphon Draw Trail.

This was an easy trail following the base of the Superstitions, with stunning views. Total length was 3.8 miles with an elevation gain of less than 100 feet.

Adero Canyon Ridgeline Trail, Fountain Hills



On February 15th, 2026 this hike was in the Sonora Desert on the Redgeline Trail with a stunning view of Fountain Hills, the iconic Four Peaks wilderness, of native vegetation, and fascinating rock formations. The moderate hike was four miles long and had 682 feet of elevation change.

We Welcome New Members

Stepanek, Jan & Maureen with Kids Nicole and Ian, Scottsdale
Sezen, Alp & Michelle with Kids Yasmeen and Aydin, Scottsdale
Blocher-Rubin, Aaron & Anna with Kids Zoë, Ilycia and Aaron, Phoenix
Arnold, Philip & **Gozzi**, Anita, Scottsdale
Clare, Etienne & Marianne, Sun City West
Haas, Michael, Fountain Hills
Coniau, Sanrine, Paradise Valley
Wolf Heidi, Phoenix
Ramzi, Nika, Paradise Valley
Zurflueh, Herb & Neva, Peoria

Isaac Liñan



Isaac, born in Phoenix, at a young age, is a Trilingual Evangelist. A blessed new addition,a new member in 2025, to the Arizona Swiss Society to recite the prayer at the start of events and functions. The first time I heard him, at the Fall Fest Picnic, his prayer left me in awe.
Isaac speaks English with no accent. At age 6 and 1/2 years, in December 2008, he moved to St. Gallen, Switzerland. (His mom is Swiss, and his father is from Lima, Peru). Isaac completed a Lehre (apprenticeship) in the Engadin, Celerina at Hotel Cresta Palace as a Chef for 3 years. Directly after, he went to the military and served for a year as a soldier chef (Truppenkoch Durchdiener). Through the guidance of the Lord, Isaac returned to Arizona to study at the Arizona Christian University in Glendale.



Back in Switzerland, he has an association (Verein) named "Stark und Mutig in Jesus Christus" that focuses on recruiting orphans and abandoned children to Track & Field (Leichtathletik) while also being faithful followers in Christ.

Isaac's Christmas message, which he sent out to the world, was in 3 languages: German, English, and Spanish.

Danke, Isaac, for your spirit, spreading your belief, and your presence at the AZ Swiss Club.



Swiss-Recipes Page
for the young at heart



Appenzeller Schlorzifladen

This slightly different Schlorzifladen is a salty-sweet temptation. The fine cream cheese is subtle and goes perfectly with the pear filling, without to drown them out.



Ingredients for 4 people

Dough

200 g	flour
70 g	butter
1 dl	water
1/4 Tesp	Salt

Filling

200 g	pear path filling
300 g	Appenzeller cream cheese
1 Tbsp	flour
3.5 dl	milk
3	eggs
little	salt and pepper
little	nutmeg

Preparation

1. For the dough, put the flour and salt in a bowl and mix. Cold cut the butter into cubes, add and form a crumbly mixture rub. Pour in water, combine to form a dough, do not kneading. Flatten a little and wrap in cling film, refrigerate for about 30 minutes.

2. Grate the Appenzeller® cream cheese with a Rösti grater. Together mix with the flour in a bowl. Tip: Cold cheese is better to grate.

3. Mix milk and eggs in one litre. Season with salt, pepper and season nutmeg to taste.

4. Roll out the dough on a floured surface into a circle. Prick the dough with a fork. Oven to 200 °C Upper and preheat bottom heat.

5.Spread the pear filling evenly over the dough. First, add the cheese, then pour the glaze over it. Bake for about 30-40 minutes.

Tip: As a main meal, add a salad and pickled onion. But it also tastes good just like that with a snack or dessert.

Update and News of the World Cup 2026 in America

Miracles on grass, a one-month event, Soccer, the world calls Football, the beautiful game played in various cities in America, Canada, and Mexico.

Opening match June 11 to July 19 (Final)

Did you know: Switzerland qualified and is coming to America (yes, Germany and Austria too). Switzerland, in Group B, plays Qatar in Santa Clara, CA, on Saturday, June 13, at noon on the Fox channel (no commercials during the game). If that doesn't convince: Soccer/Football rules!

