

Swiss Club of Washington, D.C.

April 2024 Postillion



Message from the President

Gruezi, hello, bonjour and salut,

As we step into spring, I hope that everyone has had the chance to spend time outside enjoying the glorious weather. Just last week, the Club was able to celebrate an early Easter on the grounds of the Embassy with some of our youngest members, and a very special guest.

There will be a special "seniors edition" of the Swiss Benevolent Society Kaffeeklatsch, to be held at The Swiss Bakery next Monday, and later this spring we will see the return of the annual bike ride. There is more information about the bike route and registration for both events below; I hope to see many avid cyclists join us for this new route. For those who prefer to watch physical activity, there will be ample opportunity to cheer on your favorite Swiss athletes with the upcoming UEFA Euro and summer Olympics.

I'd also like to highlight two important academic opportunities; a scholarship from the Swiss Benevolent Society and academic prize from the Swiss American Historical Society. Please pay particular attention to the updated deadline for the SBS scholarship.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that we include the news of Laurie Weber's passing late last year. You can read more about Laurie, and find details for the celebration of her life below. She was an integral and much beloved champion of our community and will be dearly missed.

With much gratitude for the strength of our community, I wish you all a very happy spring.
Kevin H. Sprenger





Spring Bike Ride

Join us for the perfect spring activity, a bike ride! The meetup will occur in the Long Bridge Parking Lot. The Parking lot is close to the Pentagon City or Crystal City Metro Station. We will complete the "Arlington Loop", made up of segments of the Washington & Old Dominion (W&OD), Custis, and Mt. Vernon and Four Mile Run trails. There are Capital Bikeshare options available nearby if you do not own a bike.

Saturday, May 4, 2024 (rain date May 5, 2024)

Meeting Point: Long Bridge Park, Arlington (Parking lot) at 9:00 AM

Length: approx. 16 miles roundtrip

Surface Type: Pavement, bike lane

Bike friendly for hybrid, road, mountain bike, or Capital Bikeshare

Highlights: Four Mile Run, W&OD, Rosslyn, Custis, end of tour refreshments at Long Bridge Park

The tour is expected to be finished around lunchtime.

For your safety and riding pleasure, please bring your own water bottle, helmet, and bike pump. If this tour will be your first time on your bike this year, please take a moment to test your bike at home and perform any necessary repairs before meeting for the group ride. This will reduce the risk of issues and delays on the day of the tour.

RSVP to helen.bircher@swissclubdc.org



Laurie Ann (Alleman) Weber

August 22, 1963 – November 2, 2023



Laurie passed away peacefully at her Huntly Virginia farmhouse surrounded by her daughter Alissa, husband Reto, and Zella the Appenzeller dog.

Laurie earned her pastry degree at the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis. She was Swiss Master Chef Albert Kumin's assistant and continued to pursue her Pastry career at Remi in New York City. After moving to the DMV in 1993 she was the pastry chef at the Italian restaurant Galileo by Chef Roberto Donna. In 2001 Laurie earned the title of Pastry Chef of the year in Washington, DC. On August 1st, of the same year Laurie and Reto opened the Swiss Bakery which we all love and treasure.

When Laurie was not creating desserts in the bakery, she greatly enjoyed cooking and baking for others. She loved taking care of her chickens and garden. Laurie impacted so many lives with her mentorship and joy for sharing knowledge. Her presence is and will be incredibly missed.

A celebration of her extraordinary life will be held

Monday May 13th, 2024

3pm-7pm

The Blue Door

675 Zachary Taylor Hwy,
Flint Hill, VA 22627

Please email CelebrateLaurie@theswissbakery.com to RSVP by April 15th

You can read her obituary here: [Laurie \(theswissbakery.com\)](https://www.theswissbakery.com)

In lieu of flowers, we kindly request that you consider making a donation to a charity listed below in Laurie's honor. Your contribution will help support the charity's mission and will make a positive impact in her memory.

Rapp at Home - Supports those in need of in-home care or assistance in Rappahannock County.

<https://www.rappathome.net>

Swiss Benevolent Society -Dedicated to assisting those in need in the Swiss community of greater Washington, DC and Helvetia, WV.

www.sbsofdc.org

Scholarship Opportunity from the Swiss Benevolent Society

NEW scholarship application deadline ~ May 1st !

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 and Helvetia, WV. Learn more and apply at sbsofdc.org/scholarships.

The deadline is May 1st.

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Swiss
Benevolent
Society of
Washington DC
Founded 1865

Kaffeeklatsch with the SBS

Please join the SBS for coffee, sweets and casual conversation. This special event is for DMV Swiss seniors and will be held at the Swiss bakery. Come prepared for friendly conversation!

April 8, 10am
The Swiss Bakery
5224 Port Royal Rd, Springfield, VA
22151

Please RSVP by emailing
martin.perret@swissclubdc.



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 Club Events for 2024

- Kaffeeklatsch with the SBS
- Bike Ride
- Hike & Winery Tour
- Swiss National Day
- Fall Picnic

April 8, 2024
May 4, 2024
June 23, 2024
July 27, 2024
Fall, 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

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Swiss Embassy Liaison: Annette Moser annette.moser@swissclubdc.org

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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:

Barbara Balman, 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/>

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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.



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WASHINGTON DC



The Swiss Bakery

+ PASTRY SHOP



Swiss Traditions

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