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AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

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<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/>

Volume XXXIV Issue 2, April-June 2025

Jass Party / Fondue

Aelpler Gruppe members and friends enjoyed a nice afternoon and evening playing Jass cards and a savory cheese fondue dinner at Swiss Park. The Jass party started early afternoon with almost 30 players competing and working towards becoming either the Jass König or the Jass Königin.



The competitors played skillfully and worked towards receiving the most points. We congratulate our Jass König Carl Aufdermaur and our Jass Königin Charlene Ott. Thank you to our Jass tournament organizers! It was also nice to see new to Jass players coming to learn this traditional Swiss card game.

After the Jass card tournament wrapped up we were all treated to a delicious Fondue dinner by the Arnold & Suzanne Ambiel fondue crew! They are a great team who worked hard to bring us so many servings of hot, savory cheese fondue.



Lynnette McDonald, Ann & Richard Crevelt, Lori & Dave Konecny, Suzanne Ambiel

Semi-Annual Members Meeting

May 1st @ 2:00pm on Zoom

This is a ZOOM online meeting only, we won't meet in person! Zoom link will be sent out via email.

Family Hike (6 miles)

June 22nd - 8:30AM Lands End Parking lot



**USS Swiss Kids Camp
June 8th**

Save The Dates!

May 1st
June 22nd
August 2nd
September 12-14

September 13
October 26th
November 2nd
November 8th
December 6th

Zoom Members Meeting
Family Hike to Lands End
USS Swiss National Day
100th Anniversary Celebration weekend
Fall Schwingfest
Fall Jass Tournament
Annual Member's Meeting
Metzgete Dinner
Member's Christmas Lunch



Jass Practice

2nd Sunday of each month
from 2-4 p.m. at Swiss Park Hall



Interested in becoming an Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club member? Visit our online application site for more information!

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

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

Family Hiking Group - Alum Rock Park



What a great hike at Alum Rock Park, one of the oldest municipal parks in California. Seven hikers from Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club participated; Michelle and Ed Ott, Bennie Tschirky, Hugo Reichmuth, Bill Bauhofer, Tom Coroneos and Patricia Schaffarczyk. Such a lush, green park that has Penitencia Creek running through it. The hike went up a ridge which treated the hikers to an awesome view of San Jose. After the 4.4 mile hike everyone enjoyed a picnic in the park.

Link to video (by Tom Coroneos):
<https://youtu.be/VuCTbi8BT0c>

Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco

As you may know, the Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco (SBSSF) offers scholarships to worthy Swiss-American students throughout Northern California. SBSSF scholarships can be used at accredited colleges and universities in the USA, for undergraduate or graduate studies. Last year they made 19 awards totaling \$80,000!!

"We have exciting news, we are now accepting applications from students attending vocational schools and community colleges!"

Application and guidelines are available at:
<http://www.sbssf.com/scholarships/index.php>
applications due April 30, 2025



Jass party/ Fondue Continued



Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Jass and Fondue dinner a success; Rick, Patricia, Tom, Michelle, Charlene, Margrith, Arnold, Suzanne, Ed, Linda, Kurt and to John B. and Dave K. for

bringing pot after pot of hot fondue to each table! And many more who came to set-up and worked to clean-up at the end of our wonderful evening.

Aelpler Gruppe would like to thank Caroline Hostettler for donating the appetizers that were plated and brought to each table. They were delicious! She started a program in 2013 called Adopt-an-Alp where she introduces U.S. chefs and sellers to the high quality of Swiss cheese and the stories behind the cheese makers in Switzerland. You can read her blog here:

<https://www.cheeseprofessor.com/blog/adopt-an-alp>

See the event video produced by Tom Coroneos at:

<https://youtu.be/VT64ZfVHI8Y>



Are you ready for Swiss National Day?

The United Swiss Societies is hosting an online auction for the 1st of August celebration. We are collecting auction items. Please contact us with your donations!



Please also consider donating gently used Swiss items for our heritage booth for the Swiss National Day celebration.



Graduation Announcements!

Is your child/ grandchild graduating this year? If so, send in their graduation information and a photo so they can be congratulated in the next newsletter for their achievements! Please add any other info like their grade, school name, degree, or future plans.





