



SWISS PARK

Swiss owned and operated since 1935

AELPLER GRUPPE SWISS CLUB

Founded 1925

NEWSLETTER

Enjoy Reading Our Newsletter Online at

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

Volume XXXIII Issue 1, January-March 2025

2024 Christmas Luncheon



Our 2024 Members Christmas Luncheon was a great way to kick off the holiday season! Attendees arrived to a decorated hall complete with a Christmas tree, poinsettias, and lights. Our volunteers were hard at work in the morning to make the day run smoothly, and we are so grateful for their help.



This year, we had a table set up displaying a few Swiss

cookie recipes and samples for tasting. We encourage you to try out these recipes and bring them next year for dessert! For lunch, we served chicken under a yummy sauce, along with mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls with butter, and a green salad.

Our cookie plates were overflowing thanks to the cookie donations from all of you! They were complete with Anisbrötli, Zimsterne, Mailänderli, Bratzeli, and more.



After lunch, children sang Christmas carols before a visit with Santa, bringing joy and gifts. And for the adults, a raffle drawing was held, with many prizes being distributed throughout the hall.

We also said goodbye to a long-time board member, Rose Satariano who was recruited by Otto Ambiel 13 years ago to be our newsletter editor. She completed 61 editions in her time as editor, with help from her daughter Lauren who joined the team in 2023.



Joining us this year is Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig who will be our new newsletter editor. Our club is excited to welcome her into the position and we thank her for volunteering!

Check out the event's video, produced by Tom Coroneos:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7JMn3yc-3o&t=51s>

Jass
Tournament &
Fondue Dinner
February 23rd



Folklore/ Spring dance
Honoring Bob and Linda Fuchslin
April 13th



Semi-Annual Member's
Meeting May 4th



USS Swiss Kids Camp
June 8th

Save The Dates!

August 2nd
September
12-14

USS Swiss National Day
100th Anniversary
Celebration weekend

September 13

Fall Schwingfest

October 26th

Fall Jass Tournament

November 2nd

Annual Member's Meeting

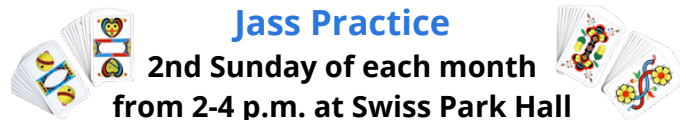
November 8th

Metzgete Dinner

December 6th

Member's Christmas Lunch

Jass Practice



2nd Sunday of each month
from 2-4 p.m. at Swiss Park Hall

Interested in becoming an Aelpler Gruppe
Swiss Club member? Visit our online
application site for more information!

[Aelpler Gruppe Membership](#)

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Facebook page: [AG Facebook](#)



President's Message By Arnold Ambiel

Dear Aelplers,

Welcome to our 100th Anniversary Year! From San Francisco to Newark our club has thrived for 100 years thanks to the hard work and vision of our founders and families. To commemorate, we are hard at work on the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book and anxiously awaiting your submissions. It takes a little effort on your part but you and your families will reap the benefits from years to come...and maybe answer some lingering family history questions along the way.

The hall looks good and some plumbing issues were resolved over the Holidays thanks to Tom, Bob and Herman. New window shades have been installed and we're picking curtains now. Swiss park's Crab Feed is sold out. We are still searching for a new manager and Bob is staying on for the transition. If you have any leads, give us a call.

Join us for Fondue and Jass on Sunday, February 23rd. The Fondue Crew is ready and waiting for you. We expect some special guests who will tie fondue back to its origins in the Alps.

Bob and Linda Fuchslin were unanimously chosen to honor at April's Folklore Luncheon. That day we'll also celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Swiss Hall. The Swiss Benevolent Society is our co-sponsor and for those 70 and over, lunch is on them. We hope you'll come.

Rick Steiner has volunteered to be our 100th Anniversary Fest President in September. Thanks Rick! And when he calls, please say yes.

This year's trivia questions will highlight California Swiss: Which opened first: The Golden Gate Bridge, The Bay Bridge or the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Hall? Call/text me the answer to 510-936-2523. No one guessed the correct answer last time. See that question and answer below.

Ich wünsche euch alles Gute,

Arnold

October Trivia question: What's the name of the new train running through the Swiss Alps and what makes it an engineering marvel?

