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AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

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Volume XXXVII Issue 2, April-June 2026

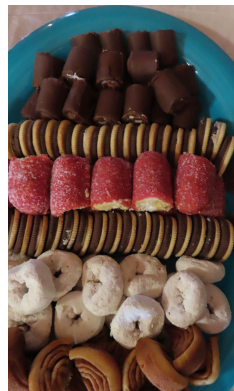
Jass Party / Fondue

Members and friends of the Aelpler Gruppe came together at Swiss Park for a fun afternoon and evening of Jass and good food.

The Jass tournament began in the early afternoon, with many excited players taking part.

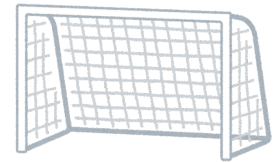


Everyone played with great focus as they worked toward the titles of Jass König and Jass Königin. Congratulations to our Jass König, Joe Beeler, and our Jass Königin, Karen Aufdermaur! A big thank you also goes to the organizers for putting together a smooth and enjoyable tournament. It was especially nice to see new players join in and learn this traditional Swiss card game. After the tournament, everyone enjoyed a delicious cheese fondue dinner prepared by the Aelpler Gruppe Fondue Crew. Thanks to their hard work, there was plenty of hot, savory fondue for all, making it a perfect end to a great day.



Welcome Swiss Fans

World Cup - Soccer Social
Watch a Game, Learn Line Dancing
and Grab Dinner & Drinks
June 12 - 5 to 10 PM @Swiss Park



USS Swiss Kids Camp
June 14



Family Hike

June 28th - Mill Valley, 8:30 AM
Tennessee Valley Parking Lot
Please RSVP Michelle Ott 408-687-7708



Save The Dates!

August 1st	USS Swiss National Day
August 29th	Fall Schwingfest
August 30th	Family Hike East Bay
October 25th	Fall Jass Tournament
November 1st	Annual Member's Meeting
November 7th	Metzgete Dinner
December 5th	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

Jass party/ Fondue Continued



Thank you to our super busy and fantastic fondue crew Lynnette, Lori, Dave, Suzanne, Ann, Richard, John and Susan. We are also very grateful for all the help we got to set-up and clean-up.



See the event video produced by Tom Coroneos at:
<https://youtu.be/1xSPdvGg7Fc>

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.

Family Hiking Group - Dry Creek



The High Ridge loop trail at Dry Creek Pioneer was perfect for a spring hike on March 21.

The shaded canyons and open grassy hills dotted with wild flowers were welcoming as the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hiking group enjoyed the scenic views of the San Francisco bay below. Afterwards we shared a picnic under the shade trees.

The happy hikers crew included Michelle Ott, Jenna and her grandmother Alice Domine, Patricia Schaffarczyk, Tom Coroneos, Benny Tschirky, Rose and Lauren Satariano.



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,

This year we're focused on our own events, the Swiss World Cup Games on the West Coast, and recruiting a replacement for retiring our Swiss Park Manager.

We expect a lot of Swiss Fans for the June World Cup game and will host a welcome party. Let us know if you want to help. One of the WC tour groups coming to the US is being organized by Andre Seiler, the son of honorary member Peter Seiler who brought many Schwinger groups to Newark.

The Jass and Fondue Party in February was a lot of fun. Thanks to our great Fondue Crew for all your work. We couldn't do it without you. Check out their recipe on our website.

Our Folklore/Spring Dance Luncheon co-sponsored with the Swiss Benevolent Society was also very well attended. A personal thank you to Ruedi Sandmeier, the retiring president of the SBS. You've been a great partner and Northern California is a better place because of your efforts.

Good luck to Ronnie Scheiber, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. The Gander Scheiber Kapella sounded great at the Folklore event.

Swiss Park looks great heading into their rental season. We are actively recruiting for Bob Fuchslin's replacement so if you have any referrals, please let Tom Imholz know.

We're also looking for donations for our Fall Schwingfest. With the passing of a very supportive member, there are big shoes to fill for Schwinger prizes. And Swiss Kids Camp is just around the corner.

This issue's trivia question is: Who made it further in previous Men's Soccer World Cups; the Swiss or the Americans? Call/text the answer to 510-936-2523. Linda Glatt-Bieri got the first correct answer last time. See that question and answer inside this issue.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold



WANTED: Swiss Park Manager

Our long time and top-notch Swiss Park Manager, Bob Fuchslin, has decided it's time to retire and step back from his daily involvement of managing the bar, hall, and park at the end of this year.

The Swiss Park Board of Directors are reaching out to anyone that would be interested in taking on the role of Swiss Park Manager. This includes all aspects of the Swiss Park Business: Bar, Kitchen, Events and Property Management.