President's Message By Arnold Ambiel

Dear Aelplers,

April's Folklore and Spring Dance celebrated Bob and Linda Fuchslin's

years of service at Swiss Park. We can't say enough about the team they created and the work they have done. Over 130 people came and 12 guests over 90 years old were honored with gift baskets. Thank you to the Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco for being an excellent partner.

Diane Wagner, a Aelpler Gruppe Life Member who just completed 10 years as the United Swiss Societies of Northern California President. The USSNC grew and put on great events during her years. Thank You for all you did to support the Swiss Community.

Join Swiss Park Bar and Grille on May 4th for their 90th Birthday Celebration of Swiss Park. Everyone is invited. There are t-shirts for sale and Swiss Park beer coasters. Thanks for all the stories and photos you submitted for the 100th Anniversary book. We can't wait to read them when the book is printed for the Fall Championship Schwingfest.

How else can you contribute for our 100th Anniversary? We're requesting ads for the Schwingfest Program book and looking for Schwingfest donations. Rick Steiner, the 100th Anniversary Fest President is recruiting volunteers. Please contact him if you can help.

The hall looks great and the park is being readied for event season. The sprinklers and beer house point of sale system has been upgraded. The sound system in the hall is being repaired and sounded much better at Folklore.

This year's trivia questions focus on California Swiss: Where did the Aelpler Gruppe start and how many different towns did they hold meetings in until our hall was built? Call/text me the answer at 510-936-2523. Three correct answers were submitted last time and Mary Burla Wilson won the drawing. See that question and answer right below.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold

Answer to Trivia Question from the last newsletter.

Question: Which opened first: The Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay Bridge or the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Hall?

Answer: Our Swiss Hall in 1935. The Bay Bridge opened in 1936 and the Golden Gate opened a year later in 1937.

Folklore Luncheon 2025 Honoring Bob & Linda Fuchslin

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club and the Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco hosted Swiss Folklore luncheon and dance to honor Bob and Linda Fuchslin on Sunday, April 13th. Bob is the long time Swiss Park Manager and has worked many years keeping the Hall and outdoor picnic area in good condition while also renting the facilities to the Swiss community along with locals who enjoy the Hall and grounds for many events. The afternoon started with wonderful accordion music and singing by Arthur Brogli. He entertained all of us with songs of Switzerland. Lunch was prepared by Chef Charlie Schonenberger and Sous-Chef Suzanne Ambiel of Bratwurst, wonderful gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables or an option of roasted vegetables over Polenta. Swiss Benevolent treated everyone 70+ to a free lunch, thank you!

After lunch Bob and Linda were honored on stage and many stood up to speak about the accomplishments of Bob as well as giving us fun stories on how they met. The Swiss Benevolent Society gave lovely gift baskets to those over 90 years of age and delighted winners of door prizes. The door prizes were generously donated by Ghirardelli, the Consulate of Switzerland, Cuvaion Winery, and Dan Eggen. Thank you!

We enjoyed a delicious carrot cake and white frosted cake for dessert while the Gander-Scheiber Kapella played traditional Swiss music to the enjoyment of dancers and listeners alike.

Video of the Folklore event produced by Tom Coroneos:
<https://youtu.be/lwJaQ2xb1SQ>



Family History - Bob & Linda Fuchslin

Robert Fuchslin is a long time Aelpler Gruppe life member who has been relentlessly dedicated to the success of the Aelpler Gruppe and Newark Swiss Park Bar and Grill and the "Swiss Way" for countless years. Robert's father Martin Fuchslin was born January 21, 1896, to Benedikt and Marie Katharina Fuchslin whom lived in Einsiedeln, Switzerland in Canton Schwyz. Robert's mother Anne Kreienbuhl was born October 12, 1899, to Leonhard and Emilie Kreienbuhl and lived in Waag (Unteriberg), Switzerland in Canton Schwyz.

Martin worked as a butcher and Anne as a waitress in Switzerland.

Looking for more opportunity, Martin, age 24, and Anne, age 21, made the decision to immigrate to the United States. They boarded the Lapland ship with \$50.00 in their pocket and arrived at Ellis Island in 1920. Martin and Anne immediately traveled to San Francisco, California where they married on January 8, 1921. Over the next several years, Martin and Anne opened 4 bars in San Francisco: The Bryant Hotel, Montana Club, The Helvetia and the Swiss Club. During Prohibition, Martin would travel to Sonoma, California to get his "supplies" from fellow Swiss! Interesting fact: Martin Fuchslin gave a job to Cari Schuler as a bartender when Cari arrived from Switzerland. Cari later became a manager of the Newark Swiss Park!

