

Swiss Club of Washington, DC

July 2025 Postillion



Message from the President

Gruezi, Bonjour, Buongiorno, Hello,

I'm sure the very hot DC weather we've had last month has had all of us longing for the crisp cool mountain air of Switzerland! Hopefully, many of you have already had the opportunity to visit this season. But regardless of what summer activities you have been involved in this year, I hope you are having fun in the sun with loved ones!

I'm happy to share that our two June events (the Seneca Creek hike, and the first Monthly Playdate) were successful and fun for all who attended. Despite the rainy weather forecast, 12 motivated hikers ultimately enjoyed a mostly sunny hike and some also enjoyed a delicious lunch afterward at a nearby brewery. For the Playdate, 6 children (ages 1-10) were able to practice their Swiss German language skills while enjoying a sunny day at a local playground. A special thanks to Roger Wespe for organizing the hike, and Gabriela Meier for organizing the playdate. We look forward to the next round of these events!

And now, the biggest event of the year for the Swiss Club is just around the corner! We on the board have been very busy planning a great Swiss National Day event to proudly celebrate our Swiss heritage. We sincerely hope all of you can attend the festivities on the July 26th! Please see below for registration information. Thank you for those who have expressed interest in volunteering. We will be in touch with your assignments.

Indeed, as you will see below, more exciting Swiss Club events are coming up fast. In particular, a happy hour is being planned for late August, and spots are still available for the Pittsburgh group trip in September. Be sure to register below for the Pittsburgh trip if you can join us that weekend.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 26th!

Herzliche Grüsse,

Kevin H. Sprenger

Swiss National Day at the Embassy of Switzerland

Saturday, July 26, 2025



Registration Now Open

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, DC
2900 Cathedral Ave NW

Admission includes entertainment, Swiss sausages, salad, desert and water.

New for 2025!!

There will be an exciting new homemade lampion contest this year! Make your own at home and bring it to the event, or make one in the children's area on the day of the celebration!

See more information in the make your own lampion section of the July Postillion!

Cash bar is available for soda, beer and wine.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Don't forget, you'll need to be a 2025 member to enjoy special member pricing; you can [renew your membership here](#).

We are looking for a certified lifeguard or two for our event. If you know anyone who is interested and available, please email Kevin Sprenger or myself by Saturday, July 14. This is a paid position.

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a sponsor, please contact Kevin.Sprenger@swissclubdc.org

Volunteers make our event possible and are a special part of the Swiss Club family!

Create your own Lampion for Swiss National Day 2025!



We are trying something new!

We won't be handing out lampions at the Swiss National Day celebration this year.

Instead, we're inviting all kids ages 2 to 14 to create their own lampion and bring it to the event for a chance to win a prize!

Prizes will be awarded in different age groups, and while adult help is welcome when needed, we want each child's creativity to shine through.

Forgot your lampion? No worries! There will be a lampion-making

station at the event for anyone who wants to join in the fun.

Let's celebrate with light, color, and imagination!

If you still need more inspiration or instruction, please see this [google slide show](#) for some ideas and links.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer at the lampion-making station on the day of the event, please contact Gabriela Meier at gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org

September 20 to 21, 2025 Pittsburgh Trip Registration and Deposit

Interested in joining the Swiss Club of Washington DC on a special overnight trip to Pittsburgh, PA? Please register here to reserve your spot.

Date: Saturday, September 20 and Sunday September 21, 2025

Activities include:

- A private tour of the U. of Pittsburgh Swiss Nationality Room
- A reception with the The Swiss-American Society of Pittsburgh
- Lunch at Teutonia *Männerchor*
- Tour Albert Gallatin's historic home, Friendship Hill National Historic Site in Point Marion, PA

The "travel pack package" will include:

- Round Trip tour bus transportation
- Saturday night hotel accommodations
- Lunch at Teutonia *Männerchor*
- Breakfast at the hotel Sunday morning.

Registration and Deposit

Your deposit will go toward the cost of the trip.

Final pricing will depend on the number of people joining the trip

A block of rooms have been reserved at the

Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh University Place.

Once you register with the club to join the trip, you will receive a link to the hotel to reserve a room at a special trip rate. (\$189 a night instead of the non discounted \$325 a night).





Swiss American Historical Society Virtual Event

Switzerland's National Icon: The Legacy & Significance of William Tell

Thursday, August 14, 2025

7:30 PM–8:30 PM ET on [Google Meet](#)

Dr. Marc H. Lerner, a longtime SAHS member and Associate Professor of History at The University of Mississippi, who has researched and written on William Tell, will lead a discussion about the myths of William Tell, the film portrayal of him, the story's impact on Switzerland, and historical accuracies and inaccuracies in the film. He will then open it up to audience Q&A.

You do not need to be an SAHS member to attend. On the day of, go to meet.google.com/ufd-rpoh-iyp and you should be able to enter the virtual space (similar to Zoom, if you have not used Google Meet before). It can work on your computer or cell phone and you do not need to download any software. The film is available to rent and watch on Amazon Prime Video. Hope you can join us for our first virtual event!

