

# Swiss Park News

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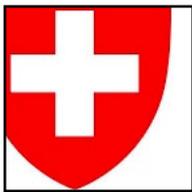
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Vol. 27, No. 1

A Newsletter on Corporate Swiss Park Issues and Swiss Club Activities

AUGUST 1, 2020

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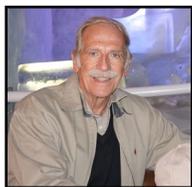
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL

### Gruenzi! Bonjour! Buongiorno! Bundi!

It has been an unusual first eight months for me here in California, and due to the circumstances, I have not been able to meet as many of you as I wish I had. But, every one of you that I have met has impressed me with their sense of community and the desire to bring Swiss traditions to life here in the United States! August 1 celebrations are among those key opportunities to remember our Swissness while on the West Coast and I deeply regret that we will not be able to celebrate together this year. But I admire the alternatives that the Swiss across the American continent have found to celebrate. Be it a newsletter, a video rally, or a TV show, the Swiss clubs have found ways to bring us together while keeping us safe!

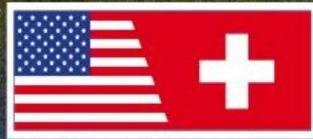
According to a trustworthy ranking last year, Switzerland was designated as the most resilient country in the world. Indeed, resilience is a true Swiss value that the unpredictable climate of the Alps has taught us. It has shaped our identity and our culture, and I am confident that this trait of character will be our key asset, as we get ready for the time where we can be together again safely.

Although I am sad that I cannot meet you all this summer, I know that we will have opportunities to meet, as events start flourishing again in both Northern and Southern California. I wish you all a great National Day 2020!

With my very best regards

Benedikt Wechsler  
Consul General





# SWISS NATIONAL DAY LIVE!

**AUGUST 1, 2020 • 1:00 PM**

WITH HOSTS:

**Benedikt Wechsler**

Swiss Consul General in San Francisco

**Diane Wagner**

President, United Swiss Societies of Northern California

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SWISS PARK PRESIDENT

### AN EVENTFUL SIX MONTHS AT SWISS PARK

Dear fellow Swiss and Friends,

As the new president of Swiss Park Inc. I would like to welcome you to this edition of the Swiss Park News and also welcome you to Swiss Park in lieu of the Swiss Fair. So welcome to “virtual Swiss Fair!”

I became president after the January 26 General Meeting of Swiss Park Inc., which was held by outgoing president Max Bachmann. He gave us a great “tour d’horizon” of the Swiss Park and it was quite evident that Max and the Board members did an excellent job keeping the Swiss Park property up to date. Thank you, Max, for the great job you did for the last 20 years.

After the General Meeting, Swiss Park Inc. appointed the new president and the new Board. I am pleased to inform you that we have several new members on the Board that will bring vitality and different exposures and interests to the Board. Some of their exposés are in the Swiss Park Newsletter. The Board meetings have been hall-marked by increased energy and enthusiasm. Thank you, Board Members, for your support and I look forward to building Swiss Park into the Swiss Park Center for all Swiss in Southern California.

The new team experienced the proverbial “baptism by fire.” By the time we had gotten to “know the ropes,” coronavirus and COVID-19 brought on some significant changes. The Swiss Park Banquet Hall fell victim to COVID regulations and on March 16, 2020, the Banquet Hall was closed.

“Heidi’s World,” the operator of the Banquet Hall, and Swiss Park Inc. found an amenable solution to continue Heidi’s World’s operation. Heidi’s World has been rescheduling events that fell victim to the COVID-19 quarantine, has organized future events, and has trained the kitchen crew in new dishes, including Swiss specialties. I would like to thank the

Board for the support they provided to make such an agreement with Heidi’s World viable.

The downtime was used to spruce up the Swiss Park Banquet Hall and the grounds. Kitchen equipment upgrades brought the kitchen to 21st century standards. In addition, the parking lot was repaired. Swiss Park has never looked better and we suggest if you are in the neighborhood, stop on by and have a look!

Meanwhile, after 2½ months, the Swiss Park Banquet Hall re-opened on May 29, 2020. While this is good news, many events planned were either canceled or then postponed to 2021. Christmas event bookings are significantly down currently. Hence, if you have any private or corporate events planned, then please consider the Swiss Park Banquet Hall. Heidi’s World will make you feel right at home. Heidi Pianelli can be reached at 562.699.1525. We thank you for your consideration.

The past six months presented not only hardships; however, we had a wonderful time at the March 1 event organized by our new Swiss Consul General, Mr. Benedikt Wechsler, PhD. It was a joy to see the Swiss from Southern California enjoying each other’s company and having a good time. It was a fabulous evening gracefully hosted by The Consul General of Switzerland, Mr. Benedikt Wechsler and Ms. Frida Wechsler. I would like to thank the Board members for the attendance at the evening event. Benedikt and Frida, thank you very much for a hosting such a warm and successful event! We are all looking forward to counting you, Benedikt and Frida, among us again hopefully soon.

I would like to conclude by sharing with you that changes are on the horizon for Swiss Park. With the closure of the formal Swiss consular representation in Southern California, as well as the closing of most of the Swiss restaurants in Southern California –

*(continued on page 4)*





## MY MESSAGE TO SWISS PARK MEMBERS

### TWENTY FIVE YEARS WITH SWISS PARK, INC.

Did I know what was waiting for me when Hans Schmutz ask me to attend the Swiss Park General Meeting in 1995? The answer was no —. At the meeting I was voted in as a delegate, as Vice President the next meeting and in 1999 as President. I had many questions along the way: about, what is Swiss Park, who owns the Swiss Park, who are the Board Members and what are their functions? I did not get all the answers for a long time, but I had more questions as time went on. After the first few Board meetings it became clear that the Swiss Park was in deep financial trouble.

Yes, we had a beautiful Banquet Center and a Board who managed the daily operations like a hobby without a plan or knowledge how to run a restaurant or a business. The restaurant was closed at Ueli Burkardt's request, to reduce the money bleeding. The accounting was sketchy and had a long list of who had loaned what.