Martin and Anne had three children: Anne, Joey and Robert. Unfortunately, Joey passed at the early age of 10 years old. Robert was born on February 17, 1938, and grew up in San Francisco attending St. Ignatius High School and graduating from Santa Clara University in 1960. Martin and Anne ultimately moved the family to Fremont, California where Robert spent many days and nights at the Newark Swiss Park with his immediate and extended family including Joe Fuchslin who managed the Swiss Park Bar for many of these years with his partner Carl Riechmuth. It was during this time that Robert's love and commitment to the Swiss Park Bar was developed.

Robert joined the Military Reserve in 1962 during the Berlin Crisis stationed at Fort Bragg. After two years and an honorable discharge, Robert worked at several well-known companies such as Crocker Bank, Chevron, Diamond International and Moore Business Forms in addition to owning his own printing and appraisal businesses.

Robert met his wife Linda Truttman in San Francisco where they both lived in the same apartment complex as neighbors.

Linda Truttman's family had migrated from Steinerberg, Switzerland in Canton Schwyz and her parents, Louis and Frances Truttman had settled in Yreka, California running a dairy and then a cattle ranch. Robert and Linda married April 4, 1964, and resided in Sacramento, California and shortly thereafter moved to Fremont, California.

Robert and Linda raised three children in Fremont, California: Suzanne, Lisa and Danny. And as you would expect, all three children grew up at the Newark Swiss Park attending Swiss events and dances and joining the Aelpler Gruppe. Robert and Linda ensured that their children knew their Swiss roots, culture and traditions. Robert has stayed close to his relatives in Switzerland, taking the family to visit often and ensuring generational bonds that exist even today.

Robert's passion for his Swiss heritage, his memories of the Newark Swiss Park growing up and raising his children led him to taking on the role as the Newark Swiss Park manager. Robert has held this role for 15 years and his goal has always been to carry on the Aelpler Gruppe and Newark Swiss Park traditions.

As most know, keeping the Newark Swiss Park Bar and Grille a viable entity is not always an easy task. Robert took on the challenge bringing new ideas to the table and with the support of the Swiss Park Board, has significantly increased the popularity of the Swiss Park with both the Swiss and non-Swiss. Some of the new ideas Robert brought to ensure Swiss Park viability are: large outdoor multi-cultural events/concerts, comedy nights, drive-in movies, class reunions, local club events, indoor concerts and dances, Google parking lot rental, etc. etc.

Robert dedicated himself to making new contacts, meeting event planners all over the Bay Area to bring these revenue generating opportunities to the Newark Swiss Park. The investments back into the Swiss Park given the success have been invaluable. In parallel, Robert ensured that the Aelpler Gruppe and other local Swiss groups needs were met and prioritized.

While Robert has been employed by the Newark Swiss Park as the manager for many years, all know that Robert goes above and beyond this role and has volunteered an enormous amount of his time each day to keeping the Swiss Park functioning.

Seeing Robert's passion for the Aelpler Gruppe and the Newark Swiss Park and following his lead, all three of Robert's children and his wife have volunteered with Linda sewing curtains, Suzanne working events, sitting on the Aelpler Gruppe Board, accompanying Robert on new revenue reviews, Lisa developing marketing material, working events and Danny working events and assisting Robert and family to build the Schwingen Hütte.

Robert and Linda have three grandchildren, Doug, Catherine and Alexandra. You guessed it: all grew up attending and volunteering at Aelpler Gruppe and Newark Swiss Park events. The traditions of the Aelpler Gruppe and Newark Swiss Park live on not only for the Fuchslin's, but for all local Swiss thanks to Robert's relentless dedication.



One night Robert locked himself out of his apartment during a party. Robert knocked on Linda's door holding a martini pitcher and asked if he could crawl over her balcony to his apartment. The rest is history! It was not easy to find a nice Swiss girl in San Francisco in those days and he had one living right next door. Interestingly, as Robert would later find out, Robert's father Martin knew Linda's Uncle Frank Truttman and would go hunting together many times well before Robert and Linda met.



