

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society,



As the year comes to a close and the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a remarkable year for our community. It has been a joy to see the Swiss spirit thriving here in Arizona, and I am so proud of all we have accomplished together.

One of the year's highlights was our **First of August Celebration** at Chompies where we gathered to commemorate Swiss National Day. Turnout was great and the event was filled with tradition, laughter, and community spirit. From the delicious delicacies, the Swiss Quiz with lots of winners, to the heartfelt singing of the national anthem, it was an unforgettable day that brought us all closer to our roots. In the fall, with 110 attendees including 12 kids, we came together again for the **Fall Festival at Golden Eagle Park in Fountain Hills**. The cooler autumn air, beautiful surroundings, and warm camaraderie made the festival a true highlight of the season. The traditional music, and, of course, the Swiss food reminded us all of the unique culture we are so proud to celebrate.

On behalf of everyone who attended the autumn picnic, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for the delicious and diverse food you brought to share. The desserts, Servelats, Veal Bratwurst, Raclette Cheese, and salads were not only a treat to the taste buds but also brought a taste of Swiss tradition and community spirit to our gathering. Thank you once again for helping to make the picnic a memorable occasion.

During the fall fest we also hand out our annual **Scholarship Award**. Congratulations to **Abby and Heidi Wolf** for receiving the 2024 Scholarship Award from the **Arizona Swiss Foundation**, presented by **Max Haechler**. Their achievement is certainly commendable!

None of these events would have been possible without the incredible efforts of our members and volunteers. To everyone who contributed their time, energy, and creativity—whether you helped organize events, set up tables, prepare food, or ensure everything ran smoothly—thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our society thrives because of your dedication. A heartfelt thank you goes out to **Christian Fleury**, who agreed to help our current activity chair **Susan Oake** with planning events and taking on the shared commitment of activity chair.

As we look ahead to the holidays, I encourage you to take time to cherish family, friends, and the traditions that make this season so special. May your holidays be filled with warmth, joy, and the spirit of giving that defines our wonderful community.

Thank you for making this year one to remember. I look forward to seeing you all at our **Christmas Party** at the **Orange Tree Resort** and what we will achieve together in the coming year.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a joyful New Year!

Warm regards,

Roland Ulrich

President, Arizona Swiss Society