

## **Swiss Club of Washington, DC**

### **December 2025 Postillion**



## **Message from the President**

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Gruezi, Bonjour, Buongiorno, Hello,

Happy Holidays! It's once again that festive time of the year where we all make new memories (and reflect on old ones) with those we love and cherish. No matter if you are traveling, hosting, cooking, exploring, or just enjoying a quiet moment, I hope that your December and end to 2025 is bright and filled with joy.

There are several ways to celebrate the holidays locally with a taste of Switzerland. We're looking forward to another great Samichlaus/Grittibaenz event (but please note that registration is now full). We also encourage you to visit Stable's Raclette Booth at the DC Downtown Holiday Market and/or The Swiss Bakery's Swissmas and Christkindl Market (see more details below).

Our first event of the new year will be a January Stammtisch event in Bethesda. Please stay tuned for details early next month.

December also marks the end of the term for two Swiss Club Board Members. Please join me in thanking Helen Bircher (Membership Chair) and Adrian Wiestner (Board Member at Large) for their years of service to the Swiss Club. Michael Marti will be new Membership Chair for 2026.

All of us on the Swiss Club Board want to thank all of you for making 2025 an amazing year! Best wishes for a safe, peaceful, and merry holiday season.

Frohe Weihnachten und ein glueckliches Jahr,

Kevin Sprenger

## **Samichlaus and Grittibänz**

# Sunday, December 14, 2025

## At Capacity, Waitlist Only

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Our Christmas events, both Grittibanz and Samichlaus, are completely full. Registration is closed. There has been a waitlist established in case any current registrants have to cancel for any reason. If you successfully registered, we look forward to seeing you at our 2025 holiday celebration on Sunday, December 14.

If you can no longer make the event, please email Olivia Hauser at [olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org](mailto:olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org). If you wish to be added to the waitlist, please email the same email address. Thank you.

Grittibänz is scheduled for 3:30 pm  
Doors open for Samichlaus at 4:00 pm  
There is a \$5 non refundable registration fee to join the festivities!  
We look forward to your participation

**Embassy of Switzerland**  
[2900 Cathedral Ave., NW](#)  
Washington DC  
Sunday, December 14th, 2025



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## Holiday Events by our Swiss Sponsors and Affiliates

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### **SBS supported holiday Kaffee Klatch**

Who: Senior Swiss people  
When: Wednesday, December 10 at 10:00 am  
Where: The Swiss Bakery  
5224 Fort Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22151

Included for each participant: A cup of Coffee and a sweet treat!  
A December to remember..you can pick up your Christmas Swiss goodies!

Swiss Bakery in Springfield, VA will have their annual **Swissmas and Christkindl Market**  
Saturday, December 14 from 11 am to 3 pm  
5224 Fort Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22151  
<https://theswissbakery.com/>

Stable Restaurant, [Washington DC](#) will have a Raclette Booth at the Washington DC  
Downtown Holiday Market (booth 106)  
November 23 - December 21  
<https://www.downtowndc.org/holiday-market/>

## A Message from the Swiss Benevolent Society

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Did you know that the Swiss Benevolent Society has been caring for the local Swiss community for over 150 years?!? And, our programs are generously supported by YOU, our Swiss community!



Swiss  
Benevolent  
Society of  
Washington DC  
*Founded 1865*

As you consider your charitable giving this year, we hope that you will consider the SBS for a tax-deductible gift. Our completely voluntary board of trustees ensures that all donations are spent on the people who need it most.

Visit our website ([www.sbsofdc.org/donate](http://www.sbsofdc.org/donate)) to find how to donate online or by check.  
Thank you all for your continued support of the SBS!

## Looking Ahead: Stammtisch in January 2026

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We look forward to welcoming the new year with a Stammtisch at Black's Bar and Kitchen  
in Bethesda, MD.

Date and time will be published in the next Postillion  
Or look out for an invitation on our Facebook and Instagram Pages!

Black's Bar & Kitchen,  
[7750 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814](#)

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

## Gauging interest in a Swiss Heritage Outing in January or February 2026

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The Swiss club is considering organizing a tour of the Meridian House on a Friday afternoon in January or February. If interested, please contact Richard Bottonari at [richard.bottanari@swissclubdc.org](mailto:richard.bottanari@swissclubdc.org)

[Details of the Meridian House](#)  
1630 Crescent PI NW, Washington, DC 20009

The Swiss connection is that Irwin Laughlin, an American diplomat who built the Meridian House was married to Therese Iselin, daughter of Adrian Iselin, Jr., a New York banker whose grandfather was Isaak Iselin-Roulet (1783–1841). Iselin-Roulet was born in Basel and worked at the Swiss New York Consulate.

