

Arizona Swiss Society

VALLEY ECHO



Newsletter

www.arizonaswissociety.com



SPRING 2025



Flums SG



Christmas Party at Orange Tree Resort Golf Club, Scottsdale Sunday, December 8th, 2024

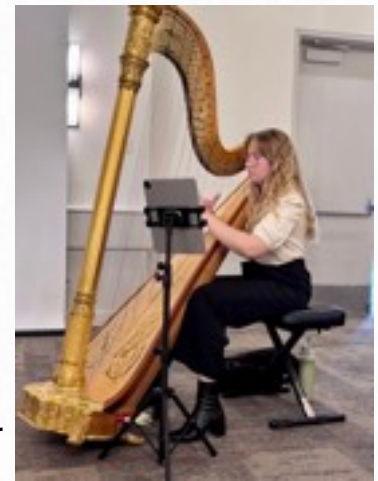
Highlights: A golden Harp in the big ballroom added class and Christmas sounds by **Dr. Heidi Hernandez**.



Helene Block again surprised the Swiss Club with her handmade napkins and amazing place settings for every table, as festive as ever, with Poinsettias.
How special!

DANKE vielmals **Helene**, and all the helpers for their valuable time!

Crème Schnitten (Napoleons) an added pleasure for many.



Dressed for the yearly holiday occasion we all appreciated the festivities immensely. A few minor glitches did not dampen the uplifting Christmas spirit of members seeing familiar faces having a grand time.

We thank Toys for Tots for their meaningful yearly tradition.



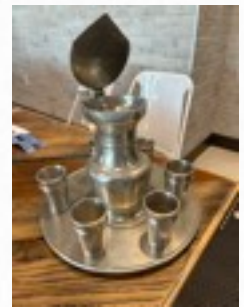
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the Arizona Swiss Society,



Our final event of 2024, the **Christmas party at the Orange Tree Resort**, was a wonderful celebration! The beautifully decorated room and delicious food made for a fantastic event. A special highlight was the miniature railroad and train set, thoughtfully set up by Jonathan Gerber and Christian Fleury. The kids were absolutely thrilled, and even many adults couldn't help but admire and enjoy it.

We kicked off 2025 with a fantastic **Annual Meeting at Chompie's**, where we had a great turnout and plenty of fun. The abundance of raffle prizes added to the excitement, and we were also able to auction off three items—thank you all for your generous donations!



During the event, we were pleased to announce that **Mauro Saladini is our new Honorary Swiss Consul for Arizona**. Congratulations, Mauro! We look forward to welcoming you and your family at our upcoming gatherings.



As we plan more events for the year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated **board members** and volunteers. Your hard work and commitment make these wonderful moments possible.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Roland Ulrich



ADVERTISE IN THE VALLEY ECHO

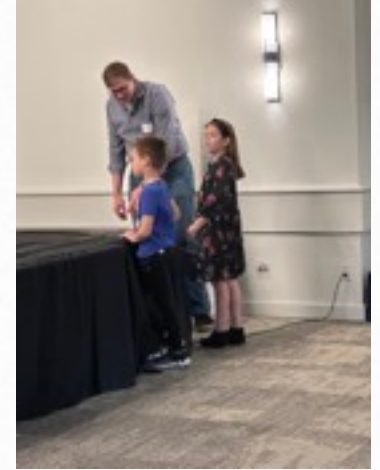
Business card size	\$ 10.00 per insert,	(no discount)
¼ page	\$ 25.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
½ page	\$ 50.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off
Full page	\$ 100.00 per insert,	pay 4 and get 10% off

Youth Activity Page



A giant **Tschu-Tschu Train**, put together that morning by Jonathan Gerber and Christian Fleury loved by all kids -- oh and 'old folks' who had their memories rekindled . . .

Sedona Ulrich, 12 years old, on piano, and **Marc Hächler**, 13 years old, in Horgen, Switzerland, on piano and flute added nostalgia and joy to everybody attending (78 including babies/kids)



Artist: **Fiona Reuter**, 10 years old



Dä Samichlaus mit äm Schmutzli chunt



My name is Schmutzli
And I've come from Bern today
To find naughty children
And whisk them away
And if there are none then never fear
For I'll be watching you children
And I'll be back next year!