I offered to come up with an accounting program, to have up to date info at every monthly meeting.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 3)

thank you, Bernard Althaus at 'Basilic' for still providing us with top Swiss gastronomy – we see the opportunity AND need for a Center, a "Mittelpunkt" for the Swiss community in Southern California. This is where the idea of the Swiss Park Center was born. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the new Swiss Park Center for all Swiss in SoCal, please let me know. I can be reached at 949-400-8208.



I wish you a peaceful and restful August 1 event in the hope that we can have a Swiss event soon where we can congregate, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate life.

With warmest greetings,  
**DANIEL HOFFMANN**  
PRESIDENT, SWISS PARK INC.

Re-negotiating the terms of the many loans was a challenge, but we started to make a dent. Finding Hugo Hunziker was a blessing for managing the banquet operation. Much of the property including the parking area was used for storage of tables and containers, certainly not an attractive sight to bring in new customers for an event. The property next door was in default and we were lucky to acquire it, it meant more debt, but it added room to store the containers and tables next door and gave us room to add the beautiful wedding area we have today. Next came the transformation of the Alpine Room, it was updated to accommodate larger parties and weddings. Small steps in the right direction and Hugo was able to slowly build up the customer base. Together with the income from the yearly Swiss Fair, organized by Lilo Holzer, also helped to bring down the debt.



In 2007 The Swiss Park celebrated 20 years of our new Banquet Center and 120 years of the Swiss Society Helvetia. The festivities included lunch and a movie that showed how the old Swiss Park in Duarte got started in 1948 and the new Banquet Center we have today. Together with "Willi's Musig" from Switzerland, the party was a big success.

As with all buildings, things break, roofs leak, things have to be updated or replaced. We needed new air



SWISS PARK, DUARTE, CALIFORNIA



condition units and the roof had to be replaced, that meant to borrow more money. Many questioned if there ever was light at the end of the tunnel, to be free from under that big load of debt?

Finally, in 2017 we made the last payment and the Swiss Park became debt free. Thanks to so many, like Ueli Burkhardt, who had a strong business sense to find the financial resources when no bank would touch us. Board members, volunteers, like Sophie and Eddi Keller, Rösli and Kurt Anderegg, John Bruderer and many others, donated hours and hours doing landscaping work when we could not afford to hire a gardener. Volunteers helped year after year cleaning and setting up benches for the Swiss Fair. Hugo Hunziker who made many improvements that made the Swiss Park recovery a reality. Now, we have Heidi Pianelli and Joe Bracamontes; they spearheaded the latest interior upgrades. The kitchen, the Matterhorn Room and the Alpine Room were reno-

vated to bring the banquet center up to date and equally appealing to younger clients.

The Swiss Park has evolved over the years and with input and new ideas from all it has stayed successful. As president for so many years, I was blessed, I have to say, I always had the support of a great board and the many friends and supporters of the Swiss Park.

There are challenges ahead. Membership has slowly declined over the years; folks became more reluctant to attend an evening event sponsored by the Swiss Park. With other words, we need a fresh look of what the mission is and how to move forward. At the 2020 General Meeting, new and younger board members were voted to the board and together with our new President, Daniel Hoffmann, I believe, the future of the Swiss Park will be in good hands. Daniel came in with strong leadership skills and ideas, and together with the new dynamic board to lead and to preserve the Swiss Park for the next generation.

**BY MAX BACHMANN, BOARD MEMBER, SWISS PARK, INC.**

Dear Max

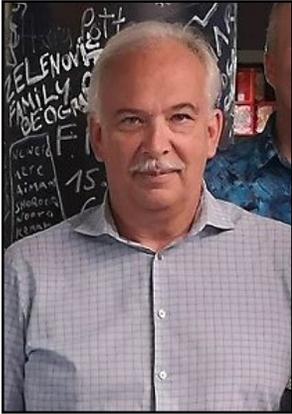
You have been the Swiss Park president for 25 years, I believe you were the longest-serving president. You made it through all the ups and downs, sailing the rough waters at the Swiss Park and you managed always to calm the waves. I don't think we will ever have a president like you were. Thank you for your service.

**FRANCO ZIMMERLI  
HONORARY CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND TO LOS ANGELES**





## A MESSAGE TO THE SWISS COMMUNITY



### GREETINGS TO YOU, THE SWISS COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA,

I hope this message finds you all well, despite the challenging times we are having during the COVID-19 crisis. This pandemic has impacted our lives, actually the entire world, in so many ways, and we can really only practice

safe habits and kindness towards our fellow man.

I have been heartened to see, despite the financial and health issues, that many Swiss have taken to getting back to their roots of cooking and baking (Zopf is a big winner) their favorites from back home. These trying times have brought families together

due to stay in place orders. As we are generally unable to travel back to Switzerland and elsewhere, we have had to adjust to enjoy these times to reflect with those we love here at home.

I was able to host a sizeable event at Casa-Sanchez earlier this year and had the opportunity to introduce our consul general Dr. Benedikt Wechsler and his wife Frida to many of you. I really appreciated the warm welcome you provided to Benedikt and Frida.

Sadly, we had to cancel all are planned events in Southern California due to COVID-19, and we are unable to come together this year for our beloved Swiss Fair/August 1st festivities at Swiss Park due to the pandemic. Hopefully, at this time next year, we can come together once again to share in our love for Switzerland and to see old friends over grilled wurst, raclette, and a cold beer.

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So to my fellow Swiss compatriots, please stay safe and sane during this time and always. We hope for better times ahead and am confident we will come together not just in spirit but in person next year for the Swiss Fair.

