AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925



NewsLetter

www.swissparknewark.com

Swiss owned and operated since 1935

Volume XXVIII Issue 2, April – June 2020

President's Message

By Arnold Ambiel

Dear Aelplers,



Hello from shelter in place. We hope you are all safe and sound. Our 95th year has started out very differently than last year, but maybe not so differently than when the Swiss Hall was completed in 1934 during the Great Depression. We've purposely cancelled events and are following the County of Alameda's orders to close Swiss Park until further notice.

Our last event was the Jass and Fondue Dinner in February which was well attended by both card players and our diners. It is always a fun time to sit and talk with other members and eat a creamy cheese dinner made by the fabulous Fondue Crew.

As you all have heard, we postponed the annual Folklore/Spring Dance event honoring Ronnie Scheiber. It will be rescheduled for a future date. If any of you have any stories about Ronnie you would like to share, please contact us.

Our new hiking series will also restart after the shelter in place ends.

Our oldest members are the most isolated while sheltering in place. I ask that we all pick up the phone and give them a call. Also, send us announcements of the graduates in your families so that we can include them in our July Newsletter. They are missing out on so much right now.

Thanks to all whom either renewed or became a social member this year. If you haven't yet, we've extended the renewal deadline to May 30th. USS Raffle tickets are coming soon.

New Trivia Question: What is the Via Alpina and what does the SAC do along it? Call/text me at 510-936-2523 with the answer. We'll draw the winner from the first four received.

BillyLeah Berchtold is the last winner from three correct answers. She receives two tickets to our Fall Schwingfest. Look inside for the answer to the January question.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold

New Aelpler Gruppe Website www.aelplergruppe.com

You can now make donations to the memorial fund directly through the website.

We are selling raffle tickets to United Swiss'
Online 1st of August Celebration. Please support our club and purchase a booklet or more ©

Operations at the Newark Swiss Park are currently suspended. The Bar and Restaurant are closed temporarily.

Postponed - Folklore Event joint with the Swiss Benevolent Society

Postponed - Our Semi-Annual members meeting (was May 3rd)

Cancelled – The Los Angeles Swiss Singing Society "Harmonie" has made the tough decision to cancel the 30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival in June.

Imperial Valley Schwingfest postponed until 10/24/2020

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Facebook page www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

Aelpler Gruppe Fondue Dinner and Jass

Aelpler Gruppe had a wonderful Fondue Dinner back in February. The event was very well attended and many individuals commented on the great food which started with a cured meat, sausage, pickle and onion tray. The Fondue crew was very busy in the kitchen mixing batch after batch of fondue which came out steaming hot and absolutely delicious. It was a challenge keeping up with serving our guests but we did it!

Before fondue was served, we had many Jass players from beginning to experienced play cards and visit across the tables. We were happy to see a few young people come out to learn the game as well!

Our Sennenmutter, Rosemary Ramsell celebrated her 98th Birthday! We sang to her and she shared her cake with all for dessert. Rosemary has been our Sennenmutter for a number of years and we look forward to having her wisdom crown our club over the coming years.

We sincerely thank our Fondue Crew – Chefs Arnold & Suzanne Ambiel, Lauren Ambiel, Karen Dobbel, Tina, Ella Aguerria, Becky, Dave Konecny, Mark, Rose and Lauren Satariano.



Enjoying Fondue with Friends





Fantastic Fondue Crew!





Jass König Joe Beeler Sr. Jass Königen Cookie Aufdemauer





Rosemary Ramsell celebrates her 98th Birthday!!



Walter Vogel, Pete Zuger, Joe Beeler

Please send in notes regarding your graduates! We'd like to have information about their celebration in the next newsletter.

Aelpler Gruppe launched our new website! Take a look and view upcoming events along with information on becoming a club member, past newsletters, and plenty of event photos.

