

REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear readers/compatriots,

36% of all Swiss Abroad worldwide are over 55 years old. In February, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA), SwissCommunity, held a webinar on the topics of 'Aging Abroad' and OASI (old-age and survivors' insurance) in collaboration with the FDFA, the Swiss Compensation Office, and Soliswiss. The webinar is aimed at Swiss citizens who already live abroad or who are considering moving abroad for their retirement. During the webinar, experts

gave an overview of this complex issue and answered questions directly or indirectly connected to OASI (old-age and survivors' insurance).

A video recording of the webinar is available in German and French. For more information go to: <https://www.swisscommunity.org/en/angebote-events/webinare/webinar-on-the-topics-of-aging-abroad-and-oasi>.

The deadline for articles for the next issue published on May 12, 2023, is April 4, 2023.

I wish you a pleasant spring time.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM, EDITOR

85th Anniversary of the Recognition of Romansh

We welcomed Swiss professor, translator and cultural mediator Chasper Pult to New York. He is known for his commitment to the preservation of the Romansh language and spent a week charming New Yorkers during this year's 'Emna Rumantscha' – an opportunity for the Consulate General to produce some fun clips to share with you.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs makes plurilingualism and intercultural dialogue a priority. This year, in light of the third international edition of the language week 'Emna Rumantscha' we have organized a series of activities to share and promote the Swiss national language with New Yorkers.

We hosted New York's very first "Romansh Brunch" at the Invisible Dog Art Space in Brooklyn, where we welcomed over 100 participants to take part in a Romansh class led by Chasper Pult himself, in order to learn more about the beautiful and unique language. Chasper is a superb teacher and his genuine demeanor captivated the audience.

Moreover, the staff at the Consulate General and Swiss Mission of Switzerland to the UN had the pleasure of participating in a language class with him as well.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN NEW YORK
ROSINA COLAZZO-FRANZESE
LEAD COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



Chasper Pult @Times Square
Copyright EDA

Now it's your turn:

Have you always wanted to learn Romansh yourself? Check out our short crash course videos we recorded during Chasper Pult's recent visit to New York and clips from a previous series with Chasper in Switzerland: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvbiml7YL-LEZ1P5IC10Hu_1Nyo_2Y9W5I



And as a culinary highlight, check out our Romansh cooking video, where we make a traditional recipe from Grisons, for a feeling of home away from home:

https://youtu.be/eDa_gE1GSkE



Northern California: San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club

The San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club has exciting things planned once again in 2023. We have an all-time high of 700 members! Last year we highlighted our Championship Schwingfest and had members from the Kussnacht Schwinger Klub join us. It made for a very exciting Schwingfest, and we welcome other clubs from Switzerland or from other areas in the United States to join us. We have taken on some new events this year and have kept some of the original well attended ones.

Mark your calendars for the Swiss Echoes Concert on April 15th.

We also offer a Kids' Swiss Camp where all kids 3rd through 8th grade are welcome to come and participate in a full day of activities



from arts and crafts, baking, Schwingen, singing, and other fun activities on April 30th. This is our chance to get the youth involved to meet others their age to experience some fun Swiss activities. Our Spring Schwingfest will be June 3rd where once again boys and girls ages 5 - 17 can participate and men over 18 years old. Festivities start at 10:30 am with

signups and with Schwingen starting at 11 am. The kitchen counter is open to experience many Swiss pastries and of course get your Schiblig for lunch. A dinner will be served and a dance following with awards to the Schwingers at 9 pm. A fun event for the whole family to enjoy! We have been improving our grounds and have added a new Beer Hut to be enjoyed by all during our Schwingen and Oktoberfest events. We have also updated our website with lots of great information on all of our events, contacts and other information including membership to our club.

TONY BERCHTOLD, PRESIDENT
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Pennsylvania: New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter

Join us for a little bit of home - away from home!

The New Helvetic Society, PA Chapter, is a thriving Swiss Club in the Greater Delaware Valley! We count 300+ members from young to old and love to have a good time! We celebrate our Swiss heritage with many events throughout the year. You don't have to be of Swiss descent in order to join, but if you like Swiss culture, Fondue or Raclette, play Jass, or just like to chill with a new set of friends, then contact us! You can come to one of our events as my guest and if you like, you can sign-up to become a member. Membership is super reasonable, at \$20 for a single person and \$30 for a family membership per year. Feel free to look us up at MySwissClub.org and familiarize yourself with all the great events we're organizing!