A special visit from **Santa Claus** with **Schmutzli** bent over a bit from carrying all the bags of gifts in his busy Christmas life.

We thank Mary Beth and Ron McCullagh who donated \$50 for the purchase of the children's gifts from Santa at the Christmas Party.



Culture & Activities in Flums SG and Surrounding Region

Hansmelchenhaus



Flums is proud of its oldest house. The medieval preacher's house was built around 1300. The wooden building on the front of the village stream near St. Justus Church has a strange history, as it was first called the preacher's house, later the Hansmelchenhaus and finally the Alemannenhaus. In the younger upper part, the year 1507 is carved into a beam, which can be traced back to a renovation at that time. The northern facade of the house has since been made of rough quarry stone and the

southern part is a timber frame structure. The house was restored in 1974/75. The vaulted cellar rooms were given particular care. The interior of the house was almost completely destroyed in a fire in 1999, but has since been restored in accordance with monument preservation requirements.



Burguine Gräpplang (castrum fluminis)



Gräpplang is the landmark high above the Seez Valley. The castle (castrum fluminis) was first mentioned in documents in 1249.

In 1292 the castle passed to the knight Ulrich von Flums and in the 14th century the pledge was made to the noble von Hartenegg. In 1419 the people of Zurich became the owners. This brought them into conflict with the people of Glarus and Schwyz, who destroyed the castle in 1440. In 1460 Ulrich von Grünberg, a bailiff of the Bishop of Chur, ruled over the rebuilt fortress. In 1528, in the absence of the Bishop of Chur, the leaders of the Graubünden Church Association sold the Gräpplang domain to Ludwig Tschudi, whose descendants lived in Gräpplang until 1767. Gräpplang was subsequently taken over by the Good and Perret families, both from Mels. For a short time, part of the domain passed to Johann Heinrich Bless. In 1804 the castle was sold for demolition. In 1923 the political municipality of Flums took over Gräpplang Castle as a ruin. The castle ruins were renovated in

1990/92. Since 1998, a staircase has led through the old walls, opening up the ruins to the public in an impressive way.

Fasnacht /Carnival



In Flums, Carneval is not just a boisterous celebration, but also a tradition and culture. If you live in a beautiful but rough area and are closely connected to the whims of nature, you have to let your hair down now and then. In every culture, tradition is the perfect outlet to create the necessary freedom. The mask, the parade and the dance have been preserved in Flums' Carneval customs as a remnant of the old Germanic spring celebration. The wooden mask, the "larva", aims to drive away evil demons and support the good spirit. Grotesquely horrific wooden masks, exquisitely carved in their own way, were intended to frighten and chase away misanthropic monsters.

Raft building at Lake Walen (Walensee)



Build your own floating island. Then test your raft for yourself on its maiden voyage. Raft building is a great nature and team experience with a breeze of fresh air. Together with your work colleagues, you will build a raft from barrels, logs, boards and ropes that will carry you across the water. There are about 5 – 6 people building a raft. You will receive the briefing, tips and tricks from our experienced guide, who will be present the whole time.

Annual Meeting

At Chompie's Phoenix Location
Sunday, February 23, 2025



The board members were unanimously re-elected (from left to right): Susan Oake, Christian Fleury, Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter, Alex Reuter, Helene Block, and Roland Ulrich. Daniel Fahrni (not on the picture)



After lunch and speeches we had a great auction: **Faith Harris** purchased the quilt, made by Helene Block, **Ueli Zaugg** bid on the round glass-wall hanging with Swiss Flags, and **James Werth** bid on the Zinc-Wine set donated by Hans Gamma's Family.



We welcome Marco Saladini as the new Honorary Swiss Consul!



ARIZONA SWISS FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

The scholarship program of the Arizona Swiss Foundation is designed to stimulate and encourage the academic success of members and children of the Arizona Swiss Society.

