

# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear Readers,

When I got word that I was selected as editor for the US Regional Edition of the Swiss Review, my husband Paul and I were volunteering for the Ashley Forest Service in the beautiful Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in Utah and Wyoming. We usually spend the Summer in a region with moderate temperatures to escape the heat in Pahrump, Nevada. Pahrump lies between Las Vegas and Death Valley!

I grew up in Schaffhausen where we incidentally also have a river swim facility – the Rhybadi – as described in the article about the Charles on page 2. Working for the largest employer in town, Georg Fischer AG, I got the opportunity to spend a year at one of their subsidiaries in Southern California. There I met

my husband who was in his last days before changing companies, and the rest is history, as they say. Had I arrived two weeks later, I would have never met him. That was in 1979.

In 2010, we decided to sell our house and move into our “condo on wheels”, our motorhome. Ever since, we have been exploring mostly the Western United States.

I’m looking forward to reading your articles about the happenings in your Swiss clubs and organizations or anything where Swiss are involved and share them with the rest of the readership. And don’t forget to check out the ads in this issue for great gift ideas.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday season and a healthy New Year.



DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM  
EDITOR

Dear Readers in the United States,

■ The Swiss Review you are holding in your hands or are reading on-line is the first one by Doris Bernath Cunningham, the new editor. She is very qualified and I have no doubt that she will do a great job and that you will like her work.

■ On June 22 I had a major operation. What was first thought to be a small cancer stage 1b turned out to be a larger growth, stage 3a. So instead of two small incisions on each side of the top of my shoulder, a very large incision was made, from below my breast all the way to the back. I kept telling friends: “They cut me in half!” The whole upper lobe of my lung is gone. Even now, six weeks after surgery, I regularly have to take pain medication. Which means I’m not allowed to

drive. That complicates my life, but luckily I have good friends who offer to chauffeur me around. In a few weeks everything should be healed and the radiation treatment and later chemo can start. Not that I’m really looking forward to that, but there are a few fringe benefits: I already lost 15 pounds and I hope to drop many more. As my brother said: “There are moments when it’s an advantage to be overweight!” And if I loose my hair from the chemo, I hope it will grow back curly. I wanted curly hair all my life. So if these things happen, you can expect a picture in the next Swiss Review from my slim and curly self!

■ Wishing all of you beautiful Holidays and thanking you for all the e-mails, cards and phone calls.

WAL BAUR

### Louisiana: Swiss-American Society of New Orleans

Our society celebrated its 161st Anniversary this year. It was founded on May 1, 1855!

Our annual business meeting took place at the home of Honorary Consul Alexandra Mora on March 6. At the meeting the following officers were elected: John Geiser, President; Jane Stickney Gwyn, Vice President; Pauline Lambert, Treasurer; Paul Muehlemann, Secretary; Helene Sparacello and Lottie Comeaux, Directors.

It was also decided to have at least three main events during the year: the Annual Business Meeting, the August 1 Celebration, and a Christmas Dinner. In addition, there would be monthly Kaffeeklatsch meetings at la Madeleine country French cafe.

PAUL MUEHLEMANN

MUEHLEMANN@BELLSOUTH.NET



Annual business meeting at the home of Honorary Consul Alexandra Mora (standing).





Rendering provided by Stantec for the Charles River Conservancy.

Two happy swimmers from the 278 who participated in City Splash organized by the Charles River Conservancy. In the background are the Longfellow Bridge that connects Cambridge and Boston.

### Boston, Massachusetts: Charles River Conservancy

Swimming in urban rivers is a well established Swiss tradition - in Basel's Rhein, in Bern's Aare or Zurich's Limmat. Bringing such a beloved Swiss recreation to the Charles River is the goal of ETH-Z trained architect Renata von Tscharnner, the founder and president of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC).

Due to decades and hundreds of millions of dollars of remediation, Boston and Cambridge are poised to set an example for other American cities by leading the country with a safe and innovative swimming facility that is accessible and beautiful. We want to challenge perceptions

that the river is filled with dirty water. The Charles River is the cleanest urban river in America.

In 2009, the collaboration between swissnex Boston and the CRC resulted in a traveling exhibit, called "Think Swiss, Think Swim", showcasing Swiss river baths. Now that well over 1000 people have participated in the specially permitted Community Swims in the Charles River in Boston, and thus defied the outdated stigma of "that dirty water" song by the Standell's, the Charles River Conservancy unveiled a feasibility study for a permanent swim park.



For more information about the Swimmable Charles go to [www.thecharles.org](http://www.thecharles.org)

RENATA VON TSCHARNER  
PRESIDENT, CHARLES RIVER CONSERVANCY

### Spartanburg, South Carolina: Swiss American Society of the Piedmont

We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a party at the Piedmont Club with good foods and entertainment by the talented Swiss Streichmusik Alder Family.