Spring is here!

Do you know the Swiss names of these Spring flowers blooming all over Switzerland?



Krokus - Crocus
Schneeglöckchen - Snowdrop
Osterglocke - Daffodil
Maiglöckchen - Lily of the Valley



Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased:
Please e-mail our club at aelpplergruppe@gmail.com or call 510-936-2523

Memorial Fund donations can be sent in through the Aelppler Gruppe website:
<https://www.aelpplergruppe.com/donations/>

In memory of **Lois Ulrich**
The Willow Ladies
Frank Schmidig
Antoinette Betschart
Kurt & Linda Clausen
Karen & Conrad Grass
Charlene Ott
Heidi Ambiel
Carl & Cookie Aufdermaur
Theresa & Joe Beeler
Jerilyn Kroske
Kathy & Karli Omlin
Gene & Jon Ramsell
Agnes Reed
Margrith & Dave Reichmuth
John & Marie Schallberger
Cindy & Herbie Gander
Mary Ann Russo
Pete & Jackie Zuger
Sandra & Lloyd Scates
Diane Wagner
Vincent Kaelin & Family
Marilyn Manchester
Geraldine (Gerri) Betschart
Ronnie & Vreni Scheiber
Suzanne & Arnold Ambiel

In memory of **Karen Dobbelt**
Charlene Ott
Kurt & Linda Clausen
Heidi Ambiel
Jerilyn Kroske
Agnes Reed
Margrith & Dave Reichmuth
Bill & Marilyn Bauhofer
Suzanne & Arnold Ambiel

In memory of **Joe Sutter**
Agnes Reed

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



Edward L. Ott
President
ed@colonylandscape.com



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"Come, Join Our Voices!" **The Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bellringers**

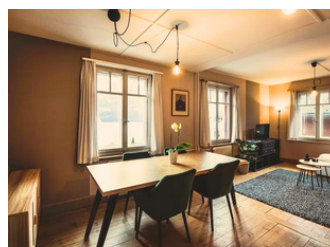
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www.GGBC.org Phone: 510-887-4311

Steven J. Meyer, Artistic Director



www.chasaberggold.com

Situated just above the lakeside promenade in Brienz, our heritage holiday house has amazing views of the Brienzersee and the alps and is less than a minute walk from the lake. The famous Rothorn Bahn is steps from the house and Ballenberg and Interlaken are nearby too. Entire house sleeps 6 people. Chasa Berggold is the perfect jumping off point to explore the entire Berner Oberland

Support for Fred Denier



Farming God's country was in Fred Denier's blood since he was a young man, but God had a change of plans for Fred on June 2, 2023. He was suddenly struck down by a massive heart attack while in his home. After quite some time of CPR, Fred finally had a heartbeat. The extended period resulted in a traumatic brain injury (TBI), that left him completely incapacitated and in a coma. Since that day, he has resided in ICU, Subacute and intermediate rehabilitation facilities, more recently resides in a long-term skilled nursing facility for ongoing care. During this time his ventilator was removed, and a tracheotomy was installed to aid him with breathing on his own.

As of March 2025, it has been 21 months since Fred's heart attack and TBI. He is still fully incapacitated and minimally conscience, unable to speak or respond to requests and still has a tracheotomy and a feeding tube. He slowly continued to make some progress, but his improvement stalled. He receives weekly stretching treatments to reduce contractures in his extremities and a holistic concentrated vitamin program to improve and stabilize his overall health. The next step is to administer alternative stem cell therapy as a regenerative treatment program in hopes of repairing damage to his body and brain. The alternative vitamin and stem cell therapy is very expensive and not covered by insurance.

Fred Denier is 65 years old and prior to the heart attack, was a hard-working dairyman in business over 40 years. Fred loved his work; however, cows produce milk 7 days a week and hence a dairy man's job is never done. He loved to be with his herd, so he rarely took time off for relaxation. His job brought him great pride and satisfaction.



Fred was the sole source of income for his family of four. This trauma has left his wife Cathy and two sons with a very unknown future, both financially and medically. They are faced with a large amount of medical expenses and an unknown future income. Not only is Fred not able to attend to his beloved herd of cows, but the dairy industry has fallen into hard times during the last few years.