Second game for Switzerland / playoff winner, Thursday, June 18, in Inglewood, CA, at 12:00 could be against: Wales, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Northern Ireland.

Third game, Switzerland / Canada on Wednesday, June 24, in Vancouver, Canada.

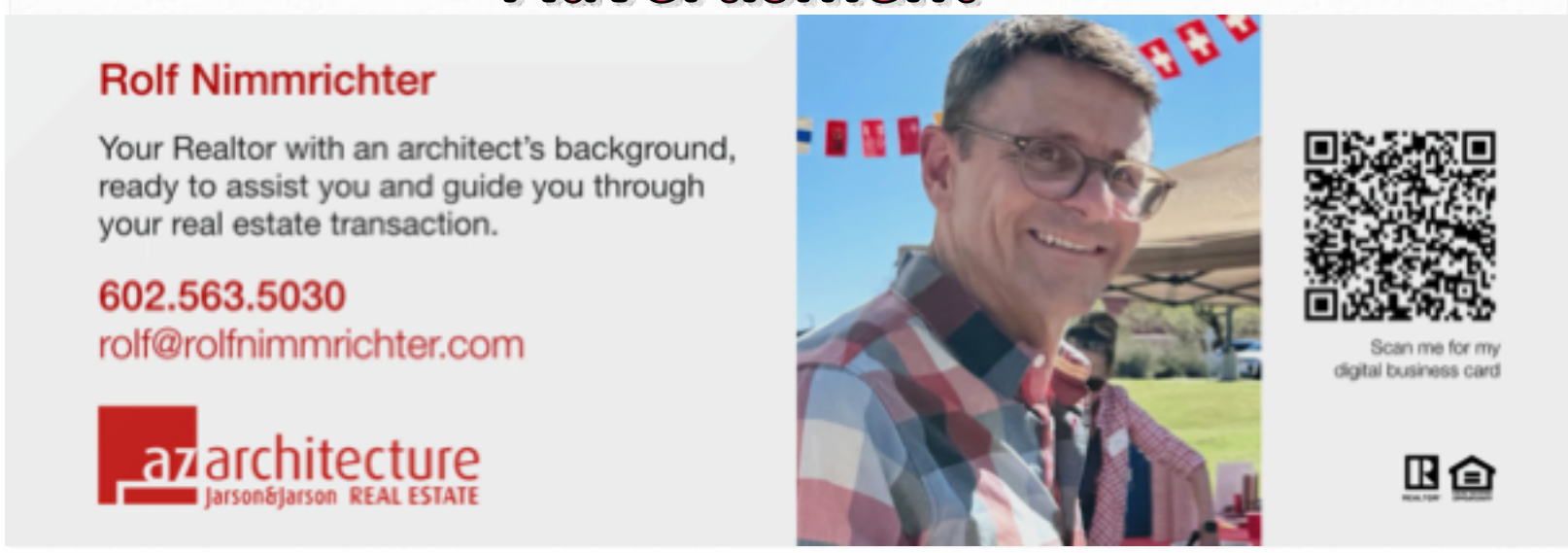
Did you know: Granit Xhaka and Ricardo Rodriguez, still and again in the Swiss Team 2026, way back in 2009, both played in the U-17 when Switzerland won the World Champion Title for the Under 17. They beat the host team, Nigeria, which was the title holder. (24 countries competed) One goal that changed everything!
Oh, the meaning of one goal . . . that almost stops the world from spinning.

Expect the unexpected!



Trudy Wells-Meyer

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Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Christian Fleury Gaby Vuichoud
Membership Chair	Rolf Nimmrichter
Past President	Roland Ulrich

Honorary Swiss Consul Mauro Saladini
Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler

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Sunshine Committee	Yvonne Zaugg
Historian	Sigrid Kuster
Webmaster	Philippe Reichen
SocialMedia Coordinator	
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“Jugend” Youth Activity	Sedona Ulrich, Fiona Reuter
Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair Anthony P. Haechler
Adviser / Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

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