

## Swiss Club of Washington, DC

### April 2026 Postillion



## Message from the President

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Gruezi, hello, bonjour and salut!

It's springtime in DC and that means cherry blossoms, gardening, and getting out to enjoy sun-soaked activities! I hope you all are doing well regardless of how you and ringing in the warm weather.

Thanks to all volunteers and participants of the Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Embassy. It was a great success and it was nice to see so many familiar faces. A special thanks our Children's Activities Coordinator Gabriela Meier for coordinating the event, Mark Phillips for the beautiful alphorn performance, and the Easter Bunny for the surprise appearance.

We've had several other fun-filled activities over the past month (see recaps below). A special thanks to the members of the Swiss Club Board, Swiss American Historical Society, and/or the Swiss Embassy for coordinating these events. And thanks to all participants for showing your support of these organizations by attending!

In view of spring break travel and our busy March, no official Club events are scheduled for the month of April. However, please see the Postillion below for events scheduled for the upcoming months.

Happy Easter, Frohe Ostern, Joyeuses Pâques, Buona Pasqua!

Kevin H. Sprenger

## What a beautiful day for an Easter egg hunt!

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It was the perfect spring day for the annual Swiss Club Easter egg hunt. Twenty eight children and their families joined the Easter Bunny on Sunday, March 22 for a memorable day with plenty of treat filled eggs, and an alphorn to bring some swiss culture to the scene! Thanks for making the day so special and so much fun!







## Scholarships through the Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington DC

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The SBS is proud to support the academic pursuits of our young Swiss community through our scholarship program. Assistance is given for qualified candidates in greater Washington, DC. Learn more and apply at [www.sbsofdc.org/scholarships](http://www.sbsofdc.org/scholarships). The deadline is May 1st, 2026.

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Swiss  
Benevolent  
Society of  
Washington DC  
*Founded 1865*

## Mini Swiss Club! Swiss Kids Corner Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 2

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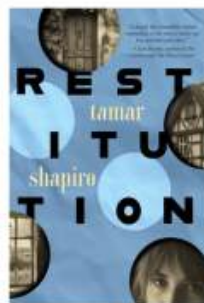
Join us for a fun afternoon and picnic at the [US National Arboretum](https://www.usna.gov/)  
Saturday May 2 from 2:pm to 4pm  
[3501 New York Avenue, NE](https://www.usna.gov/)  
[Washington, DC 20002](https://www.usna.gov/)

Spring is in the air! We invite you to meet up at the US National Arboretum for a picnic! (The exact location within the park will be shared via the WhatsApp group). Families with kids of all ages are welcome! We encourage everyone to bring a swiss snack to share. You can expect Swiss-themed games and a scavenger hunt! If interested, please email Gabi Meier [gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org](mailto:gabriela.meier@swissclubdc.org) to be added to the WhatsApp group for up to date information. We look forward to seeing you there!





## German Book Exchange and Literary Evening, Sunday, April 19



### Reading and Conversation

*with Tamar Shapiro*

Sunday, 19 April, 5pm  
The United Church  
1920 G Street NW  
Washington, D.C., 20006



We warmly invite you to a special literary evening on Sunday, **April 19**:  
Washington, DC–based author **Tamar Shapiro** will read from her debut novel *Restitution*.

The novel tells the story of two siblings whose family fled East Germany in the 1950s. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, they face a difficult decision: should they try to reclaim their grandparents' house—now inhabited by another family?

Set against the backdrop of German history, *Restitution* explores questions of **home, memory, belonging, and justice**. The novel examines how historical events shape family lives across generations and what it means to confront one's past.

*Tamar Shapiro's debut novel, Restitution, was published in September 2025 and named one of the 49 Must-Read Books of Fall 2025 by Town and Country Magazine. Her writing has also appeared in Poets and Writers, Electric Literature, Literary Hub, and the Washington Independent Review of Books. A former housing attorney and non-profit leader, Shapiro received an MFA from Randolph College in January 2026.*

Following the reading, Tamar Shapiro will speak about her personal connection to the book. The evening will conclude with an open conversation with the audience.

**Drinks and light refreshments will be served.**  
**A used German-language book exchange will take place at the same time.**

We look forward to an engaging evening and to welcoming you.



## Looking Ahead: Switzerland in the World Cup

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World Cup 2026 is coming up this summer. Switzerland plays Qatar on Saturday, June 13. Stay tuned for the details on for a watch party somewhere in the DMV area!

## Swiss artist Christian Vonarburg reception at embassy

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Several Swiss club members had the pleasure of attending a recent evening of art and conversation hosted at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador in Washington, DC. The event centered on Swiss artist Christian Vonarburg's exhibition Strata, offering a thoughtful exploration of systems-based abstraction, geometry, and material precision.

Guests enjoyed a particularly engaging presentation from the artist, followed by a lively moderated discussion and Q&A. The setting provided a unique opportunity to experience the artwork up close and in person, which added a meaningful dimension to the evening.

All in all, it was a memorable gathering and a wonderful opportunity to engage directly with contemporary Swiss artistic practice. Additional information about the exhibition can be found at <https://colloquia.art/past>.





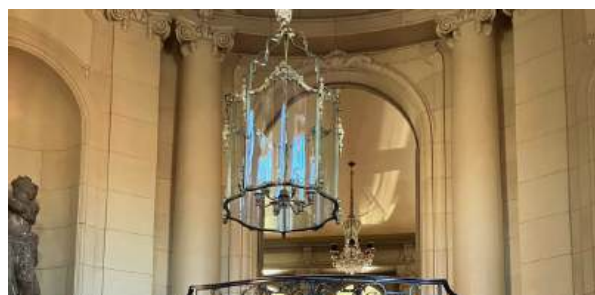
## Meridian House Tour

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On Saturday, February 28th, The Swiss Club of Washington, and some additional guests, enjoyed a wonderful private tour of the historic Meridian House and White-Meyer House designed by architect John Russell Pope. The Meridian International Center's Chief Talent & Administrative Officer, Kelly Campagne, led the tour.