The New Helvetic Society has been very busy with many events last year! Recently we attended the 4th Annual Winter Weekend Getaway in beautiful Elk Mountain, PA. Elk Mountain has some of the best skiing in Pennsylvania and over 30 people made it down the slopes with many beginners making their first successful attempts at it. Saturday night 50+ happy campers gathered for a delicious Raclette in the Moose House at Quarry Hills Farm. Young and old enjoyed themselves with good camaraderie whilst playing pool, Jass or the shuffle table. To find out more about the 2-night-event go to MySwissClub.org and familiarize yourself with the happenings of the Club and look at all the cool pictures!

Coming up next:

- Saturday, April 29th: Our Annual General Assembly Meeting at beautiful Riverwinds restaurant in West Deptford, NJ where we meet for a delicious lunch while overlooking the Delaware River with Philadelphia in the background!
- Saturday, June 17th: Our Father's Day Picnic at the historical Red Bank Battlefield Park in National Park, NJ, where we grill 150 delicious Bratwursts and get together to celebrate the special dads in our lives!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at President@myswissclub.org. I'm always looking forward to meeting new people interested in indulging themselves with our Swiss Culture!

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Northern California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

This year the Aelpler Gruppe held its annual members' Christmas luncheon on December 3rd, 2022. It was a great success with many attendees and volunteers. This is the second year that we have hosted the event at lunch time rather than in the evening which many enjoyed.

Lunch included chicken in a creamy mushroom sauce, cheese tortellini, fruit salad, mixed green salad, and bread rolls. After our delicious meal, the club sang Christmas carols and Santa brought gifts for the waiting children. Soon followed our raffle drawing, which brought in many prizes including wine, chocolates, cheese and much more. We thank you for all generous contributions; with over 60 items having been donated!

The club also said their farewells to three wonderful members of the Swiss Park and Aelpler Gruppe boards. Leaving the Swiss Park board is Pete Zuger who has been a member for many years. Leaving the Aelpler Gruppe board of directors are Julia Dobbel-Hester and Bill Bauhofer. We thank them for their many years of service to our club!

The volunteers helped make this a night to remember, arriving before the event to set up tables, decorations and the Christmas tree. Volunteers also helped serve dinner, plate homemade cookies, pour Kaffee Schnaps, pull raffle winners, and help Santa bring presents to the kids! We could not have had such a great event without these helpers.

ROSE SATARIANO, NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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Leaving the Swiss Park board is Pete Zuger who has been a member for many years.



Aelpler Gruppe 2023 Events

February 26
Jass Party & Fondue Dinner
April 16
Folklore/Spring Dance
May 7
Semi-Annual Members Meeting
May 21
Swiss Benevolent Society Spring Picnic
August 5
United Swiss Societies - Swiss National Day
August 26
Fall Schwingfest in Newark
November 5
Annual Members Meeting
November 11
Metzgete Dinner
December 2
Members Christmas Lunch

Leaving the Aelpler Gruppe board of directors are Julia Dobbel-Hester and Bill Bauhofer. We thank them for their many years of service to our club!

Wisconsin: Swiss Center of North America

An Appenzell New Year's Tradition in the U.S.

Silvesterchlausen is an ancient New Year's tradition from Appenzell Ausserrhoden. It is now being celebrated in New Glarus, WI.

Six members of the New Glarus Jodelklub transformed into Chläuse performers on January 14, 2023. In a procession from the Swiss Center of North America to the retail center of the village, the performers carried large cowbells and sang Zäuerli yodels to help scare away bad spirits and celebrate a new year. The Wüeschte (in English: "ugly") costumes are hand-made and are true to the Ausserrhoden style.

Greg Long is a Board Director with the Swiss Center. He saw the Appenzell tradition in person a few years ago. With deep rooted Swiss heritage in New Glarus, Greg felt it would be perfect for a new tradition in "Swissconsin".

The village was filled with spectators interested in this unusual celebration. On a beautiful sunny winter day, onlookers were serenaded with beautiful cowbells and Zäuerli.