Answer: The GoldenPass Express is a state-of-the-art panoramic train that follows a medieval trade route connecting Interlaken's glaciers to Montreux's terraced vineyards, and thanks to a technological innovation, the GPX allows travellers to take one of the most scenic train routes without transferring, as passengers did previously. It can seamlessly jump between tracks of different gauges and voltages.

Winner: Nobody answered correctly.

Metzgete 2024

Metzgete was a hit this year, with many people showing up to celebrate and eat good food. We were once again joined by the Gruber Family band, who livened up the dance floor. For dinner, attendees had a choice of Bratwurst, Leberwurst, Blutwurst, and Rippli. Served alongside the meat was sauerkraut, potatoes, and bread rolls. We also had a vegetarian option including mushroom bourguignon over polenta.

Thank you to our wonderful servers as well as those who volunteered to set up and take down tables for the event. And of course, a big thank you to our wonderful chefs and musicians. The event couldn't have happened without all of your help.



Check out the video by Tom Coroneos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JLIWOHdtdU>



Jass enthusiasts please come to the Swiss Park Hall and join Aelpler Gruppe Swiss club for our monthly **Jass Get-together**. Meet us on the **2nd Sunday of each month** at Swiss Park from 2 pm to 4 pm. All interested players regardless of skill level or familiarity with the game are welcome.

For more information, please text:
Patricia Schaffarczyk (510) 677-8461
Rick Steiner (201) 359-7604
rrsteiner1@outlook.com

Dates:
February 9th March 9th
April 13th June 8th
July 13th August 10th
October 12th **October 26th- Fall Jass Tournament**
November 9th



Swiss Movie Night event at Swiss Park, Newark

The USSNC Cultural Committee & Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club co-hosted a Swiss Movie Night event at Swiss Park, Newark. Thirty-five people from various clubs attended and enjoyed wine tasting, fine cheese and baked goods courtesy of our generous sponsors.

The film, Master of Cheese, tells the story of the world's best cheesemaker who makes his cheese in a dairy the size of a living room. He knows every cow by name and produces cheese with pure intuition and highlights a powerful model of artisanship and sustainable food production. Special guests included Beat Henzen and Luzia Furrer from the Consulate.



The ESAF Eidgenössisches Schwing-und Älplerfest August 29-31st 2025 - Garnerland (see <https://esaf2025.ch> for more info)

Congratulations to **Grant Widmer, Connor Treat** and **Brenden Spahr!** They have been awarded the first three WCSWA spots for the 2025 Eidgenössisches Schwing-und Älplerfest in Glarnerland in August. This will be Grant and Conner's second trip and Brenden's first trip to the Eidg.

The 4th WCSWA spot will be awarded based on the results from the Imperial Valley (April 5th) and the Tillamook Schwingfest (May 17th) The top finisher from this pool at both Schwingfests will receive this last spot for the 2025 Eidgenössisches Schwing-und Älplerfest.

Those competing will be Patrick Richardson, Steven Widmer, Peter Ming and Marshall Brockway. We wish them luck, and this shall be interesting Schwingfests for all those who attend.



Swiss Park Manager

Our long time and top-notch Swiss Park Manager, Bob Fuchslin, has decided it's time to retire and step back from his daily involvement of managing the bar, hall, and park at the end of this year.



The Swiss Park Board of Directors are reaching out to anyone that would be interested in taking on the role of Swiss Park Manager. If interested, please contact Tom Imholz @ [510-517-8312](tel:510-517-8312), any member of the Swiss Park or Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors, or by email to aelplergruppe@gmail.com

AELPLER GRUPPE'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY & FALL SCHWINGFEST

September 12-14, 2025 at Swiss Park, Newark.

Please consider working with us on planning this large event in a leadership role or by being on one of the following teams:

Wrestling Chair, Volunteer Chair, Event Program, Entertainment, Transportation from other clubs & Food Chair

It takes a village - please let us know which area you'd like to help with!

Please join us for this special event! More details and updates will follow.



To volunteer as a chairperson or to be on a committee, please contact Rick Steiner at (201) 359-7604 or rrsteiner1@outlook.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To our club members over 70 that are celebrating their birthdays between January and March of this year!

Robert F.	Linda S.	Marilyn M.
Ernst H.	Walter S.	Bob O.
James K.	Patricia S.	Gene R.
Herb M.	Lynn V.	Margrith R.
Mary M.	Kathleen Z.	David R.
Robert W.		