The mansions now serve as a hub for international exchange, hosting programs, forums, and events that connect global leaders and foster cross-cultural understanding.

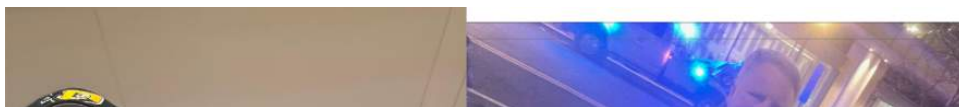
What is the Swiss connection? Irwin Laughlin, an American diplomat who built the Meridian House was married to Therese Iselin, daughter of Adrian Iselin, Jr., a New York banker whose grandfather was Isaak Iselin-Roulet (1783–1841). Iselin-Roulet was born in Basel and worked at the Swiss New York Consulate.





## Wizards Game Swiss Heritage Night

In March, around 15 Swiss Club members and friends gathered at Capital One Arena for the Washington Wizards' Swiss Heritage Night, and what an evening it was! While the Wizards didn't quite pull off the win, the good spirits among our group never wavered. We enjoyed the game together over popcorn and drinks, and everyone went home with a special edition Hawaiian shirt celebrating Swiss Heritage -- a unique keepsake from the night. A highlight for several members of our group was the chance to meet Swiss player Kyshawn George before tip-off. We already look forward to returning for another Wizards game next season!





## DC United Vs Philadelphia Union

DC United kicked off the season against the Philadelphia Union, led by former player and Switzerland's own René Weiler (a former player from Winterthur). Celebrating this Swiss connection, DC United and the Swiss Embassy partnered to host a Swiss Night on February 21 during the club's first home match of the season. Several members of the Swiss Club of Washington DC attended the event and had a great night! While the temperature was low the energy was high - topping off with a win from DC United won 1-0



**Friendly reminder to renew your Swiss Club of Washington DC membership today!**

We love our members, and are able to organize and host many great events throughout the year because of your support. Please renew your membership, or become a new member today!

Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Attend the Easter Egg Hunt at no cost
- Attend the members-only Grittibaenz and Samichlaus Party
- Pay the reduced member price for all Swiss Club events
- Get priority registration for events with limited seating
- Receive our monthly newsletter and reminders about upcoming events
- The joy of being an official member of the Swiss Club of Washington DC

Renew your membership [here](#), or email our membership coordinator, Michael Marti, with any questions. [michael.marti@swissclubdc.org](mailto:michael.marti@swissclubdc.org)

Membership renewal includes two steps: (1) Complete and submit the membership form, (2) submit payment via your preferred method. As a reminder, our membership runs on a standard calendar year term (January 2026 to December 2026). Membership renewal is not automatic, so please visit the site to obtain your 2026 Swiss Club of Washington DC membership.

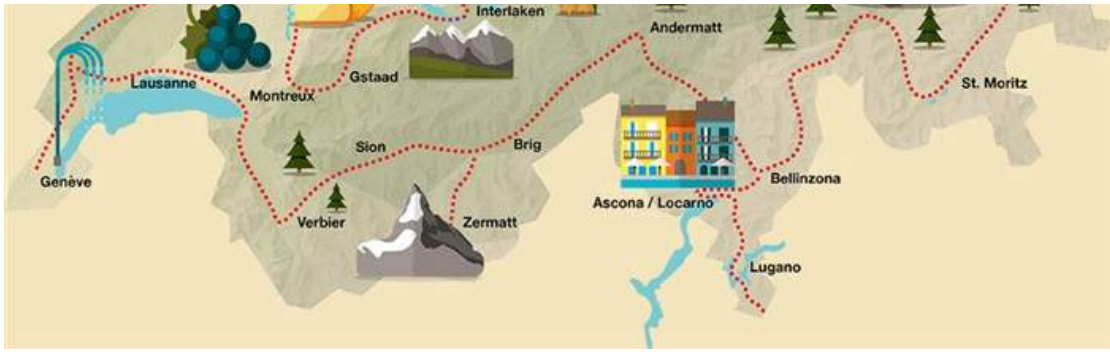
## Swiss American Historical Society Trip September 2027 Reserve your spot today!

To celebrate the Swiss American Historical Society's centennial in 2027, the Society is organizing a 10-day trip to Switzerland, September 19–29, 2027. [Click here](#) for the itinerary and information about the trip.

If you are interested, a deposit of \$500 is due before fall of 2026. A minimum of 12 people have to make a deposit in order to move forward with the trip. Please complete the Google Form [linked here](#) which includes payment options for the deposit.

Feel free to forward this to anyone you know who might be interested. Thank you!





## 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 2026

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- Hike/Brewery visit May
- Potential Swiss trip June
- Swiss National Day August
- Hike/Winery Visit September
- Raclette Dinner October
- General Assembly October
- Grittibaenz and Samichlaus December

## 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:** Michael Marti, [michael.marti@swissclubdc.org](mailto:michael.marti@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,** Sara Ackermann, [sara.ackermann@swissclubdc.org](mailto:sara.ackermann@swissclubdc.org)

**Social Strategy Coordinator:** Mark McCarthy, [mark.mccarthy@swissclubdc.org](mailto:mark.mccarthy@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.

**2026 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.**



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