To begin the 2016 events, we tried something different. The first event in 2016 was attended by many members who wished to learn about the craft of beer making American style. We had an informative

tour of the Sierra Nevada Brewery, not only sampling their many beers, but also the hops making the distinctive brew's flavors.

Many walked the beautiful landscaped grounds and viewed the garden which supplies their restaurant with organic greens and herbs. To complete the day's event, the group enjoyed more beer, many laughs and shared exotic meals prepared in the locavore restaurant. Prost!

RITA ZOLLINGER  
[WWW.SWISSCLUBUPSTATE.COM](http://WWW.SWISSCLUBUPSTATE.COM)





**Illinois:**  
**Swiss Club of Chicago**

*on a mission to grow after strengthening its roots and mixing things up.*

The Swiss Club of Chicago has undergone several leadership changes since the beginning of the year and has adjusted its 2016 agenda to offer more options for Swiss and Friends of Swiss to gather frequently in different areas across Chicagoland.

Its president of 13 years, Martin Lagler has taken on the treasury position and handed over the presidency to Horst Zemp. Both have lead several events, together with the help of the volunteers of the club's board. Several members joined the entertainment board this year to help host the different events. All work tirelessly to support the goal of the club, preserving Swiss heritage and culture and bringing Swiss and Friends of Swiss together.

This year started with a record breaking attendance at the Fondue Dinner and Annual Meeting held in February. That event was followed by the annual Raclette dinner at the Niedersachsen Clubhouse in Chicago; it was another full house. Both events were heavily supported



Record breaking attendance at the Annual Meeting and Fondue Dinner held in February.



Having fun canoeing on the Sugar River in Wisconsin.

by a number of generous sponsors.

Drinks with Swiss has been introduced this year as a more modern format to the Stammtisch and Jass events of the past. Drinks with Swiss is an informal event held every second Friday of the month in a restaurant or bar in the Chicagoland area. Each event is hosted by a different member of the entertainment board, who picks the location. The first couple of events have already shown great success in bringing together new members, existing members, Swiss and Friends of Swiss to mingle and connect. The locations are posted on the club's website and emailed to all registered members and non-members.

The new leadership along with its board members have set their sights on expanding the club's annual events held close to the city as well as expanding its borders with activities in the Western suburbs and beyond. According to its new president, the club will also work closer together with other Chicago clubs in the area, such as The Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and SABC (Swiss-American Business Council) to provide better service to Swiss and Friends of Swiss.

With 'Brunch at the Lake' in June and its biggest annual event 'The August 1st Celebration', the board hopes to gain more interest in the club and bring even more Swiss and Friends of Swiss together along with their families. Other fun events such as canoeing on the Sugar River in Wisconsin, Ticino Night, Guetzle (Swiss Baking), Jass Tournaments, and Samichlaus, ensure the calendar will be filled with good times. The club looks ahead to an even bigger year in 2017.

For additional information about the club, please visit

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**New York:**  
**Swiss National Day 2016**

The 725th Swiss National Day was celebrated in New York again at the Studio Square Beer Garden in Long Island City, just across the East River of Manhattan. The weather was great until around 3:30 pm, but even in the rain people were sitting outside under umbrellas and enjoyed Swiss food, wine and drinks.

Ambassador André Schaller walked with his briefcase onto the stage, opened it and took out a beautiful red Swiss cowbell and after a few bell-sounds people were listening to his upbeat speech. Switzerland



land as a small country plays an important role in the USA. We can be proud of many achievements including the flight of Solar Impulse around the world powered by the sun only. Solar Impulse landed in New York City in June before crossing the Atlantic to Spain.

The band "Übersee" performed their own upbeat originals and added a dose of "swissness" with fun arrangements of Swiss folksongs. DJ Taxi from Switzerland found the perfect mix of music. He played mainly old songs almost everybody knew and it was easy



Jeannette Seifert  
 (President of the Swiss Society of NY) addressing the crowd

just to sing along. It is always amazing and fun to see the lampion parade by the children. Their faces were painted very colorful and all had a Swiss related "sujet".

Nobody had to go home hungry. It felt like being at "home". You could choose between Swiss sausages, Raclette, wine, coffee and homemade cakes. And so many bought a few Swiss products, like Aromat, Thomy Mustard and Mayonnaise.

At the end everybody was happy but a few were specially happy and lucky. They

won great prizes from the raffle. Whoever won the two roundtrip tickets to Switzerland including two First Class Swiss Travel Passes is going to enjoy a wonderful time back in Switzerland. I hope we all see each other again next year.