Site tours are offered Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., subject to house schedule. We would plan to meet there as a group for a scheduled tour on an early Friday afternoon. An appointment is required to view the property. Please let us know if this trip is of interest to you. We think it would be a nice Winter month indoor activity for the Swiss Club. Please contact [Richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org](mailto:Richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org) if interested.

## Follow us on Social Media Facebook and Instagram Page!!

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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

## Interested in Playing Jass?

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Reach out to Will Roberts for more information!

[will.roberts@swissclubdc.org](mailto:will.roberts@swissclubdc.org)

New to the game? No problem, join a Jass clinic to learn to play!



## Swiss Club Events for 2025

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- Grittibänz
- Samichlaus
- Stammtisch

Sunday, December 14 at 3:30pm

Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm

January 2026

## Board Members and Club Support Positions

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**President:** Kevin Sprenger, [kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org](mailto:kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org)

**1st Vice-President:** Olivia Hauser, [olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org](mailto:olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org)

**2nd Vice-President:** Susann Kollmar, [susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org](mailto:susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org)

**Secretary:** Roger Wespe, [roger.wespe@swissclubdc.org](mailto:roger.wespe@swissclubdc.org)

**Treasurer:** Melanie Way, [melanie.way@swissclubdc.org](mailto:melanie.way@swissclubdc.org)

**Membership Coordinator:** Helen Bircher, [helen.bircher@swissclubdc.org](mailto:helen.bircher@swissclubdc.org)

**Logistics Coordinator:** Richard Bottonari, [richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org](mailto:richard.bottonari@swissclubdc.org)

**Children's Activities Coordinator:** Gabriela Meier, [gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org](mailto:gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org)

**Board Member:** Martin Perret, [martin.perret@swissclubdc.org](mailto:martin.perret@swissclubdc.org)

**Board Member:** Alexandra Phillips, [alexandra.phillips@swissclubdc.org](mailto:alexandra.phillips@swissclubdc.org)

**Board Member**, Adrian Wiestner, [adrian.wiestner@swissclubdc.org](mailto:adrian.wiestner@swissclubdc.org)  
**Social Strategy Coordinator**: Mark McCarthy, [mark.mccarthy@swissclubdc.org](mailto:mark.mccarthy@swissclubdc.org)  
**Board Member**: Michael Marti, [michael.marti@swissclubdc.org](mailto:michael.marti@swissclubdc.org)  
**Swiss Embassy Liaison**: Annette Moser [annette.moser@swissclubdc.org](mailto:annette.moser@swissclubdc.org)  
**Webmaster**: Will Roberts, [will.roberts@swissclubdc.org](mailto:will.roberts@swissclubdc.org)

## About Other Swiss Groups

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**Swiss Rifles:**

Ken Schelbert, [ken@schelberts.com](mailto:ken@schelberts.com)

**Swiss Folklore Group:**

Erwin Buerlimann, President, [Eburlimann@comcast.net](mailto:Eburlimann@comcast.net)

**Die Stauffacherin:**

Susann Kollmar, President, [susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org](mailto:susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org)  
Janine Ali, Vice President

**Swiss Benevolent Society:**

Alfred Kessi, President, [president@sbsofdc.org](mailto:president@sbsofdc.org)  
[www.sbsofdc.org](http://www.sbsofdc.org)

**Swiss American Club of Richmond:**

[swissamericanclubrichmondva@gmail.com](mailto:swissamericanclubrichmondva@gmail.com)

**Swiss American Historical Society:**

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

## Advertisement

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We invite professionals and corporations to place your ad on the Swiss Club website by contacting [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.**



Alfa Design (424)316-8882 alfadesignllc.com



All levels

rosmarie@gmail.com  
703 371 5112  
Private Teacher



**GERMAN  
GOURMET**

5838 Columbia Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
(703) 379-8080

[www.GermanGourmet.com](http://www.GermanGourmet.com)



**STABLE**  
WASHINGTON DC



**Swiss Traditions**

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