



AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

www.aelplergruppe.com

Swiss owned and operated since 1935

Volume XXVIII Issue 4, October - December 2020

President's Message

By Arnold Ambiel

Dear Aelplers,



Spring, Summer, Fall, and now Winter with Covid-19. It's been a lonely season for Aelpler Gruppe members without our festivities. One bright spot was the excellent Swiss National Day Online event that Aelpler Gruppe member and USS President Diane Wagner organized. That brought a lot of cheer to the Swiss Community. Thanks Diane!

I can't say enough about how Swiss Park managed to operate a beer garden during the pandemic. They had a successful season. Now they have moved inside due to the cold. Bob and Team are constantly reinventing their business to adapt. Kudos!

Thanks to all who voted by mail in our Aelpler Gruppe Elections. We received over 100 ballots. Thanks to Bill Bauhofer for joining the board and Pete Zuger for becoming our Sennenvater. And to our returning board members we all say a big Thank You.

In December you'll be receiving our membership directory. Thanks to the Membership Committee for producing this and giving us the chance to talk to so many members these past few months. Between this directory and the By-Laws refresh, we have been busy. We think you'll enjoy reading it when it arrives by mail in December.

We continue to look for new ideas to fill our calendar until in-person events are possible again. It's been a matter of finding things we can do rather than always focusing on what can't be done. Look for a mailing from Santa shortly and our first Swiss Music Hour will follow. Stay tuned for more info.

New Trivia Question: Who is Schmutzli (or Père Fouettard in French) and what does he do? Call/text me the answer at 510-936-2523. We'll draw a winner from the first 3 received. Linda Bieri Glatt is our July winner. Look inside for the answer to the last trivia question.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club elections November 1, 2020

Club Sennenvater Election Results

Pete Zuger is our Sennenvater

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors Election Results

1st VP – Events - Marilyn Manchester

2nd VP – Building & Grounds - Bill Bauhofer

Treasurer – Margrith Reichmuth

Director 2 – Membership – Karen Dobbel

Directors were elected for a 3-year term starting
January 1, 2021

Swiss Park Board of Directors Election Results

President - Thomas Imholz Jr.

Vice President - Pete Zuger

Treasurer - Carl Ramsell

Secretary - Susanne Cameron

Assistant Secretary - Herman Betchart

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Bylaws revision approval was passed

Thank you to our Election Judges: Linda
Clausen, Walt Haslemann, and Steve Franke

***Congratulations to all!
Thank you for your service.***

Outdoor bar and dining are open at Newark
Swiss Park www.swissparknewark.com for
hours of the outdoor beergarden

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

Virtual 1st of August Celebration 2020

We wish to thank **Diane Wagner and Consul General, Benedikt Wechsler**, for all the work in hosting this year's virtual 1st of August celebration! The virtual presentation was fun to watch and you felt part of the larger Swiss celebration from the comfort of your home.

Please enjoy watching the presentation once again at your leisure via You tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AT0SmrVCZNc>

Longtime United Swiss Societies member Severin Ott has retired. Thank you to Robin and Severin Ott for working so hard on the annual USS Kids Camp. They are the founders of the annual Swiss Kids camp hosted by Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club, Newark.

Aelpler Gruppe Histories

This is the first of a series of Aelpler Gruppe Histories that are related to the posters (organized by decades) that are posted in the Swiss Park Hall when we have Swiss events. Each poster represents a decade of history in pictures and memorabilia. The posters are available to view on our website: aelplergruppe.com
Submitted by: Patricia Wipfli Schaffarczyk

Aelpler Gruppe History- Beginnings - 1925-1935

The first ten years of the club history were focused on members gathering together to celebrate and keep in contact with fellow Swiss who lived in the area. As new immigrants to the United States it felt good to meet and make friends, talk Schweizerdeutsch and to have events that were familiar that reminded people of their homeland of Inner-Schwyz.

In 1925, dressed in Aelpler dress for a Diamond Jubilee in San Francisco, a group of Swiss decided to form a social group to celebrate Swiss events together. A board was formed and the first meetings and a dance were presented in San Francisco in 1926 in a German hall. As new presidents were elected the meetings were moved to where each president lived. In 1928 the meetings moved to Alameda (August Walliman, President), in 1929 to San Lorenzo (Frank Durrer, President) and in 1934 to Newark (Louie Marchy Sr., President). The group had events in various locations including the Portuguese Pavilion in Newark.



