

Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.

March 2024 Postillion



Message from the President

Gruezi, hello, bonjour and salut,

Happy March!

It was so great to see so many of you at the Fondue last month! Special thanks goes to all of the volunteers from the Swiss Club and the Swiss Benevolent Society who made the event a success. And congratulations to all of the prize winners of the silent auction and live auction! Your generosity raised over \$8000.00 for the SBS.

With a heavy heart, I'd like to take a moment to share some sad news. The Club mourns the loss of three of our friends who passed away this winter: Campbell Graeub, Christian Haudenschild, and Dick Backus. Campbell, Christian, and Dick were all upstanding members of the local Swiss community and they will each be remembered for their kindness, generosity, and love of this community. More information about the lives of Campbell, Christian, and Dick is provided below.

The winter is nearly over and spring is quickly approaching! We hope to see you at one or more of the exciting events we have planned for March. This month, we're excited to offer a German book sale event, a brunch meal at Stable DC, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Swiss Embassy. The SBS will also host a Kaffeeklatsch, and there is an exciting academic opportunity for history students. See more information below about these events.

In honor of the upcoming Easter season in Switzerland, Frohe Ostern, Joyeuses Pâques, Buona Pasqua!

Kevin H. Sprenger

Books, Wine, and Cheese





CHEESE // WINE // BOOKS
MARCH 9, 2024 – 5-7 P.M.

Join us on Saturday, March 9, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (Roth Hall) of The United Church for a new type of event. Think community, conversation, book exchange and book presentation!

We will be serving light refreshments in the form of cheese and wine for a suggested donation.

Author Christine Kessides, a former policy analyst at the World Bank, has recently published her first novel „Magda Standing“. She will read from her book and will be available for Q & A afterwards. For further information check out www.magda-standing.com or see back!

A used German language book exchange will be held at the same time!

Susann Kollmar
 Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.
 Swissclubdc.org

Rev. Kaja Albrecht and Dr. Claudia Dziobek
 The United Church-Die Vereinigte Kirche
 1920 G Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006
 www.theunitedchurch.org



When her father pulls her out of high school to care for her invalid mother and little brother, sixteen-year-old Magda is devastated—but the greater challenge is saving her family in the midst of a global war and pandemic.

In 1916, the world is at war, even if America has not yet joined the effort. But for Magda, the growing hostility surrounding her German immigrant family in Pittsburgh hits close to home. Despite her domestic obligations, Magda persists with her education, determined to find an independent role for herself. Faced with the mounting crises of the Great War and the Spanish flu, Magda seeks the knowledge and strength to protect those she loves most.

Standing up to a war and pandemic, traditions and expectations, Magda embarks on a journey of self-discovery and resilience that leads her back to embracing her family and caring for a wider community.

Winner of 2023 MOONBEAM Book Award – Bronze Medal for Young Adult Fiction: Historical

Finalist for 2024 Sorion Women's Book Award – Young Adult Fiction

Finalist for 2023 Eyelands International Book Award for Published Historical Fiction

About the author:

Christine comes from a long line of German immigrants, and interest in their history inspired her to write this story. After a career as an economic policy analyst at the World Bank in Washington DC, she lives with her husband in Maryland and pursues interests volunteering with nonprofits that serve women and families. Magda, Standing is her first novel.

For more information on the book and the author see: www.magda-standing.com

There is a \$5 suggested donation for this event.

Registration is not required, but [RSVP](#) is encouraged.

March Brunch with Stable

Only a few seats remain! Don't miss this special meal with DC's only Swiss Restaurant.



Due to the special nature of this event, there can be no ticket refunds.

[Register here](#)

Easter Egg Hunt at the Swiss Embassy

Registration is now open for our ever popular family event. The Egg Hunt will start promptly at 3pm, but join us starting at 2:30 for photos with a very special guest.

Sunday, March 24, 2024
Photos @ 2:30pm with a special guest
Egg Hunt starts @ 3pm
Embassy of Switzerland in DC
2900 Cathedral Ave NW

This year's Egg Hunt activities will take place entirely outside. There will be **NO BATHROOMS OR INDOOR SPACE** available during this event. Please bring your favorite egg collection container to make your Egg Hunt a more memorable experience!

[Register Here](#)



Dick Backus

1935 - February 9, 2024



G. Richard "Dick" Backus, a cherished husband, father, grandfather, and esteemed professional, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on February 9, 2024, at the age of 88, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Dayton, Ohio, Dick lived a full and rewarding life marked by love, intelligence, and generosity. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Elsbeth, with whom he shared a lifetime of love and adventure, as well as his beloved children and grandchildren.