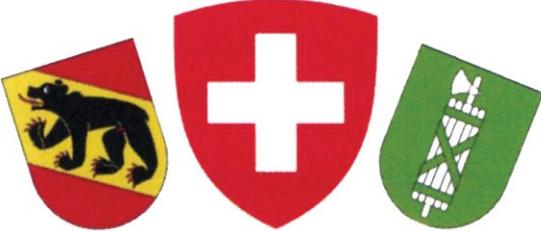
Wishing you all strength and continued health during these unprecedented time

**FRANCO ZIMMERLI**  
HONORARY CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND TO LOS ANGELES



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*Sorry, no Cuckoo clocks*





## UPDATE FROM THE SWISS SINGING SOCIETY HARMONIE

Dear Swiss Friends & Harmonie Supporters

2020 has been and continues to be unprecedented. COVID-19 continues to spread uncertainty, heart-break, and devastation. The cancellation of the Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast, Swissfest2020 of the USSSPC, has had a profound effect on all of us. The Harmonie dedicated the last three years planning an amazing and memorable event which we all have been looking forward to with great anticipation.

The most treasured aspects of the Singing & Yodeling Festival for the Harmonie and all the members of the USSSPC has always been the singing of traditional Swiss songs, the camaraderie, nurturing Swiss culture, and simply having fun. We are all devastated we could not welcome you to this grand event due to the unprecedented circumstances. However, we are all in this together and we definitely possess the fortitude to find the 'Silver Lining'.

Our Festival Delegates Meeting was held as scheduled, on Sunday, June 28th. The forum was different (via Zoom), but the spirit and heartfelt participation of

all USSSPC delegates was intact. Despite the difficult times we are in, there continues to be much enthusiasm to keep the festival going in the future. A committee was formed to explore ideas to continue the cultural mission of the USSSPC. The delegates have been asked to go back to their member societies and solicit ideas on how the festival could be simplified to reflect our changed reality (fewer singers), and to incorporate a broader vision in which to share Swiss culture. The USSSPC delegates will reconvene towards the end of the year to discuss these ideas and formulate a plan for the next festival.



We would also like to acknowledge the incredible effort of Mirjam Stadelmann, Festival President. Her leadership, direction and devotion are appreciated and honored. At the delegates meeting, Mirjam was bestowed the title of Sängermutter.

I wish you all good health, a song in your heart, and a positive belief the best is yet to come.

**NICOLE GUENIAT, TREASURER,  
SWISS SINGING SOCIETY HARMONIE**

## SWISS FAIR 2020

2020 will be a year that we will never forget, and not for any good reasons. We have experienced a pandemic that caused the world to shut down. We had to cancel our beloved Swiss Fair for 2020 due to the pandemic. Richard Wismer, President of United Swiss, and I began discussing the possibility in March and by May we decided that it would be best to cancel.

This year would have been my second year running the fair and I was excited about it. The good news is that we have extra time to plan for a bigger and better Swiss Fair 2021! We are especially excited for the fair in 2021 because it will fall on August 1<sup>st</sup> which only happens every 7 years. We also have a new website

and Facebook page for the Swiss Fair. You can follow us on Facebook to keep up with updates on the fair and club happenings. As always, I am available via call, text, and email for any questions, concerns, or fresh ideas for the fair!

Please check out our website and Facebook page; I look forward to seeing your name pop up in my notifications!

[www.SwissFairLosAngeles.com](http://www.SwissFairLosAngeles.com)  
[www.facebook.com/SwissFairLA](https://www.facebook.com/SwissFairLA)

**JENNIFER MULLER, SWISS FAIR CHAIRPERSON**  
818-391-3697  
Jenn.Muller84@gmail.com





## SWISS LADIES SOCIETY NEWS

During the many weeks of “isolation” due to the Corona Pandemic, we have tried to stay in touch with our members using the telephone, e-mail and cards or letters. We are very thankful that we have these methods of communications available to us. In February we held our General Meeting; the board members remain the same with Sally English as president. We have 40 members in our club with about half participating in our meetings. It would be great to welcome some new members, so if you are interested, please contact Sally English (562) 754-0376 or Darlene Heusser dmhgraphics@earthlink.net. We continually try to at make our meetings interesting and versatile. We have an annual Hat-Day event in May and our Christmas luncheon both of which are popular and always well attended. When we are able to meet again we will make plans to take an Amtrak train to San Juan Capistrano for an outing and lunch. Meanwhile please stay safe and healthy until we meet again.

### HIGHLIGHTING MEMBER EMMY MULLER

Emmy Muller was born in St. Gallen, Switzerland on May 9th. 1936. She was one of 8 children born to Johann Baptist Neff and Maria Koller. They had a small farm and restaurant in Wittenbach, SG. After her school years, Emmy worked as a secretary in



several different places including Zurich. She met Paul Muller while he was on a trip to Switzerland with his sister, Elsie, and her husband Franz who happened to be Emmy’s brother. After a short courtship Emmy and Paul were married in Schlatt, Appenzell in October of 1967. They settled in Monrovia and later

in Glendora where they raised 2 children, Irene and Michael.

Emmy has been involved with the local Swiss community since 1968. She has held numerous positions in Swiss Park, Swiss Relief, Matterhorn Young Swiss Club, United Swiss Society and Swiss Ladies Society where she was president for 16 years. She was also the United Swiss Soc. flight secretary for 10 years (Balair Charter flights). During the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles she was the Liaison between the Swiss Olympics and the International Olympics Committees.

For the past 52 years Emmy has donated her time and many talents to our local Swiss community and over the years has baked 100s of loaves of Zopf for the Swiss Park Fundraiser. Now in her “golden” years she likes to enjoy the company of her grandchildren, Kent and Isabella, travel a bit, enjoy beautiful music and spend time with her many friends.

BY JULIA JOHNS

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# SWISS ATHLETIC SOCIETY



**THE SHOOTERS' VILLAGE** — 25 and 50 meter ranges at left center, 300 meter targets and backstops at upper left.

Every five years, the Schützenfest in Switzerland is held. Past years over 50,000 marksmen participated in the grand shooting event.

In 2015 twelve Swiss Athletic Members participated in the Schützenfest. We had a great time and many of us medaled. Enclosed are some pictures of our 2015 Schützenfest. Unfortunately, the 2020 Schützenfest was canceled and rescheduled for 2021.