Lorenzo

Aelpler Gruppe Members in Trachten, 1932

Pink drink tickets, unknown date

Richard Bamattre – Swiss Park Hall muralist

Richard Bamattre was born on March 16, 1893 in Basil, Switzerland. He had two brothers, Oscar and Siegfried. His father, Emil Bamattre, was an interior decorator and Richard learned the basic fundamentals of painting from him. When Richard was 17, the family moved to Lausanne, Switzerland. Richard's grandfather was a professor of Language and History at the University of Paris and altered his surname from Bamatter to Bamattre. When Richard moved to the United States in 1919, he decided to keep that spelling for his surname.



Richard met Martha Fenner in Switzerland. They married and moved to San Francisco. Richard worked as a foreman of a decorating company and was transferred to Los Angeles in 1924, working primarily on churches and theaters. His paintings could be seen in the Warner Brothers Theater, the old Los Angeles Theater, the Million Dollar Theater and the Paramount Theater. He also painted the paintings in St. Vincent Church and the seminary. Richard painted a life size painting of the Last Supper at a mortuary in Portland, Oregon.

Richard and Martha had two sons, William and Alex. They had a wonderful life and remained in Los Angeles for the rest of their years – raising their children, making lasting friendships and enjoying their family and grandchildren. Richard was a devoted family man with a wonderful sense of humor and at family gatherings he enjoyed entertaining and playing his violin and cello. Richard and Martha were very active in the Swiss organizations. Richard was asked to do the paintings for the Swiss Hall, which included life size paintings of people from all the Swiss cantons and many other paintings. Richard loved to paint Swiss scenes – the Alps, mountain and lake scenery, animals and Swiss chateaus. He also liked painting portraits of people and famous composers. Richard painted in oils and watercolors but his preference was working in oils. He also arranged Swiss folk songs and adapted them for a four-piece orchestra. He performed these musical arrangements with other musicians at the Swiss Park events.

In 1958, during the tenure of President Paul Bleisch (1956 to 1959), Mr. Bleisch got Richard Bamattre from Los Angeles to come to Newark to see about painting a mural for the stage wall. Mr. Bamattre was an experienced scenery painter that painted for the Hollywood studios. His wife also worked at the studios.

Aelpler Gruppe is very fortunate to have the mural on the wall in the Club. Every Swiss Club hall in California has a painting made by Mr. Bamattre, but we are the only one with a full mural. A restorer looked at the mural and said that he knew of no picture or mural of its quality or size in any building in Northern California. For this we can thank Paul Bleisch and Richard Bamattre.

Richard was indeed a man of many talents and was loved by all who knew him. In November 1963, Richard and Martha traveled to Ripon, California to attend a Swiss Swingfest. While there Richard suffered a stroke and was subsequently hospitalized in Los Angeles. On February 14, 1964, Richard passed away at the age of 70. Richard is greatly missed and he lives on in our hearts, and his legacy will long be remembered in his beautiful works of art.

"Driving Quartet on the American West Coast"
article in "Schlussgang Magazine" of Switzerland
<https://www.schlussgang.ch/>

By Manuel Rösli, Schlussgang.ch



Schwingen is by no means just limited to Switzerland. On the American west coast, there are regular Schwingfest in different locations every year. The greatest successes were in the 1970s.

The counterpart to the ESV in Switzerland is the WCSWA in the United States of America. The WCSWA (West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association) regulates the wrestling operation during the season and is also actively involved in ensuring that Swiss folklore remains in the USA. The WCSWA is made up of numerous associations of Swiss culture, locally known as Swiss Clubs, and extends over the three West Coast states of California, Oregon and Washington.

Volunteer work

One quartet in particular stands out: **President Arnold Ambiel, Vice President Urs Gwerder, Treasurer Don Widmer and Secretary Chris Schallberger-Haslemann.** Without putting himself in the foreground, the Vice President says: "Arnold, Don and Chris are the driving forces. Without them we would have problems with wrestling in our region". Of course, Gwerder, who has also kept the wrestling newspaper Schlussgang up to date with the latest happenings from the American west coast for years, is part of the quartet that invests a lot of voluntary work to preserve US wrestling.