Thank you to Pat Wipfli Schaffarczyk for all the work she put into creating our new website. She spent months working with our web developer to produce a new look with new content. Thank you again Pat! You can now pay for events and make donations to the Swiss Club on the website directly: https://www.aelplergruppe.com/donations/

History of Sennenvater

The Sennenvater has its origin in the 16th century (1593) when an epidemic struck the Schaechental and Urner Boden. Out of desperation the Sennen (local citizens) got together and founded the Sennenbruderschaft (citizen brotherhood). The cantons and counties differ on how the citizen brotherhood is organized. They choose an honorary Senn as Sennenvater of Kerzenvogt. This person is someone who does a lot for the citizens in general and the brotherhood specifically and thereby deserves this position of honor.

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club has had many Sennenvaters from 1925 to the present, but Aelpler Gruppe has only had two Sennenmutters.

Sennenvaters for Aelpler Gruppe:

•	1925 - 1931	Jacob Item
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unknown Dominik Rickenbacher

unknown Jack Iten1934 - 1947 Joe Sutter

1948 - 1950 Meinrad Schelbert
 1951 - 1976 Louis Marchy, Sr

1937 - 1970 Eodis Marchy, 3
 1977 - 1982 Frank Vogt
 1983 - 1990 Ernie Waspi

1991 - 1999 Anton Zuger
 1999 - 2009 Tom Imholz, Sr
 2009 - 2020 Frank Schmidig, Sr

Sennenmutters on record are:

1925 - Unknown Mrs M. Lacher1992 - Present Rosemary Ramsell



Joe Allgauer & Alois Kaslin built our outdoor stage back in 1998



Welcome new Social Members!

Beatrice Durrer of Atherton, CA Andrea Westrum of Los Gatos, CA Hans Imfeld of San Jose, CA Billy Marchy, Bobby Marchy, Cole Marchy Richard Steiner

You can become an Aelpler Gruppe Social member at age 18.



April – US flag was

projected onto the Matterhorn.

Please buy Raffle Tickets!

Swiss National Day celebration ONLINE Saturday,
August 1st at Swiss Park in Newark. We are selling tickets
as a fundraiser for both the United Swiss Societies of
Northern California and the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss club.
Our club will receive \$10 for every book of tickets sold. We

will use the proceeds for repairs and upgrades of Swiss Park and our Hall. There will be lots of prizes. Please order some ticket booklets and support the club. To receive ticket booklets or to order more booklets, please contact us aelplergruppe@gmail.com or 510-936-2523.



Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Social Membership Extended until May 30th to send in your 2020 dues! Join the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club!

Your Annual \$40 social membership entitles you to:

- Special member invitations to yearly events (Schwingfest, Fondue Night, Metzgete, etc).
- Christmas Party Free to Social Members
- Subscription to newsletter

To join; please send your name, email address, postal address, phone number and enclose a \$40 check (paid after May 30th dues are \$50.00) made payable to Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club and mail to:

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Attn: Membership 5911 Mowry Ave., Newark, CA 94560

Questions; please contact us at: aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Phone: 510-936-2523

https://www.aelplergruppe.com/memberships/

Aelpler Gruppe 2020 Calendar of Events

www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

May 3 Postponed- Semi-Annual members meeting June 14 United Swiss Societies Kid's Camp 9 a.m.

June 28 East Bay Club Hike

Aug 1 Online - United Swiss Societies – Swiss National

Day

Sep 4 Dinner prior to Schwingfest 6:00 p.m. Sep 5 Fall Schwingfest in Newark 11:00 a.m.

Sep 27 North Bay Club Hike

Nov 1 Annual Member's Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Nov 7 Metzgete Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Dec 5 Member's Annual Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm



United Swiss Societies

Diane Wagner, President 510-582-0698 www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Peninsula Swiss Club

Contact: Sandra Scanferla-Eidam 408-348-6911

sandra.scanferla@gmail.com www.peninsulaswissclub.com

Swiss Consulate General

Pier 17, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94111

Phone: 415-788-2272

www.eda.admin.ch/sanfrancisco

Contact information for Western US Swiss Clubs:

Visit the Swiss Consulate General's website:

https://www.eda.admin.ch/dam/countries/countries-content/united-states-of-america/en/112.0 CHclubsSF.pdf

Swiss Rifle Club Events

Contact John Burky at 510-996-8789

More information at: www.carmelgunclub.com

And www.feldschiessen.us

http://www.carmelgunclub.com/SWISS%20Matches.html

Sierra Swiss Club Calendar

Contact: Urs Gwerder 530-587-8316 http://sierraswissclub.homestead.com

Pro Ticino

http://www.proticino.ch/

Trivia question: "What Swiss fondue cheese is named after its own castle?"