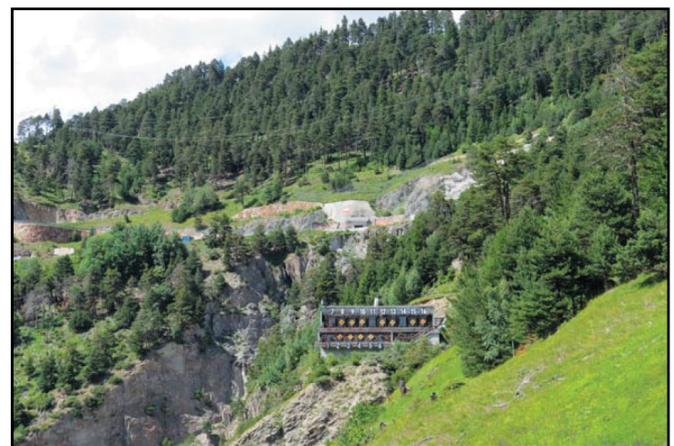
**Monitors bring the excitement of competition to the spectators and give instant feedback to the shooters.**

We are still shooting our programs at our shooting range in Burro Canyon. The first Saturday, Big Bore and Small Bore, and the fourth Sunday Pistol and Small Bore. You do not have to be Swiss to become a member.

**BY RICHARD WISMER**  
909-946-6860  
richard@4000ft.com

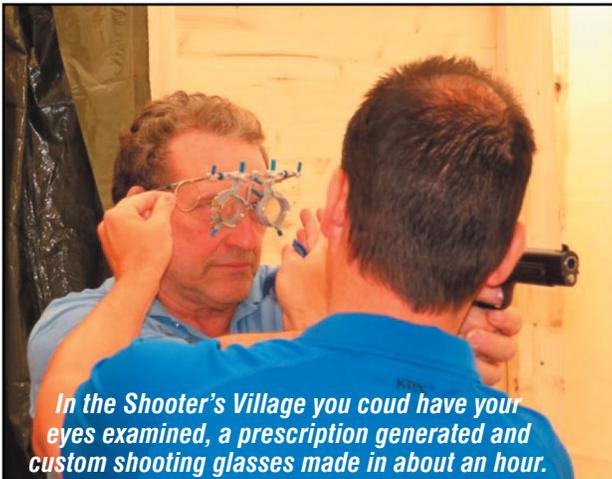


**The view from the mid-level rifle gallery. Six firing points, note targets peeking below baffles.**



**The outlying range at Chalchofen in hung on the side of the Siplon Pass.**





*In the Shooter's Village you could have your eyes examined, a prescription generated and custom shooting glasses made in about an hour.*



*Clubs had their own reserved meeting and dining areas.*



*LA finest: Tony Chow (left), Top Shot, Sport Class at the Auslandsschweizerwettbewerb; center is club president, Tony Luisoni; and on the right is Peter Martin, Second Place, Ordonnanz Class.*



*Gateway to the Marksman's Mile.*



*The parade wound around the town of Visp that decorated traffic roundabouts with marksmanship themes.*



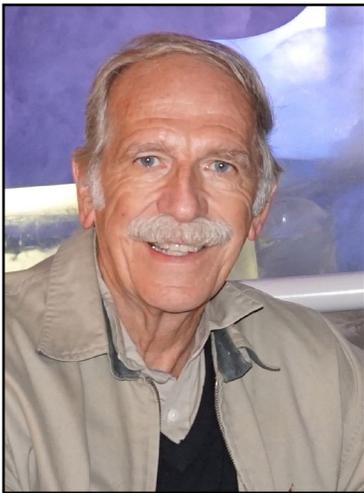
*The Los Angeles Swiss Athletic Society shooters on parade.*



## NEW SWISS PARK MEMBERS

We are glad to present here some of our new members that joined since last Swiss Fest in 2019. If you wish to contact them, send me a note at [jylougheed@charter.net](mailto:jylougheed@charter.net) and I will forward it to them! This section today is about new members, but I would welcome any member to send me a little biography for next issues of our Newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you!

BY JACQUELINE FISCHER, MEMBERSHIP



**From André Dressler, who joined the Swiss Park Board of Directors:**

I spent the first 22 years of my life growing up in Seebach, Zürich. I was always intrigued by technology and specially aircraft. As a boy, living at bicycle distance from the Kloten airport, I took many trips there to watch airliners come and go. So, it was just natural, I wanted to be a professional pilot. It was very

*André Dressler, taken in glacier at "Gletscherparadis" above Zermatt at ca.13000 feet altitude, "the highest I have ever been without being in an aircraft"*

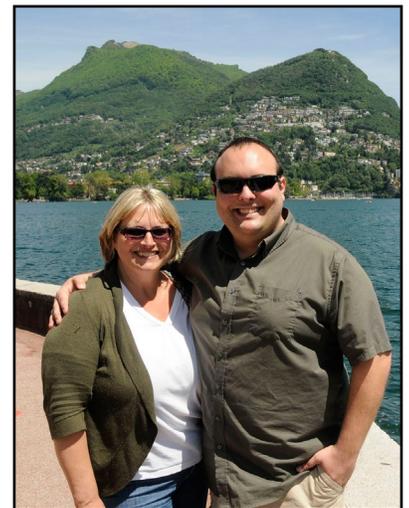
difficult for me to reach that goal in Switzerland, so, in 1964, I emigrated to the US. I settled in the San Francisco area and started to take flying lessons, got my license and became a Flight Instructor. I met my Norwegian wife, Inger, here in California and we married in 1967. We welcomed our first of two daughters in 1972 and I got hired that year by World Airways, a charter airline out of Oakland. I ended up flying charters with them all over the world, in big Boeings and Douglas jets, both passengers and cargo. I was based at times in Berlin, Japan, Uganda, Mali, Libya and other countries of Africa, as well as different places in the US. In 1988 the situation at World became a bit tenuous and there was an opportunity to start as Captain with UPS. I got hired

by them and flew worldwide until retiring in 2009. Being an airline crew member, it was easy for me to travel to Switzerland, sometimes several times a year and keep in contact with family and friends.