The Swiss America Historical Society promotes the study of the Swiss in North America, Swiss-American relations, and Swiss immigration to the United States. You do not have to be of Swiss ancestry to be a member! [Click here](#) and learn more.





New Kids' Activities with the Swiss Club of Washington DC!



We're excited to launch a new initiative for families with kids! We'll be organizing monthly playdates to local playgrounds, museums and other interesting locations within the DMV. These outings will provide a great opportunity for young club members to have fun while speaking Swiss German with other kids. Two families attended the first outing on Sunday, June 29!

How to Join:

To stay in the loop about upcoming playdates, join our WhatsApp group! Simply email our Children's Activity Coordinator at gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org with your phone number, name, name of the kids that will regularly take part in our outings and their ages. That way we can add you to the list.

We can't wait to see you and your little ones at our next adventure!

Looking ahead...

Stammtisch also known as Happy Hour
will be back later this summer!

We have set a date of August 28 from 6:30 pm onward





Follow us on Social Media: New Instagram Page!!

Share your pictures and your experiences with the Swiss Club!

Thanks to some new additions to our club's executive board, we are renewing our social media presence and have started an Instagram page to share our updates. Feel free to follow us to receive timely updates on events and opportunities!

[Link](#) to Swiss Club of Washington DC's Instagram Page

[Link](#) to Swiss Club of Washington DC's Facebook Page



Swiss Benevolent Society updates

The SBS of Washington DC is pleased to announce that we have awarded scholarships to three remarkable students for the 2025-2026 school year! They are all outstanding students, fully engaged in collegiate activities, and have admirable academic goals. We wish them all a successful year!

Do you know of anyone in our Swiss community who could use some support or maybe even just a little connection with others? Then, please reach out to us at assistance@sbsofdc.org and confidentially let us know. Or, come and say hello at our booth on Swiss National Day. You can share your thoughts on what more we can do to support this wonderful community.



Swiss
Benevolent
Society of
Washington DC
Founded 1865

The June hike was a great success!

Twelve hikers did not let the rainy forecast deter them. They showed up at the meeting point at Seneca Lake Park and proceeded to have a good hike and a fun time together. The adventure started out with a little drizzling rain which quickly turned to sunshine. The hour and a half leisurely hike went through wooded areas and along the lake. Some of hikers continued to socialize over a delicious lunch at the Dogfish House. A big thanks to Roger for organizing the hike and we are looking forward to many more.



Swiss Club Events for 2025

- Bike Ride
- Swiss Club Hike
- Swiss National Day
- Pittsburgh Trip
- Raclette
- Grittibänz
- Samichlaus

Spring 2025
June 7, 2025
July 26, 2025
September 20-21, 2025
Fall 2025
Winter 2025
Winter 2025

Board Members and Volunteer Coordinators

President: Kevin Sprenger, kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org

1st Vice-President: Olivia Hauser, olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org

2nd Vice-President: Susann Kollmar, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org
Secretary: Roger Wespe roger.wespe@swissclubdc.org
Treasurer: Melanie Way, melanie.way@swissclubdc.org
Membership Coordinator: Helen Bircher, helen.bircher@swissclubdc.org
Logistics Coordinator: Richard Bottonari richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org
Children's Activities Coordinator: Gabriela Meier gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Martin Perret, martin.perret@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Alexandra Phillips, alexandra.phillips@swissclubdc.org
Board Member, Adrian Wiestner, adrian.wiestner@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Mark McCarthy, mark.mccarthy@swissclubdc.org
Board Member: Michael Marti, michael.marti@swissclubdc.org
Swiss Embassy Liaison: Annette Moser annette.moser@swissclubdc.org
Webmaster: Will Roberts, will.roberts@swissclubdc.org

About Other Swiss Groups

Swiss Rifles:

Ken Schelbert, ken@schelberts.com

Swiss Folklore Group:

Erwin Buerlimann, President, Eburlimann@comcast.net

Die Stauffacherin:

Susann Kollmar, President, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org

Janine Ali, Vice President

Swiss Benevolent Society:

Alfred Kessi, President, president@sbsofdc.org

www.sbsofdc.org

Swiss American Club of Richmond:

swissamericanclubrichmondva@gmail.com

Swiss American Historical Society:

<https://www.swiss-american-historical-society.org/>

Advertisement

We invite professionals and corporations to place your ad on the Swiss Club website by contacting [Melanie Way](mailto:Melanie.Way).

Your ad will also appear on the e-Postillion which is sent to our membership on a monthly basis. All we need from you is a business card sized image containing your website/email information; anyone clicking on it will be linked to your website.

2025 prices are as follows:

\$75.00 for dues paying members and \$100.00 for non-members.

Great exposure to the Swiss community for a small cost.





 HOME OF OFFICE	CHILDREN at 4 yrs old up to ADULTS All levels	20+ yrs experience incl. WIS & Alliance Française rosmarie@gmail.com 703 371 5112 Private Teacher

**GERMAN GOURMET**
5838 Columbia Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041
(703) 379-8080
www.GermanGourmet.com

**HELLETAS**
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