The performers were Greg Long, JoAnn Cruse, Ed Brand, George Albright, Tim Pauli, and Andy Schulz.

"We will help keep this tradition alive, and are bringing one more tradition from Switzerland", says Swiss Center President Beth Zurbuchen.

"This event will be April 15th when we have the burning of the Böögg." This ancient tradition from Zurich represents the burning away of winter.

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Florida: Swiss Club Miami

Farewell to Bea Schmied who served as President with the Swiss Club Miami for 5 years. I personally would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the Club. We have worked together for the past few months during the transition and I greatly appreciate all she has done. I am sure I speak for everybody in saying Good Bye and Thank You to Bea! We wish the Schmied family all the best!

I am honored to step in to serve as the next Swiss Club Miami President and look forward to a year full of fun events and good times! We already started the year off with the following events:

On January 15, we held our annual Shark Valley bike tour in the Everglades. It was an unusually cold, brisk day in Miami. The cold that will cause iguanas to freeze up and fall off the trees. The alligators however, were out and about soaking up all the sun they could. Biking along the trail, watching the alligators sunning on the curb is an unforgettable experience! After biking, we had bagels, coffee, and conversation at our picnic area before heading out for the day.



On February 8, we held The General Assembly at Fritz and Franz Bierhaus. Appetizers and cocktails were offered to members as we reviewed memberships, modification of bylaws, financials, outlook for 2023, and confirmation of Board Members and the new President.

Following the meeting, we enjoyed our traditional Stammtisch. Chef James Neuweg of the Fritz & Franz Bierhaus prepared delicious meals for the group.



Upcoming events include the picnic at Tropical Park on April 16. The Raclette event is postponed until we find a suitable location.

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From L to R: Nancy Frohlich, Uwe Fischer, Bea Schmied, and Julia Gessner

Moving Back to Switzerland After Living Abroad for Almost 30 Years!

My desire to travel and live in different places in the world began when I chose "International Freight Forwarder" as my profession. It meant that an international career with a lot of traveling was a definite possibility.

I met my husband in Basel and together we took the dive and emigrated to the U.S. for the first time back in 1984. What an exciting new world with so many things being so different, including two professional experiences in Chicago and Atlanta. The latter was especially rewarding being a local consular employee at the Swiss Consulate General.

In 1990 we moved back to Basel, but only for four years when our feet started itching again. This time our destination was Asia, specifically Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. And were these six years filled with excitement!! Two super-interesting jobs and the birth of our son, all paired with a great social life and a fantastic circle of friends! Today Ho Chi Minh City is a metropolitan city like every big city, but back then it was an entrepreneur's adventure both businesswise and privately.

Alas, nothing lasts forever and in the year 2000 new shores called! This time it was Buenos Aires, where cultures mix like they do in only a few other places! Latino living with European roots probably describes it very well. Not only is Buenos Aires a fascinating city, but during our ten years there, we managed to see all the 23 provinces of that breathtaking country which Argentina is.

So, does it come as a surprise to you that when my husband had the chance to go back working in the U.S. in 2010, we would only want to go Miami? After all, they say that Miami is the "closest South American city to the U.S.!" A thrilling combination of all aspects of the Latino lifestyle which we love so much and the "U.S. Way Of Life". Lots of surprises at the beginning – opening a bank account or getting a credit card. Finding a house and new friends took some time. My husband went to the office and I was 'Taxi Mama' for our son (everyone who has children knows what I am talking about). I got engaged with several organizations like the Swiss Club Miami, The Young Patronesses of the Opera fundraising for children, at the school of our son, and Cotillion Club of Miami.

But now, after 12 years, the time has come to say goodbye to Miami. Good bye Florida sunshine and hello to the shores of Lake Lucerne where we'll move to. And who said the word "retirement"? There is so much to do in beautiful Switzerland and isn't any homecoming usually a perfect thing?

I will miss my friends in Miami! I will keep you posted on living in Switzerland again – stay tuned!

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Florida: Swiss American Club of SW Florida

Fondue isch guet – tuet guet – und git a gueti Luunä!