During most of that time we lived and raised our daughters in the Bay Area. We had many Swiss and Norwegian friends there and were members of several organizations, including Swiss and Norwegian clubs. Our younger daughter moved to Pasadena, got married and has now a family. We wanted to be part of our grandchildren's life and decided to move to the Los Angeles area. We became members of the Matterhorn Young Swiss Club and got involved with the Swiss Community in the greater Los Angeles area. Coming to the Swiss Park several times a year has become a big part of our family's life and thus I was very honored to be asked to become a Swiss Park board member. I am looking forward to work with the rest of the board, and hopefully become helpful in keeping this wonderful enterprise going for the next generations.

**From Conner Crawford:**

I was born and raised in Long Beach and have a great love for travel. I visited Switzerland during my first trip to Europe in 2004. My love for the country grew as I attended Franklin University Switzerland; a small Swiss-American university located in Lugano, Ticino where I spent four years (with many side trips, a personal favorite being to Lucerne). Since my return to California I have worked a number of jobs and act as the club chair of the FUS SoCal alumni club, helping to engage our alumni across the region. Introduced to Swiss Park by a fellow Franklin alum I am looking



*Conner and his mom by Lake Lugano, Ticino*



forward to meeting and engaging with more members as life begins to get back to normal.

**From Christian and Katarina Winzeler:**

We are the Winzeler family, Christian, Katarina and our almost four-year-old daughter Aurelia. We have been living in the United States for over 14 years, moving here from a small town outside of Schaffhausen. We love living in SoCal as we are outdoor people, but we also miss Switzerland because of our family, the food and culture. Since living here, we have been attending the Swiss Parks' August first celebration almost every year and have made it a tradition to introduce our American friends to a little of Switzerland.

**From Laura Inhelder Mamer, who joined the Swiss Park Board of Directors:**

I live in Encino with my husband of 27 years. After raising my son, I started a career as a music video producer. I grew up in Burbank California and with a last name like Inhelder I knew I was different. My grandfather was from St. Gallen. My father exposed us to a lot of Swiss culture. After his passing I reconnected with my Swiss relatives. I belong to The Matterhorn Young Swiss Club and Swiss Park, Inc. Board. I look forward to our Swiss club meetings and events.



**Korinna Sehringer**

**From Korinna Sehringer, who joined the Swiss Park Board of Directors:**

I came to L.A. in 1999 on my own, because I was accepted into the highly competitive Directing Program at the American Film Institute (AFI), a two-year Master's Program. I had already worked in the Swiss Film Industry for 7 years, working my way up from production assistant, script supervisor,

assistant director to director and producer. By the time I arrived in LA, I had worked on over 120 com-

mercials, TV productions, feature films and documentaries in 17 countries and won several awards for my short films. After graduation from AFI in 2001, I made a documentary about 9/11, traveling across 35 states in the aftermath of the attacks, just talking to people everywhere to capture the sentiments of the moment. I later founded a production company and produced and directed my feature film "Shouting Secrets", a family story taking place in a Native American family. After having gotten accepted and traveling to over 40 International Film Festivals over 1½ years and winning Best Film or Audience Choice at about 35 of them, I returned exhausted and was craving more human connection and fewer 18 hours workdays.

After 20 years in the film business, I decided to take a break, got a Real Estate License and became a Realtor. I've been a Realtor now for over 5 years, serving the greater Los Angeles area for sellers, buyers and investors, as I believe that with the Swiss work ethic and by doing your homework, you can serve your clients well in any area of LA. It seems my organizational and negotiation



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AUGUST 2020

*A tiny bit of Switzerland*

13



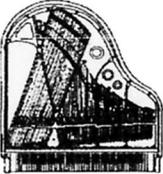
**NEW SWISS PARK MEMBERS** (continued)

skills as a producer come in handy in Real Estate transactions. And I did find the human connection I had been looking for with my wonderful clients,

many of them turning into friends. I didn't think I could love another business as much as filmmaking, but Real Estate is a great fit for me and for now I don't have a strong craving to return to the film biz.

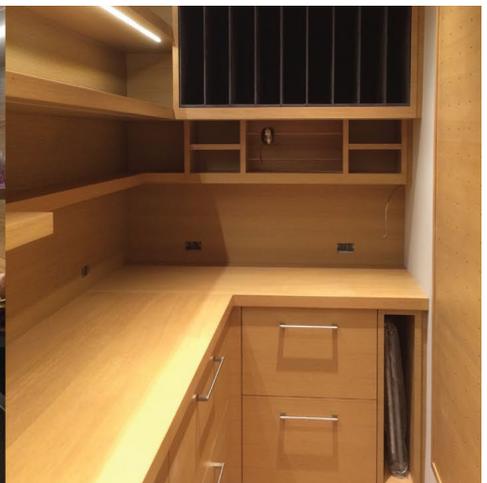
And, there's another journey I just embarked on: I am almost 4 months pregnant and looking forward to becoming a mom. For now, a single mom, because I decided to do it on my own before it would be too late.

I am feeling so lucky and so grateful to have found and joined the Swiss Harmonie a year ago. Our weekly practices filled me with joy and camaraderie. Such a bunch of fun and wonderful people! I hope we get to get back to singing again soon. Until then, as a new member of the Swiss Park Board, I'm looking forward to being part of our President Daniel Hoffmann's new vision for the Swiss Park and helping to turn it into a real community center for the Swiss and our friends.



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## NEWS AND TIDBITS

### SWISS RADIO IN CALIFORNIA

*Bi-Weekly Swiss Radio Starting June 16  
Every Tuesday at 10 am and Sunday at 9 am*



The Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco, in collaboration with Zurich-based web-radio Gegen Den Strom (GDS.FM), is bringing you Swiss music to enjoy during the summer! Starting June 16, we will air a show from Zurich for our Californian audience every Tuesday at 10 am and Sunday at 9 am. The one-hour show will air for 7 weeks and will allow you to discover Swiss music in all 4 languages and to listen to interviews and news about Swiss innovation!

