

SEATTLE SWISS SOCIETY INC.



February 2017

seattleswiss.org

seattleswissclub@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|
| Fondue Party | Monroe Swiss Hall | Feb 18 |
| Jass Tourney | Tony Ruegg's | Apr 23 |
| Spaziergang | Any ideas? | May 7 |
| First of Aug | Edgebrook Club | Jul 30 |
| Fall Hike | Any ideas? | Tba |
| Fall Dinner | Cafe de Paris | Oct 21 |

Calendar: tinyurl.com/zhfcyj5

Frühlingsspaziergang

Coming soon - our second annual **Spring Walk!**

On Sunday, May 7th we will set off for a nice stroll on a beautiful trail somewhere in the Seattle area (suggestions please!). The route will feature a stop for some beverages and nourishment. We plan to hike as a group at a relaxed conversational pace that will be suitable for all ages. Leashed dogs are welcome, too.

Walk, talk, eat, drink. Sounds like fun!

We will have more information which we will share via email.

Contact Rick Bützberger: 747-444-1098
buetzli@gmail.com

FONDUE "Fondue isch guet und git a guet i Luune"

It's almost time for our annual Fondue Party!

Please join us for our traditional Swiss Cheese Fondue on **Saturday, February 18th at 3 PM** at the Monroe Swiss Hall.

Chef Roland Oberholzer for the last time will be in charge of preparing the fondue. The cost is \$25 for Seattle and Monroe members and \$30 for guests.

We ask that you bring an appetizer, salad or dessert to

share. Also please bring your fondue pots, burners and forks (all marked with your name). Without them we are unable to serve our many guests.

As you know, good Swiss Kirsch is an important ingredient for a nice fondue and donations will be greatly appreciated.

To sign up, you can pay via PayPal at seattleswiss.org or complete the Reservation Form on page 4, and let us know what you will bring.

JASS TOURNAMENT!

April 23rd - 1:00 pm

VENUE CHANGE! This year's Jass Tourney will be held at the home of **Tony Ruegg**. Please call him at **(425) 747-3608** no later than **April 16th** if you would like to participate, and to find out what you can bring.

As you are aware, this party is to determine the Jass champion. However, if you are a player with limited experience, you are invited as well. We will have 1-2 tables for aspiring players and you may also observe the "masters". Please let Tony know your ability level.

Swiss in Seattle?



Find us on
Facebook

Seattle Swiss Photos:

[facebook.com/SeattleSwissSociety/photos/?ref=page_internal](https://www.facebook.com/SeattleSwissSociety/photos/?ref=page_internal)

Masthead color courtesy of Brenda Sexton and associates at Sexton Communications LLC.
253.315.2338 | Brenda.Sexton@comcast.net

Newsletter photos by Lynn Butzberger

FROM THE HONORARY CONSUL

Philippe Goetschel

It is too early to know exactly how the new US administration's direction will affect Swiss-American relations but here are some potential consequences in my personal – not official - opinion:

- The net effect of the proposed Destination-Based Cash Flow Taxation (DBCFT) or Border Adjustment Tax (BAT) is a 20% import tax. This would affect Swiss companies that do not manufacture goods in the US for the US market. Since most Swiss exports are highly specialized pharmaceutical, machinery and jewelry products with little competition, I do not expect a price increase would hurt their US sales very much.

- Switzerland is a large supplier to the European auto industry. If Porsche, BMW and Mercedes moved more of their production to the US, demand for Swiss supplied parts would decrease. The pressure on the Swiss pharmaceutical industry to reduce its prices and to manufacture more products in the US would increase. It may have a negative impact on Swiss employment and profitability.

- It's possible that international tensions may increase under the new administration. Switzerland has successfully

offered its mediation services in the Iran, Ukraine, Georgian and Syrian conflicts. This role may be expanded and benefit primarily the cities of Geneva and Lausanne.

- A silver lining: The Trump administration has called the Euro undervalued. The Swiss Franc has been tied to the Euro by intervention through the Swiss National Bank. An increase in the value of the Swiss Franc would increase the value of your Swiss Social Security payments in US Dollars.

FALL DINNER RECAP

Last October 50 of our members and guests enjoyed another great dinner at Café de Paris in Edmonds. One change which helped our bottom line was limiting the complimentary wine to one glass. GOO.GL/PHOTOS/UOVCBLMZOKP2HPFT7

CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

We nearly had a white Christmas at our annual celebration at the Monroe Swiss Hall. As usual we had a delicious selection of potluck items to go with our turkey and ham. Santa made an appearance, much to the delight of the children, who eagerly (for the most part ;-)) shared their desires with him.

Pics: goo.gl/photos/4BVyhVGNWqciuo5B6



Roland Oberholzer speaking at Fall Dinner



Eric & Suzi LeVine speaking at General Meeting

Bellevue College has a program for students to study abroad in Lugano, Switzerland next summer:

www.bellevuecollege.edu/studyabroad/home/switzerland/

Application and \$500 deposit due: April 15th, 2017



Kinder & Samichlaus at Christmas Party

LINKS & STUFF

Seattle German resources: www.seattleaufdeutsch.com
 From Gerard Wirz: www.iloveseatle.org
 Barbara Curran wants Swiss teachers for the Greater Seattle
 German-American School - 206-349-3609
barbara@curranonline.com www.sagaschool.org

Monroe Swiss Colony

monroeswisscolony@yahoo.com

Monthly Meeting & Potluck Luncheon - 1st Sundays
 Doors open at noon, lunch at 1 pm, then we have our meeting.