The Arizona Swiss Foundation hopes to take a role in encouraging tomorrow's leaders by providing scholarship support to deserving students. Scholarships awarded by the Arizona Swiss Foundation have helped many young people achieve their educational goals. High emphasis will be placed on scholastic or vocational merit.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Applicants must either be Swiss nationals or of Swiss descent, with at least one grandparent or great-grandparent being a Swiss national
2. Applicants must be a member or a legal dependent of members of the Arizona Swiss Society
3. Applicants must be enrolled or plan to enroll in a college or vocational/technical school for the coming academic year as full-time or part-time students (minimum 6 credit hours per semester)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please download the scholarship instructions and application for 2025-2026 from Arizonaswissociety.com

Send the completed application and supporting materials, including transcripts, to

Lisa White
3034 Dawa Ovi
Flagstaff, AZ 86005
(480) 980-3468 arizonasun74@gmail.com

For questions, contact Lisa White. If you cannot reach her, please contact Anthony P. Haechler (602) 405-7767 anthonyhaechler@yahoo.com

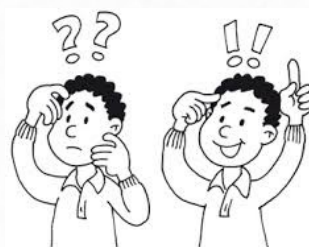
Contact Lisa White if you did not receive a confirmation email by July 3rd of receipt of your application and all necessary documents.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2025

Emphasis will be on a complete and timely submission of the application. Applications for 2025-26 will be available after April 15, 2025. <https://www.arizonaswissociety.com>

Answers to the Arizona Swiss Society, August 1st Quiz 2024

How many Goals did the Swiss Soccer team score at this year's Euro UEFA Championship?	A: 6 Goals C: 7 Goals	B: 8 Goals D: 10 Goals
Around which mountain in Switzerland is it Possible to ride the world's first revolving cable car?	A: Matterhorn C: Monch	B: Pilatus D: Titlis
What is the population of Switzerland?	A: 8-9 Million C: 9-10 Million	B: 7-8 Million D: 6-7 Million
It seems silly to ask for "Swiss" cheese in a Swiss Restaurant. What would the natives call this cheese if they ordered in Switzerland?	A: Gruyere C: Appenzeller	B: Emmentaler D: Raclette
What percentage of Switzerland is covered by mountain ranges?	A: 60% C: 70%	B: 50% C: 75%
Which Swiss town is famous for its annual jazz festival?	A: Luzerne C: St. Gallen	B: Montreux D: Zurich
On which mountain in Switzerland can you visit the Ice Palace?	A: The Jungfrauoch C: Titlis	B: The Eiger D: Schilthorn
Which ski town has hosted two winter Olympic Games?	A: Zermatt C: Geneva	B: Davos D: St. Moritz
What percentage of the Swiss population speak German? 62,3% Erhebung von 2021	A: 58% C: 68.5 %	B: 63.7 % C: 72%
In what year was Switzerland ranked as the world's wealthiest country?	A: 2011 C: 2019	B: 2014 C: 2017
What are the largest exported Swiss goods?	A: Cheeses C: Chemicals	B: Watches D: Chocolates
How many of Swiss residents own their home?	A: 32% C: 39%	B: 37% D: 42%
What is the oldest chocolate brand in Switzerland?	A: Lindt C: Milka	B: Cailler C: Toblerone
Which is the most prestigious Swiss watch brand?	A: Patek Philippe C: Rolex	B: Omega D: Cartier
How Many stores has Migros Supermarket in Switzerland	A: 950 C: 1191	B: 1085 C: 1224





Werner Bonadurer

All of us at the Swiss Club like to extend a huge

THANK YOU

to our **Honorary Swiss Consul Werner Bonadurer**

for his years of service. At the Christmas Lunch in December Werner spoke about his time as a Consul and time of leaving. At that certain age when they retire you.

Werner's words," I served six years as the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Arizona. As you may have heard, I'm retiring effective December 31, 2024, due to me hitting the age limit (which is a good thing to have in place...). The Swiss government has already nominated my successor. We are just waiting for formal clearance by the U.S. State Department. Subsequently, public announcements will be made. The incoming Consul is a fantastic choice. I know him very well (and enthusiastically supported him). I think the Consulate in San Francisco is planning for an inauguration reception sometime this coming winter. " You will be missed . . . Werner Bonadurer.