This old advertising slogan proofed to be true in every way. At The Clubhouse at Silverlakes in Fort Myers the fun started with the preparation of the Fondue under the leadership of our master cheese maker Urs Pfister and his assistant Urs Brunner. They measured and prepared all the fondue pots with the right amount of cheese mix, garlic and Kirsch, while Joe Huber, our president, addressed the gathering and welcomed guests and new members, They kept checking while one attendee from each table was asked to stir the fondue on the burners until it was ready for the rechaud at the table. With a record attendance of 60 people it can be a challenge. What a great time to socialize and get in a cheesy mood. Soon all were dipping their bread in the melted cheese enjoying the traditional winter food of our home country. Topping off the evening with a dessert buffet and coffee it was a wonderful get-together of the local Swiss community and friends. Thank you, Lily, for the organization and to all who have brought their home baked desserts.



VICKI H. BURKHARD, SECRETARY

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Future events

Wednesday, April 26 - Everglades Wondergarden Exploration

From Florida Alligators and Flamingos to beautiful Macaws, turtles, tortoises and even Golden Pheasants – add that to the vibrant botanical collection and there is something to interest everyone. Followed by lunch. Visit our website for more details.

Wednesday, May 24 - Minigolf Challenge

Once again, we call upon all the golfers and those pretending to be golfers to show off their skills and sportsmanship at our traditional minigolf challenge. It will certainly be another great and competitive event. With minigolf, everyone can be a winner. Followed by lunch. So, mark your calendar and check our website for more details.

Wednesday, June 24 - Swiss Club Picnic

Another year, another fun Picnic gathering. This is a bring-your-own event. The BBQ grills will be ready for everyone's favorite. Check our website for more details.

Saturday, December 9 - 25th Anniversary Gala

Special Announcement! The Swiss American Club of Southwest Florida will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a Gala Event. Mark your calendar for this special occasion and check our website for more details.

Florida: Swiss American Club of Sarasota

After a two-year hiatus, because of the pandemic, members were happy to resume our very popular and well attended Fondue luncheon on Sunday, February 12th. Our host and member, Chef Rolf Zander, welcomed us at his restaurant 'Chef Rolf's New Florida Kitchen'. The event was rich with conversations that were spirited and informative, a piano player enhanced the experience.



Our popular picnics will resume on March 5th and continue until May. Summer months are quite warm in Sarasota and many of our members will leave for Switzerland or for their summer homes in the northern states.

Swiss Clubs are important ambassadors for Switzerland as they keep the traditions and customs alive. We invite everyone, young and old, to join us as members or as participants to our events that are listed on our website.

IMELDA EGG, VP COMMUNICATIONS

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Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

Activities of the TCSAA at the end of 2022

Following the trip to Harmony, the TCSAA had some nice programs for its members to enjoy. Here are some notes about these events.

Swiss Rifle Club, End of Season Invitational

On October 2nd, the Swiss Rifle Club of Minneapolis welcomed the members of the Twin Cities Swiss American Association and members of the Swiss Community for the 3rd, End of Season Invitational 300m rifle match. 17 participants gathered on the range of the Minneapolis Rifle Club. After a welcome to the club and a demonstration of the Swiss K31 rifle and safety procedures, the guests



were invited to fire some trial rounds under the supervision of an experienced club marksman. Those feeling confident enough decided to participate in the end of Season Match together with the club members. The grand prize, an original Swiss Army knife, was sponsored by the Swiss Rifle Association. For some of the Swiss Citizens, there was also the chance to complete the Felschiessen or Bundesprogramm, which some have not done for decades.

Most of the guests decided to participate in at least one of the programs and some of them discovered Swiss marksmanship for the first time in their lives. After the successfully completed exercises and performance analyses, the party moved to the grilling area where Bratwuerste from a Swiss butcher, sponsored by the TSCAA, and many fine delicatessens, contributed by the members and guests, awaited the hungry marksmen and women for a delicious lunch. Here, the social aspect, in the mission statement of both clubs, was in full swing, as members and guests got to know each other, shared their past experiences, further analyzed today's performance, or planned to come again next year.

Since its inception, this program has attracted a wide response in the Swiss community. While for some it is the beginning of a new activity, for others it is simply to see or experience what their Swiss fathers or grandfathers always talked about when they mentioned their Swiss military service or shooting in Switzerland.