Billy Leah Berchtold is the last winner from three correct answers. She receives two tickets to our Fall Schwingfest.

Answer: Château de Gruyères, in Gruyère,

Fribourg

Swiss Park 2020 Events 5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark 510-793-6272

Currently the Hall and restaurant are closed – Please see the website for updates.

There are many other on-going events at Swiss Park. Please check the website for the current event listings at: www.swissparknewark.com

SJVSC, Ripon 2020 Calendar of Events

www.sjvscriponswiss.com

Tony Berchtold, President

June 6 Spring Schwingfest

July 25 Swiss Kids Camp & Members BBQ

Aug 29 Fall Schwingfest Oct 3 Oktoberfest

Oct 17 Fall Swiss Echoes Dinner & Concert - Corrected

Nov 8 Fall Jass Party

Dec 6 Swiss Echoes Christmas Dinner Dec 13 Children's Christmas Party



West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association

New Board: President - Arnold Ambiel, acting

Vice President – Urs Gwerder Treasurer – Don Widmer, acting Secretary – Chris Schallberger, acting

All West Coast Schwingfests are now online at http://schlussgang.ch/

2020 Schwingfest Dates:

April 4 Imperial Valley – Holtville – Postponed until October 24th

June 6 San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club – Ripon June 13 Swiss Sportsman Club – Tacoma

June 20 San Diego Swiss Club – San Diego July 4-5 Lewis Pacific Swiss Society – Frances, WA

July 11 Portland Swiss Club – Portland

July 18 Sierra Swiss Club – Truckee

Aug 8-9 Swiss Sportsman Club – Tacoma Aug 29 San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club – Ripon

Sept 5 **Championship -** Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club - Newark

Sängerfest - Cancelled

30th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival Los Angeles June 25 28, 2020 www.swissfest2020.com

Get Well to Rosemary Ramsell and a speedy recovery from hip surgery!







Obituary: Our beloved Life Member and *Sennenvater*, Frank Schmidig (Gumel), passed away on March 23, 2020. Frank was 89 years old. He was born May 10, 1930 on a mountainside farm in Schonenbuch, Switzerland. Gumel was the oldest of 6 children. After his father's death, Gumel had to help his mother with the care of his younger siblings. When his

siblings were old enough to work, Gumel set out for America on a ship via Canada. He worked on a farm outside Montreal to help support the family back home while learning English. He then set out for Vancouver with his longtime friend Paul Von Euw and worked in a papermill for a year, finally ending up in Pleasanton where he had an Aunt, Josephine Wipfli. Gumel spent the remainder of his life in Pleasanton.

He met the loving and outgoing Bertie Christensen, they married and they had a son named Frank Jr. Gumel worked first at Hansen and Geiger Dairy then later with his friends Frank Auf Der Maur and Konrad Rickenbach at Pleasanton Cabinet Shop. The Cabinet shop closed down in 1981, but the friendships remained with weekly lunches and Swiss club events. In addition to working together the families enjoyed many vacations all over the world traveling with the Jolly Swiss Group and included many return visits to Switzerland to visit family and attend Swiss music events. Later in life Gumel had a wonderful relationship with Anne Marie Reichmuth from Unterageri, Switzerland. They were great companions enjoying more travel, Swiss events, and card games with friends. Frank (Gumel) is survived by son Frank Jr. (Diane), grandchildren Courtney Park (Curtis), Bailey, Rainer, one great grandson (Charlie) and a sister, Therese Steiner along with many nieces and nephews all still residing in Switzerland. No services are scheduled at this time.