"Age is a state of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter" – Mark Twain

Did you know why eggs at Easter?

Easter is approaching. And with it the boom in eggs, preferably brightly painted. But where does the tradition of Easter eggs come from? In Christianity, the egg became a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus Christ: from the outside it looks cold and dead, but new life grows from inside. The egg thus symbolized the grave in Jerusalem from which Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter morning. But there are also practical reasons why eggs became an Easter gift: since the Middle Ages, the church has forbidden the consumption of meat and egg dishes during the fasting period before Easter.

The result was that large quantities of eggs accumulated before Easter. To prevent the surplus eggs from spoiling, the eggs were boiled and preserved. The farmers usually paid the rent, which was often due around Easter, with the eggs they had collected. The rest were decorated, taken to the church for blessing and then given away. It is also documented that Armenian Christians gave each other eggs for the first time in the first centuries after Christ. There they had no practical significance, but were solely a symbol of new life.



Eggshells can be used in different ways, for example as decoration or to grow seedlings



The garden and the plants also benefit from the positive properties of eggshells. You can easily grow seedlings yourself using eggshells and egg cartons. Here's how to do it: First, poke a tiny hole in the eggshell (for example with a fine needle or a drawing pin) so that excess water can drain into the carton. Then fill the shells with soil and one or two plant seeds. Once the germs are visible, you can plant them in the bed with the eggshell. The eggshell slowly decomposes in

the soil and provides valuable nutrients for the green plants.

Eggshells can also be used as decoration, for example as a vase for flowers.



Youth Page



Spring Picnic

Sunday, April 13, 2025
Desert Breeze Park, Chandler, AZ



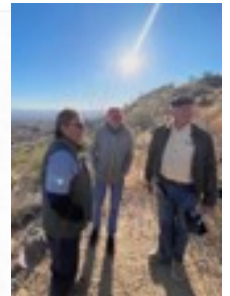
Club News / Sunshine Committee



Congratulations!

We welcome **Everleigh**, born
January 15th, 2025
to
Amaelia and Adam Eckert Haechler, with son Ashton.

Grandfather / Grosspapi; Anthony Haechler
and
Great-grandparents/Urgrosseltern;
Urgrossmami Elsbeth and Urgrosspapi Max Haechler
are so proud.



Swiss and Austrian hike on January 19. 2025

This hike from the **Adero Canyon Trailhead in Fountain Hills**, is 3.7 miles out and back with 675 feet elevation gain. The trail considered moderate, provided great views of Fountain Hills and the Verde Valley. We took it slowly and did what we were comfortable doing. What a perfect clear-sky day for our first hike of the new year.

Each months there is and will be an organized hike.



Susan Oake had arm surgery and **Max Haechler** had knee surgery!
Susan is home and Max is at the Advanced Healthcare Rehab.
We wish Susan and Max patience for healing to be back to health!
Gute Besserung Max und Susan!

Komm schnell wieder auf die Beiner!



We Welcome New Members

Quinn James & Bonnie with Kids Catie and Peter, Gilbert	Gruber Dora, Sun City West
Naumenko Slava & Novosilska Tanya with Kids Tima and Misha, Scottsdale	
Liñan Isaac, Glendale	Schrimpf Theresa, Phoenix
Stepanek Jan & Maureen with Kids Nicvoel and Ian, Scottsdale	
Swanson-Dalhof Melissa & Swanson Jeff with Kids Kayden and Noah, Phoenix	

Club News / Sunshine Committee



In Memory of Vreny Middleton November 18th, 1941 - October 20, 2024

Vreny Middleton, 82, 11 months, of Fountain Hills, went to be with our Lord on October 20, 2024. Vreny was a remarkable woman, a loving wife, devoted mother, grandmother, and a dear friend to many. She is now united in heaven with her beloved husband Dick Middleton, who predeceased her on February 3, 2004. Vreny lived a life full of love, adventure, and an unwavering spirit of generosity. Caring, encouraging, and always ready to help others. If you needed a ride, help with the computer, coffee with a friend or a heartfelt conversation to navigate life's challenges, you could always count on Vreny's open heart, sage advice and steady presence.