Fred is not only a loving husband, father, son and brother; but a great friend to all who know him in the local community. He was involved in many agricultural and dairy associations, providing leadership on advisory boards. Fred generously volunteered 15 years to the Boy Scouts of America, as a cubmaster and scoutmaster along with his wife and two sons.

Our hope is that the Denier's family, friends, community and even strangers will help to ease the heavy financial burden of current and future medical expenses. Your donations can make a significant difference in ensuring that Fred receives the care he needs, as he continues to fight to hopefully reclaim his life.

May God bless you for finding it in your heart to also give his family some financial support. His family appreciates all the love and support from everyone. Please share this fundraiser with your network of friends, family and coworkers. Thank you in advance!

<https://gofund.me/1b18e235>

Please join The Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco and make a donation.



Welcome

Say hello to our new social members joining us this year! Please welcome them to the club:

Cathy Betschart-Quinn *** Marie Schallberger
Charlotte Ott-Cunningham *** Martina Muller
Sabine Kamm *** Cindy Gander

Aelpier Gruppe 2025 Calendar of Events

www.facebook.com/aelpiergruppesswissclub

2025 Events:

May 1st Semi-Annual Member's Meeting
June 8th USS Swiss Kids Camp
June 22nd Family Hike to Lands End
August 2nd USS Swiss National Day
September 12-14 100th Anniversary Weekend
September 13th Fall Schwingfest
October 11th Family Hike China Camp State Park
October 26th Fall Jass Tournament
November 2nd Annual Member's Meeting
November 8th Metzgete Dinner
December 6th Member's Christmas Lunch



United Swiss Societies

Erich Sonnberger, President 650-505-9802
www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Peninsula Swiss Club

Contact: Erich Sonnberger 650-505-9802
esonberger@interorealestate.com
www.peninsulaswissclub.com

Swiss Consulate General, Balz Abplanalp
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/countries/usa/en/home/living-in/clubs.html>

Swiss Rifle Club Events

Contact: Stephen Hurst at (831) 927-9296
E-Mail: carmelgunclub@outlook.com
More information at: www.carmelgunclub.com

Swiss Park 2025 Events

5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark 510-793-6272
www.swissparknewark.com

Monday Nights - Lov Bingo



SJVSC, Ripon 2025 Calendar of Events

www.sjvsciponswiss.com Chris Portmann, President

June 7th Spring Schwingfest
June 28th Swiss Kids Camp
July 26th Swiss National Day Celebration
October 4th Oktoberfest
September 6th Fall Schwingfest
November 15th Swiss Echoes Concert/ Dinner
December 7th Children's Christmas Party

Sierra Swiss Club Calendar

Contact: Urs Gwerder 530-587-8316
Sierraswissclub.org

Pro Ticino

<http://www.proticino.ch/>

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association Board

Board President – Arnold Ambiel
Vice President – Urs Gwerder
Treasurer – Don Widmer
Secretary – Chris Schallberger

West Coast Schwingfests are online at
<http://schlussgang.ch/>

May 17	Schwingfest	Tillamook Swiss Club, Tillamook, OR
June 7	Spring Schwingfest	SJVSC, Ripon
June 21	Schwingfest	San Diego County Swiss Club, Chula Vista
June 28	Spring Schwingfest	Tacoma Swiss Club, Bonney Lake, WA
July 4-6	Schwingfest Weekend	Lewis Pacific Swiss Club, Frances, WA
July 19	Schwingfest	Sierra Swiss Club, Truckee
August 2	Schwingfest	Portland Swiss Club, Portland, OR
August 9	Schwingfest Weekend	Tacoma Swiss Club, Bonney Lake, WA
Sept. 6	Fall Schwingfest	SJVSC, Ripon
Sept. 13	Fall Schwingfest/ WCSWA Championship	Aelpier Gruppe Swiss Club, Newark

For other updates go to:

<https://esv.ch/> <https://schlussgang.ch/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/luttesuisse/>

Steinstossen:

www.steinstossen.ch

For Swiss events in the USA and Swiss news, check out:

<https://swissimpactusa.com/>

Obituaries



Lois Madeline Ulrich

November 7, 1938 - February 13, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our lifetime member Lois Madeline Ulrich who passed away on February 13, 2025 after the onset of a sudden illness at the age of 86.