*To discover the radio, you can listen to the archive of GDS.FM's 2-hour Swiss radio show Helvetica at <http://gds.fm/programm/helvetica-s01e01>*

### THE SWISS TOURISM INDUSTRY BOOSTS GUESTS' CONFIDENCE



Safety and hygiene become competitive factors and as a country with a reputation for being clean and safe, Switzerland has good assets. A recent evaluation by The Deep Knowledge Group (DKG) ranked Switzerland in number one position as the safest country in the world right now for COVID-19.

According to its analysis, in large part due to a continuing decline in its rate of infection spread and mortality, and key factors that put it in a better position to maintain a healthy post-pandemic economy, Switzerland is heading the list of 100 countries.

The ranking, published last week, takes into account factors such as monitoring and detection capacity, quarantine and government efficiency, and health-care and emergency readiness. Deep Knowledge Group is a consortium of companies and nonprofits owned by Deep Knowledge Ventures.

“At a time where good news are hard to come by, we are delighted that Switzerland was named the safest country in the world for Covid-19 in a regional safety assessment by the Deep Knowledge Group (DKG).

This followed hot on the trot of the news that Swiss tourist attractions such as mountain railways, lake cruises and campsites could reopen for business on June 6th. It's fantastic to see our destinations to prepare to welcome guests from Europe and we can't wait until transatlantic travel will resume too.” Said Claudio Zemp, Director Switzerland Tourism Americas.

To strengthen the confidence of guests in Switzerland as a safe and clean travel destination, the tourism industry associations have created a “Clean & Safe” label. This campaign was initiated by Switzerland Tourism (ST) as part of its “Recovery Plan” for tourism in Switzerland. When visiting tourism establishments and infrastructures, the label shows guests that the latter have made a conscious commitment to comply with protection plans. The campaign includes a new label and the information platform [www.clean-and-safe.ch](http://www.clean-and-safe.ch), which provides an overview of all industry-specific protection concepts.

In its transitional phase — from lockdown to gradual relaxation of its rules, Switzerland is slowly returning to normality. Since June 6, further businesses and institutions have been able to reopen and events for up to 300 people have been allowed to take place. While the opening of the borders with all countries in the European Union and European Economic Area is scheduled for June 15, the border opening for non-Schengen countries will be communicated in the upcoming weeks by the Swiss government.

For more information, please contact:

**DIVINE BONGA**

Media Relations Manager Eastern USA,  
E-mail: [divine.bonga@switzerland.com](mailto:divine.bonga@switzerland.com)

### SWISS AIR

Yesterday, the entire airline industry looked to Frankfurt, where the Extraordinary General Meeting of our parent company, the Deutsche Lufthansa AG, voted on the proposed stabilization measures. The shareholders





## NEWS AND TIDBITS (continued)

rendered a favourable decision, which in turn ensures the liquidity of SWISS. The next steps will now be coordinated with the Lufthansa Group and the relevant bodies and authorities. This gives us a solid planning foundation we need to continue to resume our flight operations and ensure Switzerland's connections with the world.

We can also announce great news regarding our route network. By autumn, we expect to resume service to around 85% of our destinations that we served prior to the sudden onset of the corona crisis. In addition, we will increase the frequencies to attractive destinations across Europe.

We want you to feel at ease throughout every step of your journey, which is why we have implemented comprehensive hygiene measures. You can find a wide range of information on this and on travelling in times of the coronavirus at [swiss.com](http://swiss.com). You may also find an overview of the various options allowing for extra peace of mind while traveling with us.

We now offer you even more flexibility when booking. Should your travel plans change, you can rebook your flight free of charge irrespective of the ticket

fare. Of course, you may also request a refund. The easiest way to do so is online. Alternatively, you can also call our Service Center. Please note, however, that delays are possible as they are currently facing an exceptionally high number of requests. For this, I apologize. But I assure you that our employees are committed to processing requests as swiftly as possible.

We connect Switzerland with the world so that you can connect with people in person, transcending borders and cultures.

I thank you for your continued loyalty and look forward to welcoming you on board SWISS again soon.

Kind regards,

**TAMUR GOUDARZI POUR**

Chief Commercial Officer,

Member of the Management Board

Swiss International Air Lines



## EIN GRUSS AUS DEM EMMENTAL FROM THE SWISSFINELINE TEAM!

Family Tanner have teamed up with Family Berger to bring the swissFineLine frameless window and door systems to the N.A. Market with representation from the East to West Coast including Southern California. Highest performance sliding door system available with Minergie-P Certification. Swiss precision at its finest, connecting indoor with outdoor space for living full of light, air and atmosphere.

Please check us out at the links below and feel free to contact us for further information. Herzlichen Dank und bis bald!

<http://tannerwindows.com>

[www.swissfineline.us](http://www.swissfineline.us)



Kaegi products will be available as of July 7th, at almost all Costco locations in Southern California. The product is a 500g assorted bag at a promotional price of \$9.99. The initial response will decide if the product will stay in the store.

Please spread the word to your friends.

**PASCAL SAX**

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## PFANNEBROT/BUURE BROT

### Bread in Cast-Iron Pot (Resulting in appr. 650 gr/1.4 lbs. bread)

#### Ingredients:

430 gr/1 lb. flour, including some flour for shaping  
1.25 teaspoon of sea salt (ca 9 gr)  
0.25 teaspoon dry yeast (ca 1 gr)  
300 ml + 4 Tablespoons/1.5 cups lukewarm water OR  
200 ml + 4 Tablespoons + 100 ml beer/1.1 cup water  
+ 0.5 cup beer (lukewarm)  
Whole grain, bran or corn flour to sprinkle on top

#### Preparation:

Put flour, salt, and yeast into a bowl. Add water and stir with wooden spoon for not more than one minute until the dough is mixed and firm. Cover with foil and a plate. Let it sit at room temperature, 12 to 18 hours until it has reached twice its volume.

Sprinkle the work area and the center of a piece of cloth (i.e. towel) with generous amount of flour.