If interested, please contact Tom Imholz:

510-517-8312 / TJIMHOLZ@comcast.net or any member of the Swiss Park or Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors.



Folklore Luncheon / Spring Dance

The Älpler Gruppe Swiss Club and the Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco hosted a Swiss Folklore Luncheon and Dance on Sunday, April 26, to honor Agnes Reed. Many guests attended and enjoyed an afternoon of music, food, and time together.

Lunch was prepared by Chef Charlie Schonenberger and Sous-Chef Suzanne Ambiel. A shoutout to Michelle, Margrith, Charlene, our food servers and all the volunteers for their wonderful support. The meal included bratwurst with gravy, mashed potatoes, and roasted vegetables. There was also a vegetarian option of roasted vegetables served over polenta. The food was scrumptious. The Swiss Benevolent Society provided a free lunch for everyone aged 70 and over, which was greatly appreciated.



Folklore Luncheon / Spring Dance Continued

After lunch, the program continued with a tribute to Agnes Reed. Patricia Schaffarczyk, Emma Hartman and Arnold Ambiel spoke about her life and her many contributions to the community. They also shared a few personal and lighthearted stories, which guests enjoyed. It was clear that Agnes has had a strong and positive impact over the years. She was surrounded by her family and many friends during this special moment.

The Swiss Benevolent Society also recognized senior guests by giving gift baskets to those over 90 years of age. Congratulations to Arthur Brogli, Berenice Sethy, Doris Ulrich, Frank Senn, Heidi Ambiel, Hermann Attinger, Joe Perazzetti, John Zeiter, Karl Rohde, Mary Montonye, Melanie Facen, Rosaly King and Walter Senn. In addition, door prizes were handed out to several lucky winners. These prizes were generously donated by Ghirardelli, the Consulate of Switzerland, and Cuvaision Winery. The support from these donors helped make the event more enjoyable for everyone.

For dessert, guests were served burnt almond cake, which is Agnes' favorite, as well as frosted chocolate cake. Many guests stayed to enjoy dessert while continuing conversations with friends.

The Gander-Scheiber Kapelle entertained with traditional Swiss music. Some guests chose to dance, while others listened and enjoyed the music from their seats.

What a lovely afternoon for the Aelpler Gruppe community to come together, celebrate Agnes Reed, and enjoy Swiss traditions.

See the event video produced by Tom Coroneos at:
<https://youtu.be/o-EXLHSHKLM>

Family History - Agnes Reed

Agnes was born in 1938 in San Jose to Bonifaz and Emma Schmidig both of Muotathal, Switzerland. Her father had owned and worked on many Bay Area dairies by then; Sunnyvale, Colma and San Jose. Her mother's family was delivering milk in San Francisco before the 1906 earthquake.

From an early age Agnes assumed the responsibilities of her mother who passed away when she was 15. From cooking for the milkers to raising her sibling, Joe Schmidig she was always busy. Hard work was not a new concept to a Moutathaler.

With her husband Ed Del Fiorentino she had three children Emma, Robert and Frank. After a divorce she is a self-made woman as a single mother, breaking many barriers along the way with home ownership and business. She later married an old friend, Bob Reed and moved to Oregon until an untimely car crash.

Back in San Jose she managed the Savers Store in San Jose for several years. She traveled to Switzerland many times and has been very generous with her family and the Swiss Community.

Agnes served on the Aelpler Gruppe Board for 22 years beginning in 1997 as a Director and Assistant Treasurer. During that time she created our Heritage Booth which has been an amazing fundraiser ever since. And she was our Volunteer Coordinator Extraordinaire....no one could say no to her. She gets the most credit though for getting Bob Fuchslin, our Swiss Park Manager, to become a member of our club.



Welcome

Say hello to our new social members joining us this year!

Please welcome them to the club:

*** Brett Jorgensen *** Martha Drendell ***

Felipe Moreno



(ChatGPT)



Edith's Alpenrösli - Giswil, Switzerland Closing August 30th 2026

"After 11 wonderful years, we will be closing our doors permanently.

Our restaurant will remain open for you until August 30, 2026.

Please make sure to redeem any existing gift vouchers in time, as they will no longer be valid after closing.

It has been a great honor to delight you with our cuisine and to accompany you with our hospitality. With gratitude, we look back on many beautiful memories, unforgettable moments, and enriching encounters, and we sincerely thank you for your loyalty.

Thank you very much—and goodbye."

Edith's Alpenrösli - Edith and her wonderful team



Answer to Trivia Question from the last newsletter.

Question: How many times has Switzerland hosted the Winter Olympics and where were they held?