Aelpler Gruppe Life Member, **Konrad Rickenbach**, passed away February 8, 2020.
Konrad was 87 years old. He was born in april 1927 in Steinen, Switzerland. He traveled to the US and settled in Pleasanton and became involved with cabinet manufacturing and property development with his schoolmate, Frank Aufdermauer. Konrad enjoyed being with

family, his skiing friends, and a nice bottle of wine. He leaved behind his wife of 65 years, Elizabeth; sons Konrad (Doris) and Andreas (Kristen); daughter Suzanne (Thomas); six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

No services will be held. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Kindred Hospice, Dublin, or a local Humane Society.



Aelpler Gruppe Life Member, **Josef Lieni Sutter**, passed away peacefully on April 1, 2020. Lieni was 88 years old. Lieni was born November 10, 1931 in Muotathal, Switzerland. He was the 4th of 8 children. The family moved to Ibach/Schwyz where he spent his youth and attended school. He immigrated to the USA in 1953 at the age of 22, and worked as a milker in Newark/Pleasanton and as a lumberjack in

Truckee. Lieni was a pioneer of Swiss wrestling and the culture on the West Coast and with several other Swiss, started the Sierra Swiss Club in Truckee more than 50 years ago. He was a kind and generous man who contributed greatly to his Swiss culture and community. Lieni is survived by sons Josef Jr. (Kathy) Suter,

Herbert (Tina) Suter and daughter Silvia (Urs) Gwerder; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, and sister Bertha Müller from Steinhausen-CH. Lieni was predeceased by his wife Herta in 2012. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Remembrances: Sierra Swiss Club, 10338 Shore Pine Rd., Truckee, CA 96161

Aelpler Gruppe Social member, **Pia Straub**, of Atherton, CA passed away on March 29, 2020. She is survived by her husband Hugo.

Aelpler Gruppe Social member, **Rosemarie Von Flue**, of Holtville, CA passed away on April 2, 2020.

Three Swiss Immigrants who lived in Pleasanton - Frank Schmidig, Frank Aufdemauer, and Konrad Rickenbach. Below is a link to the book written by Annemarie Regez about them and a longer story on the author's website. The three men, who left Canton Schwyz to move to the San Francisco area, donated money to retrofit the Stoosbahn and a chapel in canton Schwyz.

https://annemarieregez.ch/wild-auf-den-westen.html

Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased: Please e-mail our Corresponding Secretary at jerikroske@gmail.com or call 408-842-4621

You can now make Memorial Fund donations through the Aelpler Gruppe website: https://www.aelplergruppe.com/donations/



Memorial Fund Donations

Grateful donations to the Memorial Fund have been received for the following members who have passed:

Received in Memory of **Frank Schmidig** from: Lois Ulrich Gene Ramsell, Jr. Dave & Margrith Reichmuth Patricia Wipfli-Schaffarczyk Pete & Jackie Zuger Gery & Rosemary Wagner Elizabeth Rickenbach

Received in Memory of Konrad Rickenbach from: Elizabeth Rickenbach

Received in Memory of **Lieni Suter** from: Dave & Margrith Reichmuth



Death of Swiss in the greater Swiss Community

Paul Johan Huber of Salem, OR passed away on January 13, 2019. Paul was a native of Wil, Switzerland.

Frank John Zumstein of Modesto, CA passed away on February 12, 2020. He was a life member of SJVSC.

Hilda(Schleiss) West of Modesto, CA passed away on March 23, 2020. She was a life member of SJVSC.

Traveling to Switzerland this Summer?

Visit Murren in the Berner Oberland and stay at the

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Steve Ambiel, Chef

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Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors Meeting is held the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified.



Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors Meeting

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified.

We are thinking of you all during this time and wishing you and your families well.

Please reach out to our seniors and have a chat to brighten their day!