July/August - no meetings

Monroe Swiss Hall - 18500 Tualco Road, Monroe
 For hall rental and club information, contact:
thorpe84@msn.com or call 425-327-4363

Tacoma Swiss Clubs

Joe & Louise Hospenthal at 253-896-2593

www.tacomaswissclubs.com

Swiss Club Helvetia of NCW (Leavenworth)

For information contact **Martin & Heidi Stoller**
 (509)782-5808

Renew your membership today!

Seattle Swiss Society

Online Renewal & Membership Application

Now accepting



Philippe Goetschel

Honorary Consul

Consulate of Switzerland

6920 94th Avenue SE
 Mercer Island, WA 98040
 206 395 4812

seattle@honrep.ch



www.swissemb.org

YOUR 2017 BOARD

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| President | <i>Dick Reutimann</i> | 206-232-7022 |
| VP & Newsletter | <i>Rick Bützberger</i> | 747-444-1098 |
| Treasurer | <i>Patty Richert</i> | 425-444-7672 |
| Secretary | <i>Tyler Reutimann</i> | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Events Chair | <i>Simone Oberholzer</i> | 425-753-3055 |
| Membership | <i>Barbara Hagmayer</i> | xxx-xxx-xxxx |
| Trustees | <i>Pattie Reutimann</i> | <i>Tom Dudler</i> |

AUSLÄNDER CORRESPONDENCE

Samantha Oberholzer

The art of “wellnessing”

When I first moved to Switzerland, I often heard my cousins talk about their “wellness weekend” and I saw ads for “wellness anbot.” It took me a while to learn that this “wellnessing” is a common activity in Switzerland – one Americans would consider a luxurious spa weekend. The difference is that in Switzerland, people go wellnessing regularly throughout the year, but mostly in the winter when you can swim in the thermal pool outside while surrounded by snow-covered mountaintops.

In early December, after feeling the weariness that comes after long weeks and never-ending months (yes, I know, I get five weeks of vacation, I’ll stop complaining), but not having the time to take off any days of work, Mr. D and I went to Grindelwald in the Berner Oberland and stayed two nights at the Hotel Schweizerhof where we spoiled ourselves with two sauna options, massages, a five-course meal, an amazing view and some hard-earned, well-deserved (if I do say so myself) peace and quiet. We found a nice deal online and a week later hopped in the car and made our way up above the clouds.

It’s the act of going wellnessing rather than the actual wellness activities that intrigue me most. The Swiss do know how to treat themselves to the finer things in life (think: watches, chocolate, cheese) and these spa weekends are no exception. Traveling to a different part of the country and really relaxing is just the ticket and it’s the ultimate form of self-care.

No matter what side of the fence you’re on these days, it’s no secret that the past few weeks have been overwhelming – maybe positively, maybe negatively depending on who you are. And you, reader, are certainly deserving of a little R&R. My advice to you: do like the Swiss do and treat yourself. The mountains might not be as majestic, but I guarantee you’ll feel something like royalty after a bit of wellnessing.

About the Author

Samantha works as a copywriter in Lucerne. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring Swiss culture and traveling, and writing about her experiences on her blog: cup-of-culture.com

IN MEMORIAM

Trudi Weder passed away on December 9th after suffering a stroke. Trudi was married to former honorary consul Hans Weder, and was active in the Seattle Swiss Society for many years.

Trudy Sir
Rudy Vogele

GENERAL MEETING RECAP

pix: goo.gl/photos/syc2sSMkxT34qER68

Your club held its annual meeting on January 28th. Members were treated to a short recap of the experiences of US Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein Suzi LeVine and her husband Eric. It was very informative.

Dudler volunteered to fill the Trustee position vacated by Debbie Amandoli. We extended a hearty Thank You! to retiring Events Chair Doris, and President Roland Oberholzer for their years of exemplary service.

Also noteworthy were brief remarks by Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel. Your new Board was elected, and Tom

Many thanks to those who helped out at the meeting, especially PattyRichert for her gueti wurstsalat!

2017 Membership Dues - Please Remit by March 31st

If you have not already paid (except Honorary Members), **please use** our [Online Payment](http://seattleswiss.org) at seattleswiss.org or complete this form and send it together with your check made payable to **Seattle Swiss Society** to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th Pl SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

I / we enclose the following dues: **Family or Couple: \$30.00**

Single: \$20.00

First & Last Name(s): _____

If you have a new address, phone number, e-mail address (please note any changes below):

FEBRUARY 18TH FONDUE RESERVATION FORM (or pay at seattleswiss.org)

Please complete and send with your check made out to **Seattle Swiss Society** no later than February 14th.

I/we will attend the Fondue Party at the **Monroe Swiss Hall**. Enclosed is a check for

\$ _____ for _____ members _____ guests (\$25 Seattle & Monroe members, \$30 guests)

Name(s) as you would like them on the name tags:

We will bring our children: Name(s) and age: _____

No charge for members under age 12.

I/ we will bring: (please let us know how many of each you will bring)

_____ Fondue Pot _____ Burner _____ Fondue Forks _____ Bottle of Kirsch

Appetizer (ready to serve) _____ Salad _____ Dessert _____

Please mail with check to:

Patty Richert
4122 135th Place SE
Bellevue, WA 98006

We encourage carpooling!

I/we am/are unable to drive to Monroe,
_____ **Please arrange for a ride for me/us.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Image courtesy Димитрий-5-Аверин



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