Answer: Twice in St Moritz; 1928 and 1948



Edward L. Ott

President

ed@colonylandscape.com



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Hosts: Steve & Monika Ambiel



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www.ediths-alpenrösli.ch/

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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 Brienzensee 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

Aelpler Gruppe 2026 Calendar of Events
www.facebook.com/aelplergruppeswissclub

2026 Events:

June 12th Line Dance at Swiss Park
 June 14th USS Swiss Kids Camp
 June 28th Hike Mill Valley
 August 1st USS Swiss National Day
 August 29th Fall Schwingfest
 August 30th Hike East Bay
 October 25th Fall Jass Tournament
 November 1st Annual Member's Meeting
 November 7th Metzgete Dinner & Dance
 December 5th Members' Christmas Lunch

United Swiss Societies

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

Peninsula Swiss Club

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

Swiss Consulate General, Jonas Brunschwig
 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: www.lov.org/bingo



SJVSC, Ripon 2026 Calendar of Events

www.sjvsciponswiss.com

Chris Portmann, President

June 6th Spring Schwingfest
 June 27th Swiss Kids Camp
 July 25th Swiss National Day Celebration
 September 4th-6th 100 Years Anniversary Fall Schwingfest
 October 3rd Oktoberfest
 October 24th Swiss Echoes Fall Concert
 November 15th Fall Jass Party
 December 5th 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 – Logan Schallberger
 Secretary – Chris Schallberger

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

For other updates go to:
<https://esv.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>



Date	Schwingfest	Location
16-May-2026	Tillamook Swiss Club Schwingfest	Tillamook, OR
6-Jun-2026	SJVSC Spring Schwingfest	Ripon, CA
20-Jun-2026	San Diego County Swiss Club Schwingfest	Chula Vista, CA
28-Jun-2026	Tacoma Spring Schwingfest	Bonney Lake, WA
4-Jul-2026	Lewis Pacific Swiss Club Schwingfest Weekend	Frances, WA
18-Jul-2026	Sierra Swiss Club Schwingfest	Truckee, CA
1-Aug-2026	Portland Swiss Club Schwingfest	Portland, OR
8-Aug-2026	Tacoma Schwingfest Weekend	Bonney Lake, WA
29-Aug-2026	Aelpler Gruppe Fall Schwingfest	Newark, CA
5-Sep-2026	SJVSC 68th WCSWA Championship Schwingfest - 100th Anniversary Weekend	Ripon, CA

Obituaries

Margrith Fries

Born in Schindellegi, Switzerland, Margrith Fries (1934-2026) is remembered for her industrious spirit, kindness, and infectious sense of humor. In June 1955, she followed her fiancé, Karl, to America just one year after he immigrated; they were married the following month.



The couple first settled in San Diego during Karl's Navy service before moving to Hayward and eventually Fremont in 1966. It was there that Margrith raised their two children, Ernie and Heidi, becoming a beloved community figure through her tireless work and dedicated volunteerism.

Margrith served as a baker for the Fremont Unified School District, where she famously "accidentally" broke cookies to help students in need, and later worked at Costco.

She was also a dedicated life member of the Swiss Park Aelpler Gruppe (number 287), usually helping serve food at Schwingfests, taking tickets at the door, or working at the snack bar.

Margrith was a talented gardener and quilter who hand-stitched elaborate quilts. Above all, she cherished spending time with her two children, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Margrith's sense of humor carried her through life's struggles. She had plenty of hardships, but she never let them bring her down. She faced her problems with determination, and a smile. Even when Alzheimer's slowly took away her abilities, including her ability to talk, she still found ways to joke with her caregivers.

Margrith's wit and kindness are missed.

Fred Flecklin

Fred Joseph Flecklin passed peacefully on March 21, 2026 at his daughter and son-in-law's home in Redding and at the age of 94. Fred was born in June, 1931, to his Fred Karl Flecklin and Elizabeth (Reichmuth) Flecklin.



His first job was as a paperboy in San Francisco then becoming a driver for the SF news after graduating from St. James High school. In 1952 Fred was drafted by the United States Army, he spent one year and five months of his two-year enlistment serving overseas in Korea as an ammunition truck driver.

At 29 years old he married his wife Marilyn Walker and they spent their marriage traveling the world together. Fred and Marilyn spent a lot of time on multiple cruises and treated their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to many trips including cruises, Disneyland, and many other family adventures. Fred retired from the San Francisco Chronicle where he supervised the Sunday paper.

He loved celebrating his Swiss heritage and was immensely proud of Switzerland's beautiful landscapes, its wonderful people, and its music that he proudly played in every car he drove and danced too at every Schwingfest he attended.

Fred is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marilyn Flecklin, daughter Elizabeth Spediacci (Mike), and Son Roy Flecklin; and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Fred preceded in death by his parents Fred and Elizabeth Flecklin, his sister Heidi Arsentto, and his brother-in-law Elio Arsentto.