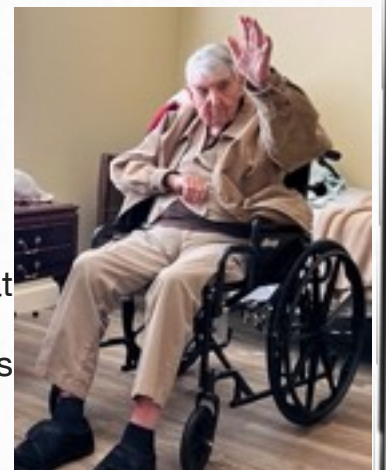
Born in Altdorf, Switzerland, Vreny took great pride in her Swiss heritage and remained active in the Arizona Swiss Society throughout her life. Her roots and upbringing in Switzerland shaped her values and love of nature, hard work, family, and her faith in Jesus Christ.



Urs Schwank August 27th, 1923 - January 25th, 2025

A life well lived is a life remembered with Love.

Urs Schwank, our long-time dear Swiss friend, left for the garden in the sky called Heaven on Saturday morning, January 25, 2025, at the age of one hundred and one and five months, at Morningstar Assisted Living in Fountain Hills AZ. Thanks to Alma Muniz, the Life Enrichment Coordinator, Lew and I saw Urs 2 days before he died. I so appreciated Alma, she'd send me texts with pictures or call so Urs could say hello since his answering phone calls had stopped some time ago. During our



December visit, Urs was the most alert in some time. We called his friends in Bern Switzerland, and his questions and answers, in Schwyzerdütsch, at his age were simply amazing. Alert beyond.

May the memory of Urs be a blessing we hold in our hearts forever.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal." – Richard Paz



Johannes "Hans" Vogelbach December 7, 1929 – February 14, 2025

Hans, a hairstylist in Scottsdale for many years and a long-time member of the Swiss Club was born in Weesen, (Walensee) Switzerland.

He is survived by his loving daughter Jackie, granddaughter Olivia, and his 3 great-grandchildren. He will be deeply missed.



Swiss-Recipes Page

for the young at heart



Flumser Cheesecake

The Flumser cheesecake is a creamy and fluffy cheesecake from Switzerland that is known for its delicate texture and delicious taste. It impresses with a fine vanilla note and is a popular dessert for both children and adults.

Preparation: 20 minutes / cooking time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

500 g	Quark drained
150 g	sugar
3	eggs
2 packets	vanilla sugar
1 tbsp	lemon juice
100 g	butter, melted
100 g	flour
1 packet	baking powder
1 pinch	of salt



Preparation

1. Preheat the oven to 180 °C (top/bottom heat). Line a springform pan with baking paper and lightly grease it.
2. In a large bowl, mix the quark, sugar, vanilla sugar, lemon juice and eggs well with a food processor until a creamy mixture is formed.
3. In a separate bowl, mix the flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the quark mixture and mix everything well until the dough is smooth.
4. Fold the melted butter into the dough and mix everything well.
5. Pour the mixture evenly into the prepared springform pan and smooth it out.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for about 45 minutes until the cake is golden brown and no dough residue sticks when pierced with a toothpick.
7. After baking, let the cheesecake cool in the oven with the door slightly open. Then remove from the springform pan and let it cool completely on a wire rack.
8. Before serving, dust with powdered sugar and garnish with fresh berries if desired.

Serving suggestions

Serve the cheesecake with a spoonful of fresh cream or a fruity berry compote.

Board Members 2025

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Vice President	Daniel Fahrni
Treasurer	Alex Reuter
Secretary	Helene Block
Activity Chairs	Susan Oake Christian Fleury
Membership Chair	Sibylle Zaugg-Reuter
Past President	Anthony P. Haechler



Honorary Swiss Consul Mauro Saladini
Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler

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Investment Committee	John Thornton, Chair Anthony P. Haechler
Adviser/Jass Coordinator	Ueli Zaugg

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