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ROLAND PABST

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**Boston, Massachusetts:**  
Pitch Perfect Sunset Cruise

A boat full of entrepreneurs, a highly attentive audience, and the good old and familiar smell of Raclette cheese. Such was the recipe for this year's edition of swissnex Boston's annual international startup battle, the "Global Pitchfest". The event this June was dubbed "sink or swim" – entrepreneurs from both sides of the Atlantic had to pitch their life sciences ideas and business plans to an audience of local innovation aficionados – all while cruising on a ship just outside



Andrea Maesani (2nd from the right) from Intento carried away the Swiss win.



The Swiss National Startup team, a.k.a the Venture Leaders faced their audience in the Boston Harbor.

the Boston harbor. And they had to do it fast: each presenter only had one minute to deliver his or her pitch. The middle of the ocean is as far from the natural habitat of a Swiss as it can be, but the ten helvetic entrepreneurs making up the Venture Leaders Life Sciences Team 2016 stood their ground firmly, standing up to their competitors from the Boston area. A public voting system named three startups – two American, one Swiss – as the winners of the evening.

ANITA SUTER, SWISSNEX BOSTON

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**Oklahoma:**  
Swiss Club of Oklahoma

On March 12, 2016, approximately 30 members of the Swiss Club of Oklahoma gathered at the home of Anna and André Siegenthaler in Broken Arrow Oklahoma to take part in the yearly tradition of a typical Swiss Fondue meal. As usual, not only were the hostess Anna and her daughter Ariane great cooks, but Ariane's husband Richard made our fondue event a great success. Our Swiss friends from across Oklahoma enjoyed friendship, fun and a good glass of white wine.

The Swiss Club of Oklahoma dates back to the Sixties which since then has met on a continual basis roughly four times a year. Over the years, as people come and go, it has become a challenge to refresh our membership not only with new members, but also younger members.

Thus, we ask that any Swiss individuals living in Oklahoma, South Kansas and/or West Arkansas contact us to join our great team of friends. We would very much welcome you!

ANDRE SIEGENTHALER, PRESIDENT  
SWISSCLUBOFOK2013@COX.NET



Oklahoma soccer fans



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**Washington, DC:**  
**Swiss Benevolent Society 150th Anniversary Gala**

On June 10, 2016, the Swiss Benevolent Society (SBS) of Washington D.C. commemorated the 150th anniversary of its founding with a gala dinner held at the Swiss Embassy residence. It was hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Dahinden. The residence was festively decorated with special flower arrangements and carved fruit displays. Because the weather was exceptionally beautiful the event started with a reception on the large porch which has a most beautiful view of the Washington Monument in the distance. Passed canapés included traditional raclette.

To set the stage for this special evening, Swiss pianist Veronique Gobet presented a pre-dinner music program.

After Ambassador Dahinden's welcoming remarks he introduced the gala dinner menu. He explained when he and his wife learned of their assignment to Washington, they decided to make known important Swiss contributions to culinary history. One of the outstanding achievements was the first cook book ever written by a woman, "Ein Köstlich new Kochbuch" published in 1598 by Basel native Anna Weckerin. Because most Americans think the only thing Swiss eat is Cheese Fondue, Ambassador and Mrs Dahinden felt this would be a great introduction to the versatility of Swiss cuisine. And that it was!

The first course, Mandelsuppe with Seville Orange, was followed by Endive and Pear Salad, and Salmon on a bed of barley and spinach. The translation, with precise cooking instruction, has been published in a small pamphlet "Anna Weckerin and her delightful New Cookbook." To top off the dinner there was a ceremonial cutting of a Zuger Kirschtorte Birthday Cake, specially designed and prepared by Laurie Weber of the Springfield Virginia Swiss Bakery.

Over its 150 years the SBS mission was, and continues to be, one of helping Swiss compatriots in financial need, and providing special attention to elderly Swiss. Because the need for such assistance diminished, the SBS established a scholarship program for post high school education 25 years ago. Since then nearly \$200,000 has been awarded. Following the dinner, Matthew Zipf, one of the 2015 award recipients spoke thanking the Society for the gift and expressing what the scholarship has meant to him. Also read was a letter from 2015 award winner Emily Biggs of Helvetia, a small Swiss settlement in the coal mining region of West Virginia. She thanked the Society for their support which helped her to graduate without any student debt.

During the dinner Ambassador Dahinden, SBS President Campbell Graeb, and Board member Alfred Kessi addressed the guests. In commemoration of the birthday the gala dinner was the Society's most successful fund raiser to further the work of the Swiss Benevolent

Society. A scroll detailing the SBS's history and a box of Swiss chocolate and cookies was presented to each guest at the end of the evening.

ELIZABETH vonKAENEL AND CAMPBELL GRAEB  
 PHOTOS BY BEN SULLIVAN



A portion of the beautifully set Dining Room at the Swiss Embassy Residence.



Matthew Zipf  
 Elizabeth Zipf  
 Veronique Gobet  
 Lynn Zipf

Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington DC Trustees with Ambassador Dahinden (back right).



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