Remove the dough with a spatula. Fold the dough from every side to the center of the dough. Let it sit

for 15 minutes.

Shape it into a round loaf and set it on the floured cloth. Sprinkle it generously with flour (or corn flour, bran), cover it loosely with the corner of the cloth. Let it rise again, about 1-2 hours at room temperature to about twice its volume. Place cast-iron pot with lid (if the lid is a plastic cover it thoroughly with aluminum foil), on a baking sheet on the lowest oven-rack and preheat the pot to 450° F. Remove hot pot with oven mitts, uncover and put bread UPSIDE down, so that the lower side on the cloth ends upside down, into the hot pot. Cover and bake for 30 minutes.



Uncover, and continue baking for another 25 minutes until golden-crusty. Remove from oven and let it cool on a cold oven grate. Note: the metric measurements are from the original recipe from Brigitte Conrad (liebe Dank!) **BY DANIEL HOFFMANN/ANDRÉ DRESSLER**

## CLAFOUTIS AUX CERISES

The Clafoutis originates from le Limousin, France. The name was established in 1864 but this cherry flan is much older. The recipe here is very easy and quick: about 10 minutes to prepare and 25-45 minutes baking. Then cool it off before tasting! Even better some hours later.

Weigh 400-500 gr of cherries (with pits!), and then rinse them with water. Shake off the water, dry the cherries. You should have enough cherries to cover the bottom of your pan while still having some space in between.

Mix the following ingredients in a bowl, in this order, using a whip at each addition:

2 medium to large size eggs  
1 pinch of salt  
3 1/2 spoons\* of flour  
1 spoon of vegetable oil (sunflower)  
2 spoons of sugar (white and/or brown, or substitute)

1 spoon of cherry liquor (Kirsch) – or not  
250 ml of milk  
A tiny glass of water (a shot)

\*I use a regular large size table spoon, but a table-spoon measure should work. This mixture is a smooth liquid, like crêpe mix.

Butter and flour an oven pan (metal 9x9 metal, rectangular 8x12, for example). In fact, using Coconut oil instead of butter works better, the cake will come off real easy. Place the cherries in pan and then pour the mixture over.

Bake in the middle of a preheated oven, 30 minutes or longer (depends on your oven), medium heat (about 300°F). Let it cool off. Bon appétit! And remember to warn your guests about the pits.

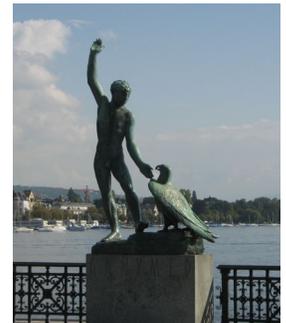
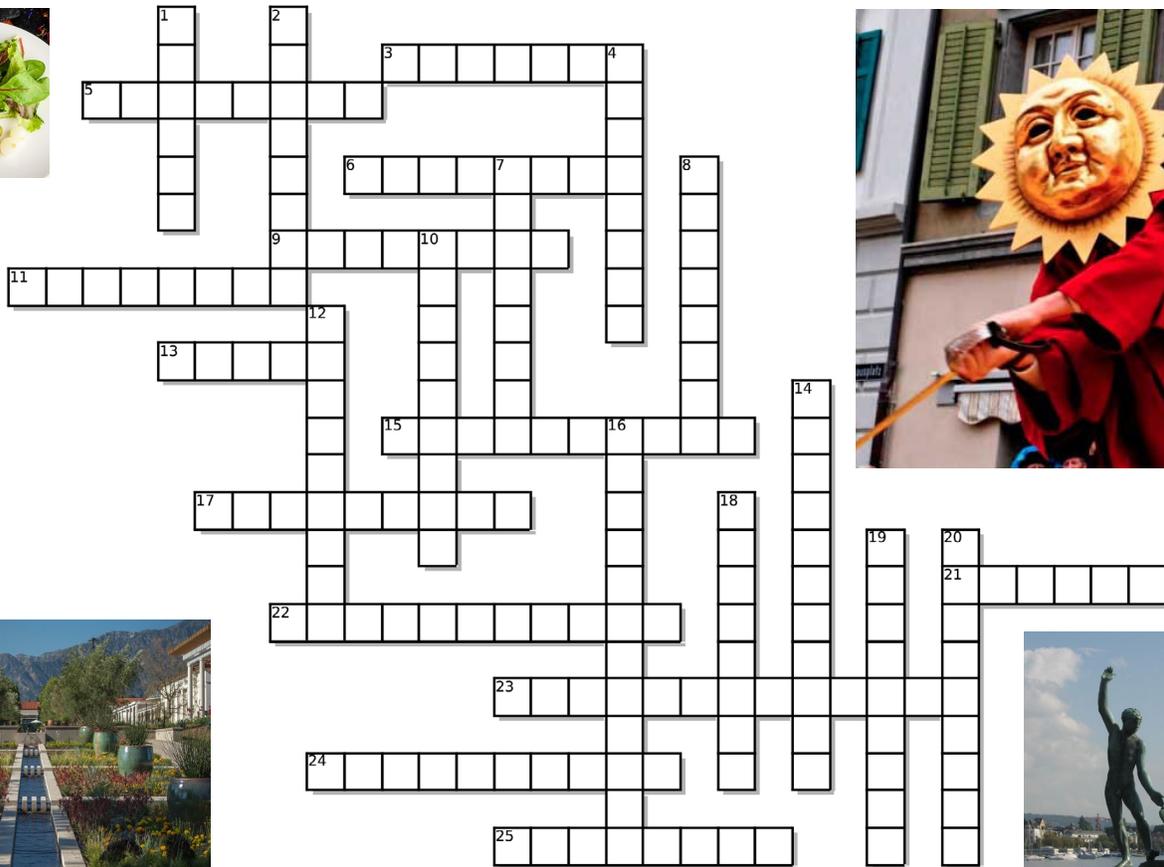
**BY JACQUELINE FISCHER**  
**MEMBER OF THE COLONIE SUISSE ROMANDE, INC**