In the meantime, the range master tabulated the results and the event was rounded up by the announcements of the rankings and the handout of prizes sponsored by the club, its members and the Swiss Rifle Association. All guests and members went home in good spirits, with great memories and are looking forward to next year.

In December, more than 30 adults and children gathered at the Fish Lake Pavilion in Maple Grove, MN, on a very sunny day for our yearly Christmas-get-together to meet "Samichlaus". At around 12pm, Samichlaus (Santa) arrived and sat down close to the cozy fireplace. One by one, Samichlaus called up the children as they lined up and listened to what Santa had to say to them. They were very happy to receive a little present from him. He brought peanuts, clementines, raisins, chocolate and candies in beautiful handmade jute "saekli" (bags).



After his visit, the children occupied themselves with some mac and cheese, as well as coloring and crafting, while the adults enjoyed a warm cup of soup with bread! After lunch, the participants shared delicious homemade Christmas cookies, and got to take home a sweet welcome present that was provided by one of the organizers, Branden Block! The TCSAA will keep celebrating this Swiss tradition every year to make the children feel closer to Switzerland, and to allow adults to go back in time and remember when they were the children waiting for the bearded man on December 6th!

I want to thank our board members Alessia Stornetta and Patrick Fischer for their contribution to this article.

MARKUS HOESLI, VICE PRESIDENT TCSAA
WWW.TCSAA.US

Our members are now planning our 50th anniversary celebration of our club. The festivities will be on June 25, 2023 at the Theodore Wirth Chalet in Minneapolis. Everyone is invited. If you're interested in attending, check out our website www.tcsaa.us to find more information.

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Louisiana: Swiss American Society of New Orleans (SASNOLA)

Our Christmas party was held at Deutsches Haus on December 22, 2022. With Covid on the rise again, we opted for an informal "drop in as you can, open Haus" party. Members who were able to attend could order from a selection of some 20 beers on tap from the state-of-the-art long draw system which delivers draft beer to the taps at a controlled temperature of 27 degrees, of which most are German and the rest being craft. There was also bottled beer, Schnapps, wine, liquor, and of course soft beverages, too. The kitchen offered large, soft Bavarian-style Pretzels with beer and cheese dipping sauces and Flammkuchen (German variation of pizza with creamy white sauce). We brought petit-fours from the Swiss Confectionery in New Orleans, Christmas shortbread cookies, and Lindt chocolates for dessert. As every year, our members were gifted Christmas Bells on Swiss themed lanyards on arrival and Swiss truffle boxes upon leaving. We had such a good time just being together, catching up and enjoying a bit of the holiday season together. If nothing else, we have certainly learned that these moments must not be taken for granted.

On January 29, on a very wet and rainy Sunday, we held our annual January Party/Business meeting at the home of our Honorary Consul Alexandra Mora. It was a fun event, with good food, some authentic Swiss cheeses, a few terrific king cakes, and of course wine, one being a Swiss Pinot Noir that a member was able to track down. After some much needed socializing, but before getting down to business, we were graced with some beautiful piano music from our very own Roger Dickerson, long time active member, world renown composer and musician. Following Roger, member Brian Broussard played some Elton John for a fun karaoke style sing along. After the challenges of the last couple of years, it was great to finally get together to discuss the business side of our club. We had a very productive business meeting, filled with fresh ideas for the future success and endurance of our club.

Like clockwork, once the business wrapped, the weather cleared and we moved the party outside, enjoying the company of remaining members along with a slightly cool New Orleans breeze. What fun it was!

January 6, The Epiphany, officially ends the Christmas season in New Orleans, our Christmas trees come down. More importantly it is the official start of Carnival Season, with all kinds of lesser-known activities taking place in and around New Orleans. It is also the first day of King Cake season. With the carnival season really gearing up, it will all culminate on Mardi Gras, Tuesday, February 21st this year. We'll have some Mardi Gras to share at our next writing.

Until then, wherever you are - be safe, be happy, be healthy and be Swiss,
 JEAN STICKNEY, SECRETARY
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SWISSNOLA



Colorado: Swiss American Friendship Society (SAFS)

The Swiss-American Friendship Society (SAFS) with more than 200 members is a non-profit organization dedicated to foster and advance friendship and goodwill between the people of the state of Colorado and Switzerland through social and cultural programs. We strive to serve all people having an interest in the two nations.