Lois was born to the late Albin & Elsa Fassler while they were living in Nicolaus, California. At age 4, the family moved to Sloughhouse, California where she grew up helping her family run their 400-acre ranch, raising beef cattle and growing alfalfa hay. In Sloughhouse she began her education at Rhoads School, a one-room schoolhouse which now resides in Elk Grove Park as a living history museum. While attending Elk Grove High School, she began playing Swiss music with her older brother Leo Fassler and Ronnie Scheiber. She said that playing Swiss music opened up new opportunities, for which she was truly grateful. After graduating high school, Lois worked for the State Division of Highways in Sacramento. She saved enough money to buy her own piano and pay for a 10-week trip to Europe with her friend Toni/Antoinette Betschart. The trip was one of her fondest memories and reached a high point in Switzerland when one of her favorite ensembles, Kapelle Heirassa, invited her up on stage to play piano with them. On her 25th birthday, Lois moved from Sloughhouse to San Jose when she was hired to work at IBM as a secretary. It was during this time that she joined Shorty Imhof's Orchestra where she played piano next to an accordion player named Walter Ulrich. They began getting acquainted and started dating. Lois married Walter Ulrich in 1967, and they settled into their Fremont home which was originally part of the Wipfli family dairy. Lois and Walt began their family in 1969 when they welcomed Monica, followed a year later by Sonia.

Lois was a loving wife and mother who always said she cooked "with butter and love." Her family was her greatest treasure. Her hobbies included gardening, home decorating, and reading, but she also enjoyed her annual "Motorhome" trips with her dear friends as well as hosting visitors from around the world. She and Walt would organize dinners in their home for a house full of party guests after Newark Schwingfests ended and before the evening dances began. Oftentimes many friends returned to the house for breakfast in the early hours of the morning once the dance had finished and the bar closed.

Lois went back to work as a secretary at Ohlone College's Department of Fine and Performing Arts in the late 1980's. The department embodied everything she enjoyed... art, music and theater. She continued at Ohlone until the year 2000 when her first grandchild was born. Lois happily made herself available to babysit her beloved grandchildren, although she and Walt also greatly enjoyed traveling when the opportunity arose. She was always involved in events hosted by the Aelpler Gruppe and San Joaquin Valley Swiss clubs and was fond of visiting other Swiss clubs up and down the west coast as well as those in Wisconsin, New Zealand and South Africa while on trips with the Jolly Swiss. Her Swiss heritage meant so much to her, and she was delighted that her family, especially her grandchildren, appreciated their cultural connection too.

Lois will be greatly missed. She had an infectious laugh, was a gracious hostess and made the perfect audience. She was always up for a game, good time, or adventure. Lois was preceded in death by her husband Walter Ulrich (2019). She is survived by her brother, Leo Fassler, daughter Monica (Bret Watson), daughter Sonia (Monica Kenyon), grandchildren Camille, Lydia, and Grant Watson and Kenyon Ertefai as well as many nieces and nephews.



Karen Dobbel

November 7, 1938 - February 13, 2025

Karen Marie Dobbel passed away on March 7th at home surrounded by her family. She was born in Hayward to Waldo (Lucky) and Ethel Lutschan.

Her mother Ethel grew up on her parents' dairy, Camenzind Dairy, in Hayward. The Camenzind family hails from Gersau, Switzerland.

Karen grew up in Castro Valley and lived there her entire life. At the age of 8 she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. She never let the illness control her. She graduated Castro Valley High School in 1968 and in April of 1971 married Robert Dobbel (deceased 10/28/2023) whom she met in high school. They celebrated their wedding at Swiss Park, Newark. They had two beautiful daughters; Michelle (who sadly passed away in her childhood) and Julia.

Karen worked as a Dental Assistant. She was Julia's Camp Fire group leader from elementary through middle school. They did many activities such as day camps, field trips, community service projects and everything in between. Karen enjoyed bowling with the Wednesday Wonders at Castro Village Bowl. She began working part time at B Street Produce in Hayward. She worked on holidays and busy weekends and sold Christmas trees for 30+ seasons.

Karen and Bob enjoyed traveling all over the world; Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Panama Canal, Belize, Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, Columbia, Hawaii, Cruises to Alaska, trips to New England to see fall colors, and a NASCAR race in Martinsville.