One of the traditional events on the west coast of the United States is held in Ripon and also in Newark, California. President of Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club, Arnold Ambiel, was never a wrestler, but as a second generation Swiss emigrant he has a strong connection to his old homeland. His two children are also firmly integrated in the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club in Newark.

Vice-President Urs Gwerder was born in Switzerland, wrestled in the Muotathal himself and emigrated to America in the 1990s. He is a member of the Sierra Swiss Club and his children are also enthusiastic about wrestling. Last year, his son Dustin even took part in the Swiss Wrestling and Alpine Festival in Zug.

Treasurer Don Widmer is probably best known in wrestling in Switzerland. A member of the San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club in Ripon, CA, he has Swiss roots on both the paternal and maternal side. In 1972 he was the first foreign wrestler to win a wreath at ESAF in La Chaux-de-Fonds. His three sons also took up Schwingen, much to their father's pride.

Secretary Chris Schallberger-Haslemann, as a first generation immigrant, also has Swiss roots. The mother of five came to the Swiss national sport through the children who wrestled themselves. She belongs to the Ripon Swiss Club. Her son Zack took part in the Swiss Wrestling Festival in Estavayer in 2016.

The board is complemented by Tony Odermatt from the San Diego County Swiss Club and George Morris from the Imperial Valley Swiss Club.

Pandemic Prevents Events - Wrestling festivals should also have taken place on the American west coast in 2020. No fewer than ten events were scheduled between April and September, but none of them took place. "It's crazy what's going on at the moment," explains Urs Gwerder. The Vice President of the WCSWA hopes that in 2021 it will be possible to wrestle again. "And of course we look forward to visitors from Switzerland on every occasion, be it spectators or active wrestlers."



Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Social Membership

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 April 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; aelplergruppe@gmail.com 510-936-2523
<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/memberships/>

Welcome New Social Members!

**Elisa Cumpston (Bill Bauhofer's daughter)
and Carlo Scapinelli**



**Our Sennenmutter Rosemary Ramsell
Our past Sennenvater Frank Schmidig
Our new Sennenvater Pete Zuger
Pictured at Swiss National Day a couple of
years ago during the Flag parade.**

**Please watch for the Christmas mailing to come soon!
We will host a Christmas drawing and use the funds to
do more projects around the Hall and Park to get us
ready for 2021 and the return of events!**

Aelpler Gruppe 2020 Calendar of Events

www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

- ~~Nov-4~~ In person meeting cancelled – Annual Member's Meeting
~~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: "Why are mountain top bonfires popular on August 1st and what were they used for in early Switzerland?"

Answer: The tradition of "August bonfires" dates back to ancient times when beacons from mountain tops warned village inhabitants of intruders.

Thank you for Louis Ettlin for his generous donation to Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Swiss Park 2020 Events

5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark 510-793-6272

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

Please check the website for Beergarden hours at:

www.swissparknewark.com

SJVSC, Ripon 2020 Calendar of Events

www.sjvscriponswiss.com

Tony Berchtold, President

- ~~Oct-3~~ Oktoberfest
~~Oct-17~~ Fall Swiss Echoes Dinner & Concert
~~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:

- ~~July-18~~ Cancelled - Sierra Swiss Club – Truckee
~~Aug-8-9~~ Cancelled - Swiss Sportsman Club – Tacoma
~~Aug-29~~ Cancelled - San Joaquin Valley Club – Ripon
~~Sept-5~~ Cancelled - **Championship** - AG Club - Newark

Eidgenoessisches Jubilaeums-Schwingfest 2020 in Appenzell will now be hosted in 2021!

www.appenzell2020.ch

Next Eidgenoessisches Schwingfest: Basel 2020

<https://esaf2020.ch/>

Get Well to Rosemary Ramsell
Get Well to Mrs (Bob) Fuchslin who had hip surgery
Get Well to Walter Haslemann
Get Well to Heidi Ambiel who had hip replacement surgery



Christmas Drawing – we would appreciate drawing items such as gift cards and monetary donations so that the prizes can be easily mailed to the winners.