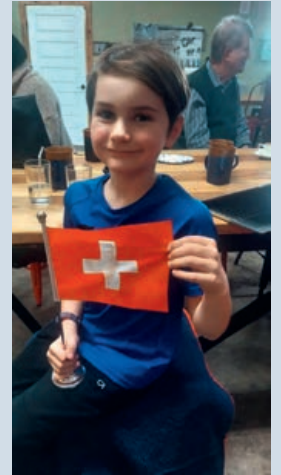
The first few weeks of 2023 have been filled with social gatherings during our Stammtisch events on both ends of the Denver Metro Area. In addition, some early birds gathered for a Kafi Chraenzli at Waldschaenke Ciders & Coffee on February 5th and some avid hikers enjoyed a snowshoe hike on March 5th.

SAFS COVID Inspired Cookbook

After a couple years of organizing and editing, we have finalized the COVID Lockdown inspired Swiss cookbook. In it, you will find a lot of our traditional event menu items such as the Gerstensuppe as well as some personal favorites from individual members. From mouthwatering Swiss Chocolate Mousse to delicious Toast Hawaii, these recipes are guaranteed to take you back to your Swiss roots.

Download this uniquely Swiss cookbook from our website www.safs.us and use the donation link to contribute to the club as our current and past board members have worked hard on this final version.

Visit our website at www.safs.us to stay in touch with our events such as the Jass tournament in April, pickleball tournaments once the weather warms up, and the Father's Day Hike in June in addition to new events and the bi-weekly Stammtisch gatherings. and join our club if you live here in Colorado. SAFS also recently joined the official Internet platform SwissCommunity.org for the Swiss Abroad and will post events in that fashion as well.



REGULA GRENIER
WWW.SAFS.US

New York: Swiss Benevolent Society of New York

96 Members of the SBS New York and friends visited the Prudential Center in Newark on the afternoon of Saturday, October 22nd for the 5th (Early) Swiss Hockey Night.

The game featured the New Jersey Devils taking on the San Jose Sharks. The Devils prevailed 2-1 in an exciting game where the Swiss center Nico Hischier contributed an assist in the win.

In addition to an exclusive limited edition commemorative T-shirt for all of us, one member of our group was treated to a Zamboni ride

during the first intermission. To top it all, we went on the ice after the game and hit shots from the blue line at the goal.

As a special treat, Nico Hischier and Jonas Siegenthaler who are the two Swiss players on the Devils roster, joined us on the ice after the game.

A good time was had by all, and we are looking forward to more visits at NHL hockey games in the future.

MARKUS BRUDERER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SBS
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Group picture with Nico Hischier and Jonas Siegenthaler (front row)



Rhode Island: Swiss Association of Rhode Island (SARI)

Hello from Rhode Island, fellow Swiss and friends!

Our group is planning a series of 'travelogue' Zoom presentations, about an area in Switzerland, with photos and favorites and some historic and cultural information. At the time of writing, SARI member Carolynn Luescher is planning a seminal offering, in English, about Zurich, at 10 am on April 22. Anyone is invited to join the Zoom, just contact me for the link at SwissAssnRI@gmail.com.

Another idea that is in consideration is small group meetings in cafes (or homes) – limited to the first ten registrants – to be in either Schweitzerdeutsch or French. I believe we do not have Romansch or Swiss-Italian members in the group at this time.

Once the weather breaks, we will organize walks in diverse areas to appeal to those in various parts of our group's geographic footprint, from border to border and beyond.

The August 1st celebration will be at Lincoln Woods on that Tuesday, all day until sunset. There are multiple activities available, from a lake-side beach to field games, horseback riding stables nearby, and boat rentals (kayak and canoe, I believe). The cost has not yet been finalized.

On a very somber note, our group has lost the head (and I believe founder) of the former Swiss Club of RI, Henri Gautschi. While to my regret I did not know about that organization, I imagine he achieved many successes, given the warm and capable gentleman I met at the SARI August 1, 2022 event. Henri passed away November 22, 2022.

Keep in touch at SwissAssnRI@gmail.com to hear about events, receive links to view Zoom presentations, and to be included in event emails.

CATHERINE HANNI
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