Karen enjoyed spending time at Swiss Park in Newark. She traveled to Switzerland in 1967 with her family and the Jolly Swiss Group. She served on the Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors for 10 years and was much appreciated for her calm demeanor and sense of humor. She attended and helped at most Aelpler Gruppe events and was often seen playing with her beloved granddaughter Josie.

She leaves behind her daughter Julia (John) Hester, her granddaughter Josie, sisters Kathy (Frank) Zanger, Linda Lutschan, sisters-in-law Carol Goularte, Joanie Calhoun, and Sue Sabala, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends. Karen always believed that true friends are there, even if they don't talk daily. Karen will be greatly missed.



Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club, Inc.

Celebrating 100 years as a Swiss Club

Fall Championship Schwingfest

Join Us for this Celebratory Weekend

Save the dates - September 12 - 14, 2025

Friday: Tri Tip Welcome-Dinner with Country Western Music
and Line Dance Instruction

Saturday: Swiss Wrestling, Swiss Music, Cultural Exhibits,
Steinstossen (Rock Throwing), Swiss Food Lunch

Sunday: Lunch and Concert featuring the Walter Grimm
Kapelle direct from Switzerland

Accommodations next door to Swiss Park: please reserve early by
calling **Wyndham Garden Inn** direct at (510) 795-7995 and asking
for the Swiss Park discount of \$99 (plus tax) per night using code
"Anniversary"

Check out the website www.aelplergruppe.com and Facebook page

For more information please call (510) 936-2523 or

email aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Newark Swiss Park

5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark, CA 94560

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

Third 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	Marilyn Ramsell Manchester
Treasurer	Carl Ramsell
Secretary	Susanne Cameron
Assistant Secretary	Herman Betchart

Swiss Park Manager Robert Fuchslin

Newsletter Editor Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Videographer Tom Coroneos

Memorial Fund Chairperson Jackie Zuger

Have you moved?

Please forward your new address to us at
aelplergruppe@gmail.com
Thank you.

Officers

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors for 2025

President	Arnold Ambiel 510-936-2523
1st Vice Pres	Michelle Bauhofer-Ott
2nd Vice Pres	Hugo Reichmuth
Recording Secretary	Monica Ulrich
Corresp. Secretary	Kathi Mathys-Imholz
Treasurer	Margrith Reichmuth
Assistant Treasurer	Charlene Ott
Past President	Kurt Clausen
Director 1 - Music/Historian	Pat Wipfli-Schaffarczyk
Director 2 - Membership	Rick Steiner
Director 3 - Newsletter Editor	Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
Director 4 - Historian	Darrell Ramsell
Director 5 - Wrestling	Dominick Reichmuth
Sennenmutter	Heidi Ambiel
Sennenvater	Pete Zuger
USS Delegate	Arnold Ambiel



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Record-breaking winter for Swiss tourism driven by foreign visitors - Swiss tourism has enjoyed a successful winter season, thanks to excellent snow conditions and an influx of foreign visitors. This is according to a survey by Switzerland Tourism, reflecting on the 2024/25 winter period.

Feedback from tourism marketers, holiday resorts, regional authorities, mountain railways and the hotel industry suggests that this winter has outdone last season's record. Switzerland Tourism announced on Tuesday that this is largely thanks to foreign visitors.

Fewer guests from Switzerland

Accommodation providers are anticipating a 2% increase in overnight stays this season, according to the survey. Day trips are also expected to rise by 3% compared to last winter.

Just like in the summer, the surge in visitors from the United States is notable. "The US market is also increasingly strong in winter," says Martin Vincenz, CEO of Graubünden Ferien, speaking for the entire industry. However, many places also saw a significant number of guests from Europe.

The domestic market, however, wasn't a significant factor this winter season. Many areas saw a noticeable drop in Swiss visitors compared to last year.

Many Swiss ski resorts still open until Easter. The weather played a key role this season. "Grey at the bottom – blue at the top" was a common theme in weather reports for many days and weeks. Early and abundant snowfall also ensured a strong start to the season and excellent conditions, according to Switzerland Tourism.

While spring has arrived in the valleys, winter is still going strong in the mountains. According to the survey, 58% of mountain railways are keeping their winter sports operations running through Easter, with 12% extending even further. Only 30% have ended their winter season. (swissinfo.ch)