Dick's passing is a profound loss to his family, friends, and all who knew him. He will be

deeply missed, but his influence will persist in the hearts and minds of his loved ones. The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who cared for him during his illness and those who have offered their support during this difficult time. His was a life that exemplified the best of what one can achieve and bequeath to others.

A memorial will be held on Monday, March 4th, at 11:00am, at [Saint Luke Lutheran Church, in Silver Spring, MD](#).

You can read more and leave condolences [here](#).

Campbell Graeub

June 22, 1932 - February 8, 2024

Campbell Graeub passed away on February 8th, at Sibley Memorial Hospital, surrounded by his family. Campbell served as Swiss Club president from 1976-1978, but many will remember his longtime commitment to the Swiss community as Swiss Benevolent Society President. Those who knew Campbell know how much the Club and the local community meant to him. We will always be grateful for his steadfast support and participation during the past half-century. He will be dearly missed.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on May 18th, at [The Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, in Washington, DC](#).



Christian Haudenschild

May 5, 1939 - January 26, 2024

Christian Haudenschild passed away in Lachen, Switzerland, where he had been living with his wife, Changting, for the past several years. Many will remember the former Swiss Club president for his enthusiasm at events and active presence in the community for decades. Christian often remarked that he had been a part of every Swiss group in the region, as a much loved member of the Swiss Benevolent Society, Swiss American Historical Society,



Swiss Rifles, Jass, Folklore, and Drum and Fife groups, as well as making multiple appearances at Stauffacherin luncheons as the featured pianist. Always ready with a warm welcome, his enthusiasm and dedication to the Club and the community were undoubtedly responsible for many of the strong friendships today. He will be greatly missed by his countless friends and beloved family.



Leo Schelbert Prize in History

The Leo Schelbert Prize is awarded to the best submitted undergraduate or graduate research paper. The topic can be anything that relates to the mission of the Swiss American Historical Society (SAHS), which focuses on increasing an understanding of Swiss and/or Swiss-American history.

Dr. Leo Schelbert was an historian and professor emeritus at the University of Illinois-Chicago who died in 2022 at age 93. Dr. Schelbert was born in Kaltbrunn, Canton St. Gallen in 1929. He got his PhD from Columbia University and taught at the University of Illinois from 1971-2003. Dr. Schelbert focused on Swiss emigration history, writing several books and an encyclopedia about Switzerland. Over five decades, he served as SAHS President (1975-1980) and was otherwise involved with publications as Editor-in-Chief, Co-Editor of the *SAHS Review* and member of the editorial board for book publications. A great mentor and friend to many, he helped to ensure that the Swiss American Historical Society would grow and endure for years to come.



To submit a paper or to learn more, go to:
swiss-american-historical-society.org/leo-schelbert-prize and submit your paper by
email to Prof. Robert Sherwood at rsherwoo@gmc.cc.ga.us by **June 1st**.

Swiss Benevolent Society Kaffeeklatsch

Please join us for coffee, sweets and casual conversation. No registration required, just come prepared for friendly conversation!

March 6 at 10am

Le Pain Quotidien
Wildwood Shopping Center
[10217 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda](#)



Swiss
Benevolent
Society of
Washington DC
Founded 1865

Swiss Club Events for 2024

- Author Talk & Book Exchange
- Brunch with Stable
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Bike Ride
- Hike & Winery Tour
- Swiss National Day

March 9, 2024
March 17, 2024
March 24, 2024
Spring, 2024
June 23, 2024
July 27, 2024

Board Members and Volunteer Coordinators

President: Kevin Sprenger, kevin.sprenger@swissclubdc.org
1st Vice-President: Catherine Gees, catherine.gees@swissclubdc.org
2nd Vice-President: Susann Kollmar, susann.kollmar@swissclubdc.org
Secretary: Olivia Hauser, olivia.hauser@swissclubdc.org
Treasurer: Melanie Way, melanie.way@swissclubdc.org
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Swiss Embassy Liaison: Annette Moser annette.moser@swissclubdc.org
Webmaster: Markus Pfeiffer, markus.pfeiffer@swissclubdc.org

About Other Swiss Groups

Swiss Rifles:

Ken Schelbert, ken@schelberts.com

Swiss Folklore Group:

Erwin Buerlimann, President, Eburlimann@comcast.net

Die Stauffacherin:

Janine Ali, President, janine.seltzer@gmail.com

Susann Kollmar, Vice President

Swiss Benevolent Society:

Alexis Sullivan, 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](#).

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.

2024 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.

French For All
IN YOUR HOME or OFFICE
Starting CHILDREN at 4 yrs old up to ADULTS All levels
Ages
Native speaker - certified
20+ yrs experience incl. WIS & Alliance Française
rosmarie@gmail.com
703 371 5112
Private Teacher

GERMAN GOURMET
5838 Columbia Pike
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