# A SWISS QUIZZ

(PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 21)



### ACROSS

- 3 Albert, Swiss writer born in Murten/Morat Canton Fribourg in 1797
- 5 A favorite cheese dish we like to have at Swiss Fair, but alas not this year 2020
- 6 Battle of September 1515 in which 22000 Swiss died, and it led to signing a "perpetual peace"
- 9 Gallo-Roman fort and harbor founded in 15 BC after which Lausanne is likely named
- 11 Fried cheese balls likely invented by mercenaries from Romandie
- 13 Manufacturer of condiments established in 1872, merged with Nestlé in 1947
- 15 Located in Canton St. Gallen, first Swiss tree top canopy walkway opened in 2018
- 17 Liqueur produced in Jura by distillation of damson plums (Crusaders returned with seeds from Damascus)
- 21 Brazilian author that lives in Geneva and wrote the Alchemist
- 22 A beautiful village in the Bernese Alps, served to depict Alderaan in a Star Wars movie
- 23 Swiss breakfast bowl created by Dr. Bircher-Benner (1867-1939), a pioneer of organic medicine
- 24 A must-see library and gardens in SoCal. And enjoy lunch at the Cafe 1919!

25 Surname of our 2020 Swiss Park President

### DOWN

- 1 Joël is an awarded author from Geneva whose famous novel was adapted to TV in the States
- 2 Pen name of Swiss novelist who wrote "The Black Spider"
- 4 Franz, Swiss acteur, theater and movie director in 1940-60s
- 7 Statue of this mythological youth along Lake of Zurich
- 8 Famous Swiss composer born in Le Havre, France
- 10 Helvetii leader whose plans of emigration in 61 BC resulted in war with the Romans at Bibracte
- 12 One of the most capable all-terrain vehicles ever made, used by Swiss Army
- 14 Annual celebration in Sursee Canton Luzern to celebrate end of harvest with BBQ goose
- 16 Mountain top of Schänis Canton St. Gallen with a Roman watchtower
- 18 First name of heroine from Canton Jura who was kind to soldiers during WWI; subject of a movie by Franz Schnyder
- 19 American crime novelist who lived in Tegna Canton Ticino
- 20 Swiss name for a thin slice of meat fried in fat, usually breaded

BY JACQUELINE FISCHER-LOUGHEED



## Scholarship Available!

The United Swiss Societies of Southern California will award a \$2,000 Scholarship to a qualified candidate who can demonstrate an active interest in the Swiss Community of Southern California.

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Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The newsletter has been mailed two times each year. We working to go paperless. The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter has been going up and we are looking to cost cutting measures.

The newsletter is now available on our webpage [www.swisspark.la](http://www.swisspark.la). In addition, the webpage includes upcoming events at the various Swiss Societies, history of the old and new Swiss Park, past presidents, links, Society contacts etc.

There have been some emails addresses that have been changed or are incorrect so if you do not receive a newsletter please resubmit the adjacent form. If you are receiving news via email, you do not need to reply.

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# CORONA

Corona- yes, Corona became a powerful name.  
It entered our world leaving nothing the same.  
Although invisible, it's been shaking everyone's life.  
People are scared and confused, child, husband and wife.

The doctor's predictions have been changing each day,  
And many countries' statistics have gone way astray!  
Scientists and politicians dictate now how we may move.  
No-one likes this lockdown; it throws us out of our groove!

We seniors are supposed to enjoy our golden years,  
Travel, fly, cruise, or climb mountains with our peers.  
But Corona puts a hold on all our unfulfilled dreams!  
We're trying to adjust, withholding our screams!

Simple desires, like meeting with family and hugging their kids,  
Cannot be achieved, it gives us grief and drives us out of our wits.

A change of pace is a visit to the doctor to get a shot in my ailing eyes,  
Then we quickly return home to improve our day with coffee and pies.

Can't go to church, out for fine dining, a concert, or see an

uplifting play.

When will these restrictions end, so we can return to living our old way?

With luck you get into the store without a long 6-feet-apart waiting call

To hunt for your top of the list item that precious soft paper in a roll.

New words began popping into everyone's vocabulary some weeks ago:

Covid-19, pandemic, self-quarantine, and social distancing; who is this foe?

Wear a mask - or better not? Sanitize, ventitalize to vitalize and keep us safe.

Do all, except don't panic, be flexible, stay put, be positive and brave.

Keep your faith, know that when this nightmare comes finally to an end,

we might even find a silver lining, which will help to heal and mend.  
Dear family and friends, I long to again see your close-up smiling faces,

Our hugs will invigorate body and soul, wiping out all of the sad traces!

BY URSULA EGGER EL-TAWANSY ON MOTHER'S DAY 2020

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## NO FAIR? NOW WHAT?

We are asking ourselves how do we celebrate August 1st without a Swiss Fair this year?

Try these ...

- 1** On line research on the history of the Swiss National Holiday.
- 2** Listen to some Swiss music.
- 3** Call some Swiss friends to see how they are doing.
- 4** Make a BBQ, Bratwurst or sausage of some variety.
- 5** Bake some Swiss cookies or dessert.

BY JULIA JOHNS



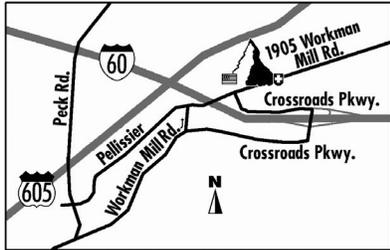


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**SWISS SOCIETIES OF SO. CALIFORNIA PRESIDENTS CONTACT LIST**

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760-356-4390

**SWISS ATHLETIC SOCIETY, INC.**

*Richard Wismer*  
909-946 6860  
[Richard@4000ft.com](mailto:Richard@4000ft.com)  
We meet: Big Bore: 1st Sat. of the month - Pistol: 4th Sun. of the month

**CALIFORNIA SWISS YOUTH SOCIETY**

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[romanfire@hotmail.com](mailto:romanfire@hotmail.com)

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