Rick Buscaglia

Richard (Rick) Buscaglia, 81, of Holtville, passed away in Holtville on March 24, 2026.

Rick Buscaglia was born in 1944, in San Francisco, California, to John and Martha (Ming) Buscaglia. At an early age, his parents divorced, and Rick, his brother John, and his mother relocated from San Francisco to the family homestead north of Holtville.



After graduating from High School Rick worked several jobs in the farming industry before he enlisted in the Air Force Reserves. His service took him to the Bay Area until 1970 where he spent many days with his cousin David Reichmuth and he met many young Swiss at Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club events.

When Rick returned to Holtville he worked for Imperial County and later Centinela State Prison.

Rick co-founded the Buz-Mor Bee Company with his brother and served as a Captain for the Holtville Volunteer Fire Department. He was a skilled woodworker, a lifelong restorer of old Chevrolet cars, and an avid off-roader.

Rick was a proud member of the Aelpler Swiss Gruppe in Newark and the Imperial Valley Swiss Club, where he was honored as a Lifetime Member in 2025.

Rick is survived by his wife, Georgia, four children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased:

Please e-mail our club at aelplergruppe@gmail.com or call 510-936-2523

Memorial Fund donations can be sent in through the Aelpler Gruppe website:

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

In memory of Margrith Fries

Ed and Michelle Ott
Pete and Jackie Zuger
Agnes Reed
Charlene Ott
Mary and Bob Montonye
Heidi Ambiel

In memory of Rick Buscaglia

Arnold Ambiel
Margrith and Dave Reichmuth

In memory of Karen Dobbler

Ed and Michelle Ott

In memory of Camille Domine

Brigitte and Ernst Lehmann
Ed and Michelle Ott
Heidi Ambiel
Brigitte and Ernst Lehmann

In memory of Lois Ulrich

Ed and Michelle Ott

In memory of Pete Dobler

Ed and Michelle Ott

In memory of Verena Kaslin

Heidi Ambiel

In memory of Les Spichtig

Ed and Michelle Ott

In memory of Margaret Ann Marchy

Ed and Michelle Ott

In memory of Fred Flecklin

Charlene Ott
Dave and Margrith Reichmuth
Pete and Jackie Zuger
Mary and Bob Montonye
Arnold Ambiel



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

FALL SCHWINGFEST

Join us 11AM for Swiss Wrestling, Swiss Music, Cultural Exhibits, Steinstossen (Rock Throwing), Swiss Food Lunch



Newark Swiss Park
5911 Mowry Avenue,
Newark, CA 94560

For more information please:

- check our website www.aelplergruppe.com
- call (510) 936-2523
- email aelplergruppe@gmail.com



YEARS

AELPLER GRUPPE
SWISS CLUB
1925 - 2025

Welcome Swiss Fans

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JUNE 12

Doors Open at 5 PM
Dinner 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Dancing 7 - 10 PM

Meet up with Swiss Fans. Enjoy a Tri Tip Dinner and Line Dancing Western Style. US Game on in Bar.



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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 2026

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



View the calendar of upcoming events and more on our website!

Scan the QR Code to learn more



Penalties and peculiarities of the Swiss Highway Code Motorways and vignettes

Switzerland was the first country, in 1984, to introduce the vignette certifying payment of motorway tax. Since 1994, the vignette has been enshrined in the Constitution. The sticker changes colour every year and is now also in digital form. Not having it results in a fine of CHF200; anyone who tampers with it or uses it more than once can be punished with a prison sentence of up to three years.

Hands off the horn

Obligations reflect Swissness, from attention to detail to a passion for order and cleanliness.

Forget about honking your horn in protest or to greet a friend. Article 29 of the ordinance calls horns "warning signals", lumps them in with high beams, and specifies that they are used only "if traffic safety requires it". Two cases are covered: to attract the attention of distracted onlookers or to negotiate a tight bend without a view. When night falls, honking is permitted only in the event of danger. The ordinance warns about noise – such as keeping the engine running unnecessarily, accelerating too quickly or "constantly making unnecessary laps in built-up areas". In 2025, the noise produced by exhaust pipes was added, particularly if it crackles, an offence for which there is a penalty of up to CHF10,000 (\$12,850).

In addition, it's forbidden to load and unload the car carelessly and to slam the doors. Also prohibited are "other nuisances" such as splashing pedestrians in wet conditions.

The ordinance specifies that one must drive in such a way that other road users "are disturbed as little as possible". Fussy Switzerland has put this in the Code, because if you are rude, there must be a chance to bring you to heel, legally.

(swissinfo.ch) and (thelocal.ch)