Stay safe and look for updates as our events will start up once again ©

SWITZERLAND WITH HEIDI September 18-26 2020 + 3 Day Extension Sept 26 - 29

Stunning mountains and lakes - overnights in Zurich, Geneva, the Gruyere area, Grindelwald, and Lucerne. The highlight of this visit is the time in the mountain resort of Grindelwald, in the vicinity of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau; a railway trip to the "Top of Europe.Trip will include: Bus / Hotel and some meals. Airfare not included. Open to all ages. Those interested contact Heidi Ambiel at 831-662-8709.

SWISS 6 US GATEWAYS to ZURICH 1 US GATEWAY to GENEVA

DAILY NON-STOPS from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Newark, Boston & Miami; fly into one city, return from another European city. BOOK EARLY - For Economy book by mid-Jan and for Business Class by mid Feb. for lowest fares!

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Swiss Cultural Highlighs – reprinted from: Embassy of Switzerland https://www.eda.admin.ch

As communities around the world continue their efforts to counter the spread of the coronavirus, the Embassy of Switzerland in the United States has taken similar measures to ensure the safety of all its employees, their families, and, of course, our local community. Though events have had to be cancelled and many of us are working from home, we want to remind you that we are still operating and are here to asist with your guesitons, concerns, and consular issues during this time. As Switzerland consistently tops the rankings for most innovative country, we are encouraged by Swiss success stories in the field of Research and Development that may help mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. These valuable R&D contributions, along with Switzerland's strong sense of international solidarity, has made it an important global partner during this shared global experience. We want to pass along the stories of startups and Swiss players at the forefront of innovation, while also providing content to help ease the stress of these uncertain times and create moments of well-being at home. Let's continue to #StayHome and flatten this curve. Together we can beat this. The need for positivity is crucial now more than ever in times of isolation.





Swiss Embassy Newsletter - Switzerland Today

The Embassy newsletter covers topics pertaining to Swiss-US interests and relations in the fields of innovation, science and technology, economic affairs, democracy, the arts and lifestyle. https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/usa/en/home/news/newsletter.html

JASON TRAVEL PRESENTS: Spectacular Switzerland with Heidi

SEPT. 18 - 26, 2020 / 3-DAY EXTENSION: SEPT 26-29, 2020 Stunning mountains and lakes—with overnights in Zurich, Geneva, the Gruyere area, Grindelwald, and Lucerne. The highlight of this visit is the time in the mountain resort of Grindelwald, in the vicinity of three mighty mountains: Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau; an unforgettable rack railway trip to the "Top of Europe," a high Alpine wonderland of ice & snow: The Amazing Jungfraujoch, Europe's highest railway station!

JASON TRAVEL Att: Brigitta Ammann 269 States Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114

Phone: 415.553.7711 Email: brigitta@jasontravel.com

Website: www.jasontravel.com

1. For questions to your Swiss Tour Escort, Heidi Ambiel: Call her at: 831.662.8709

2. To sign up: Send deposit of \$500.00 by check made out to: Att: Brigitta Ammann

Jason Travel: 269 States Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114 Email: brigitta@jasontravel.com

3. Final payment by check is due July 3, 2020.

COST FOR TOUR: September 18-26, 2020

\$ 2,989.00 per person/ share twin

CURRENT airfares Los Angeles/San Francisco to Zurich

roundtrip: Economy class: \$1,211.00

Business Class: \$3,950.00 Do Note: Airfares constantly change. We recommend booking your airline tickets as soon as you sign up for tour. You may extend, or leave for Europe earlier at the same cost. Option is also to return from another European city at similar prices.

A group of dedicated inviduals is working on a "digital" Kids camp. Stay tuned!!