Obituary - Anna Marie Ross-Horat

July 29, 1928 - February 20, 2020

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Life Member, **Anna Marie Ross-Horat**, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2020.

Anna Marie Ross, born on July 29, 1928 in Hayward, California, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2020 in Lincoln, California. She was born the daughter of a Swiss milkman, and married her best friend, Donald, on July 30, 1946. They were married for over 68 years. Many of their evenings were spent dancing at the Swiss Park and square-dancing all over California. As a dedicated homemaker, she enjoyed cooking, spending quality time with family, and eating toast with lots of jam. She was known for her sweet smile, and her legendary clam dip and potato salad. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Donald, in June 2015. Anna is survived by her two children, Joann (Gary) Hamilton and Don (Leslie) Ross Jr, 4 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 1 brother. She lived a full life of 91 years and was a great role model for making a marriage work. Many of her days the past 14 years were spent hanging out with her beloved wiener dog, Gigi. It is comforting to know that she is out of pain and dancing again with Don Sr. She will be truly missed.



Obituary - Inez Zajicek - May 29, 2020

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Life Member, **Inez Zajicek**, of Ripon, CA, passed away peacefully. She had been living at her son, Ray Hill's home over the past few years.



Passing of individuals in the greater Swiss community:

Peter Widmer, of Clovis, CA, passed away July 21st. He was a Schwinger and member of SJVSC, Ripon.

Wendel Kiser, of Lodi, CA, passed away July 26th.

Willy Heuser, husband of Darlene Heuser-Aikens, son of the late Johanna Studer and brother of Dolores Myers who lives in Portland passed away this year.

William "Bill" Scheuber, Life member of SJVSC, passed away August 12, 2020. His father, Adolf, was a Charter Member of the SJVSC.

Memorial Fund Donations

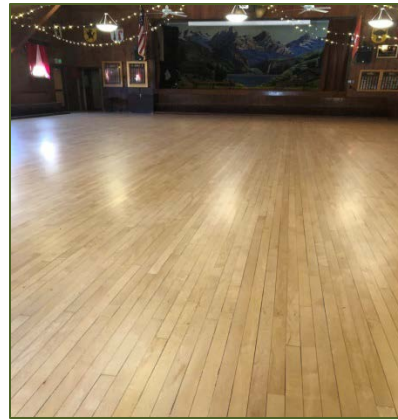
We are grateful for donations to the Memorial Fund to honor members who have passed.



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/>



Swiss Park, Newark and Aelpler Gruppe were busy over the fall having the hall floors refinished! They look wonderful and will delight dancers again in the future.

Our next big project is to refurbish the bar restrooms!

Videos and movie for your viewing pleasure:

Nuns: powerful women of the Middle Ages from Swiss Info. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qS-LY6p3NWM>

Amazon Prime: The Divine Order - Drama set in Switzerland in the early 1970s. Winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2017 Tribeca International Film Festival (Parents - movie is R rated)

For News - Swiss Consulate:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/sanfrancisco>
or Auslandschweizer-Organisation
www.aso.ch



Swiss National Day Video Event held on August 1st.

Swiss National Day Live, a virtual event that was co-hosted by Consul General Benedikt Wechsler and United Swiss Societies of Northern California's President Diane Wagner, can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AT0SmrVCZNc>

Thanks to **Tom Coroneos, Patricia Wipfli-Schaffarczyk, Michelle Ott, Arnold Ambiel, and Bob Fuchslin** for working on these wonderful videos to follow:

Aelpler Gruppe Video:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rM1TpYJqOD9yMOip8WXdIF3fvqOqlw9t/view?usp=sharing>

Swiss Park Video:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D9D8OTrC-o4SA7ImKS7gwVxv6-Okp0fr/view?usp=sharing>

Swiss Club Hiking Video:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NWv9DNM4T9gYC8whKd3xizpi94SammZP/view?usp=sharing>

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JASON TRAVEL Attn: Brigitta Ammann, 269 States Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Phone: 415.553.7711 Email: brigitta@jasontravel.com Website: www.jasontravel.com

1. For questions contact 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: Attn: Brigitta Ammann
Jason Travel: 269 States Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114