Need some activities while

staying at home? Switzerland has some ideas:

Learn to yodel	Make Müsli	Go for a run with On Shoes	Rewatch Heidi with your kids
Greet sb with Grüezi	Make fondue for dinner	Read The Swiss Family Robinson	Get in shape for your next hike in Switzerland
	Learn to play Jass	Find Helvetica typefont in your home	Raclette for lunch!
Stay	Build the Gotthard Tunnel with couch	Learn every function of your swiss	

General Information

Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors Meeting

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors

President Thomas Imholz Jr.
Vice President Pete Zuger
Treasurer Carl Ramsell
Secretary Susanne Cameron
Assistant Secretary Herman Betchart

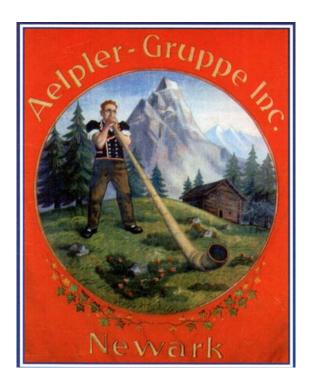
Swiss Park Manager Robert Fuchslin

Newsletter Editor: Rose Satariano

aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Have you moved?

Please forward your new address to Jerilyn Kroske, Corresponding Secretary, via e-mail to: aelplergruppe@gmail.com Thank you.



Officers

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors for 2020

President	Arnold Ambiel	510-936-2523		
1st Vice Pres Ma	arilyn Ramsell Manche	ester 510-366-5070		
2nd Vice Pres				
Recording Secretary	Julia Dobbel-Heste	r 510-710-7641		
Corresp. Secretary	Jerilyn Kroske	408-842-4621		
Treasurer	Margrith Reichmuth 510-792-4572			
Assistant Treasurer	Michelle Bauhofer-Ott			
Past President	Kurt Clausen	650-988-1161		
Director 1 –	Pat Wipfli-Schaffard	czyk 510-677-8461		
Director 2 –	Karen Dobbel	510-502-1072		
Director 3 –	Rose Satariano	Newsletter Editor		
Director 4 –	Darrell Ramsell	925-337-0565		
Director 5 –	Dominick Reichmu	th		
Sennenmutter	Rosemary Ramsell	510-793-0983		
Sennenvater	Frank Schmidig			
USS Delegate	Arnold Ambiel			

Rösti The Swiss know cold-weather cooking; the world's most comforting potato pancake and a masterpiece of simplicity

By Aleksandra Crapanzano

It comes down to technique, for the most part. Some Swiss cooks insist the potatoes must be boiled a day before cooking and left to dry out a bit in the fridge overnight. One camp insists a rösti must be flipped and cooked on both sides, while another counters that it should be crisped on one side only, leaving the other soft and moist.

Rösti is not hard to make, but there are a few rules to keep in mind. The goal is a flat cake about ¾ inch thick. Never try to double the recipe; the rösti will not flip intact or cook properly. A well-seasoned 8- or 9-inch cast iron skillet is traditional and makes a flavorful rösti, but a nonstick skillet works too.

Total Time 35 minutes Serves 3

- 3 medium russet potatoes or 2 large ones
- 4 tablespoons butter or duck or goose fat
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- 1. The day before you plan to cook the rösti, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add potatoes in their skins and boil until just short of tender, about 15 minutes. (Timing will vary according to the size of the potatoes you use.) Drain potatoes and refrigerate overnight.
- 2. The next day, while potatoes are still cold, peel them, then grate them using medium holes of a box grater.
- 3. In an 8- or 9-inch cast-iron or nonstick skillet over low heat, melt butter. Gradually add grated potatoes and salt. Cook over low heat, turning frequently with a spatula, until potatoes are soft and yellow, about 3 minutes.
- 4. Press potatoes into a flat cake. You don't need to push hard, but you do want to apply enough pressure to form a cake that will hold its shape. Sprinkle with hot water.
- 5. Cover and cook, shaking pan frequently to prevent scorching and adding a little butter as necessary to prevent sticking, until potatoes are crusty and golden on bottom, 10-15 minutes.
- 6. Turn rösti out onto a serving platter, crusty side up, and serve. Alternatively, if you'd like to crisp both sides, flip rösti by inverting onto a plate. Melt another tablespoon of butter in skillet. Slide rösti back into skillet and cook until underside is crusty and golden. Turn out onto a serving platter. Eat while still hot.