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SWISS PARK

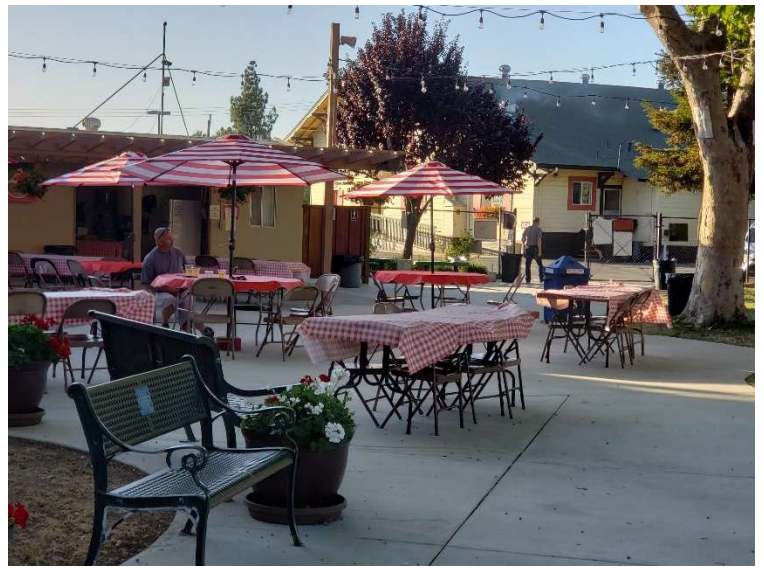
Bar & Grille

NEW HOURS

Now open six days a week from Tuesday thru Sunday. Open at 2 pm Tuesday to Thursday and at 12 Noon Friday to Sunday (Closed Mondays).

Bring your friends & family to enjoy some great food, ice cold drinks, and music in our outdoor patio area and beer garden! We have a full menu and bar. Specializing in BBQ on Saturdays.

See you soon!!



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

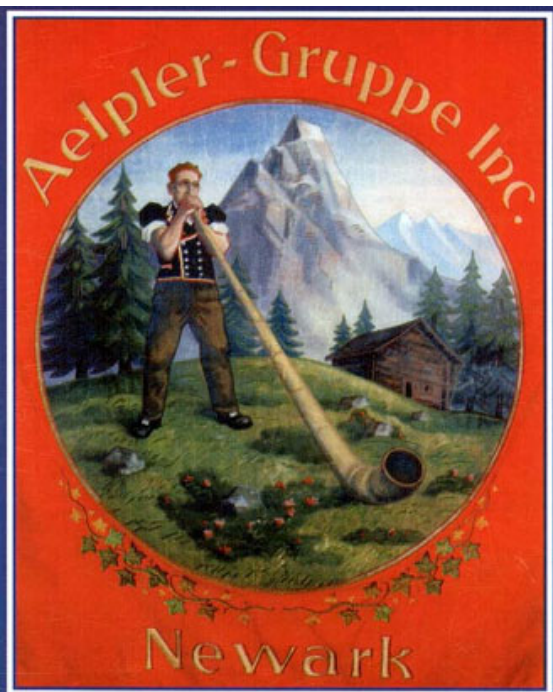
Have you moved?

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	Marilyn Ramsell Manchester
2nd Vice Pres	
Recording Secretary	Julia Dobbel Hester
Corresp. Secretary	Jerilyn Kroske
Treasurer	Margrith Reichmuth
Assistant Treasurer	Michelle Bauhofer-Ott
Past President	Kurt Clausen
Director 1 – Music/Historian	Pat Wipfli-Schaffarczyk
Director 2 – Membership	Karen Dobbel
Director 3 – Newsletter editor	Rose Satariano
Director 4 – Historian	Darrell Ramsell
Director 5 – Wrestling	Dominick Reichmuth
Sennenmutter	Rosemary Ramsell
Sennenvater	Pete Zuger
USS Delegate	Arnold Ambiel



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>

Member booklet

A dedicated group of Board Members and volunteers are working diligently to complete the Member's booklet. This project is led by Patricia Wipfli-Schaffarczyk who has put countless hours into collecting information to make a wonderful souvenir of our Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club membership.