Membership Dues

Social members, please send in your dues! Fee increases after March 31st.



WELCOME NEW SOCIAL MEMBERS

Sabine Kamm

Alec Rungger

Cindy Scheiber

Aelpier Gruppe 2025 Calendar of Events
www.facebook.com/aelpiergruppesswissclub

2025 Events:

February 23rd Jass Tournament & Fondue Dinner
 April 13th Folklore/ Spring dance
 May 4th Semi-Annual Member's Meeting
 June 8th USS Swiss Kids Camp
 August 2nd USS Swiss National Day
September 12-14 100th Anniversary Weekend
 September 13th Fall Schwingfest
 October 26th Fall Jass Tournament
 November 2nd Annual Member's Meeting
 November 8th Metzgete Dinner
 December 6th Member's Christmas Lunch



United Swiss Societies
 Diane Wagner, President 510-582-0698
www.unitedswissnorcal.org

Peninsula Swiss Club
 Contact: Erich Sonnberger 650-505-9802
esonberger@interorealestate.com
www.peninsulaswissclub.com

Swiss Consulate General, Balz Abplanalp
 Pier 17, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94111
 Phone: 415-788-2272
www.eda.admin.ch/sanfrancisco

Contact information for **Western US Swiss Clubs:**
 Visit the Swiss Consulate General's website:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/usa/en/home/living-in/clubs.html>

Swiss Rifle Club Events
 Contact: Stephen Hurst at (831) 927-9296
 E-Mail: carmelgunclub@outlook.com
 More information at: www.carmelgunclub.com



SWISS PARK 2025 EVENTS
 5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark 510-793-6272
www.swissparknewark.com

Monday Nights- Lov Bingo



SJVSC, Ripon 2025 Calendar of Events
www.sjvscripsonswiss.com Chris Portmann, President

February 22 Almond Blossom Dance
 April 12th Swiss Echoes Concert/ Dinner
 June 7th Spring Schwingfest
 June 28th Swiss Kids Camp
 July 26th Swiss National Day Celebration
 October 4th Oktoberfest
 September 6th Fall Schwingfest
 November 15th Swiss Echoes Concert/ Dinner
 December 7th Children's Christmas Party

Sierra Swiss Club Calendar
 Contact: Urs Gwerder 530-587-8316
Sierraswissclub.org

Pro Ticino
<http://www.proticino.ch/>

West Coast Swiss Wrestling Association Board
 Board President – Arnold Ambiel
 Vice President – Urs Gwerder
 Treasurer – Don Widmer
 Secretary – Chris Schallberger

West Coast Schwingfests are online at
<http://schlussgang.ch/>

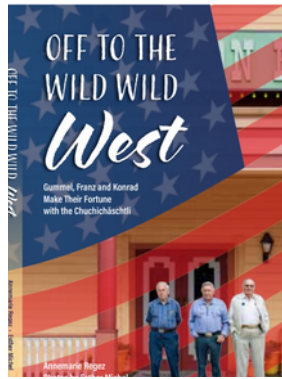
March 8	Schwinger Dinner	SJVSC, Ripon
April 5	Annual Schwingfest & Outsiders BBQ	Imperial Valley Swiss Club, Holtville
May 17	Schwingfest	Tillamook Swiss Club, Tillamook, OR
June 7	Spring Schwingfest	SJVSC, Ripon
June 21	Schwingfest	San Diego County Swiss Club, Chula Vista
June 28	Spring Schwingfest	Tacoma Swiss Club, Bonney Lake, WA
July 4-6	Schwingfest Weekend	Lewis Pacific Swiss Club, Frances, WA
July 19	Schwingfest	Sierra Swiss Club, Truckee
August 2	Schwingfest	Portland Swiss Club, Portland, OR
August 9	Schwingfest Weekend	Tacoma Swiss Club, Bonney Lake, WA
Sept. 6	Fall Schwingfest	SJVSC, Ripon
Sept. 13	Fall Schwingfest/ WCSWA Championship	Aelpier Gruppe Swiss Club, Newark

For other updates go to:
<https://esv.ch/> <https://schlussgang.ch/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/luttesuisse/>

Steinstossen:
www.steinstossen.ch

For Swiss events in the USA and Swiss news, check out:
<https://swissimpactusa.com/>

Emigration! Three Swiss Living the American Dream: The Story of a Lifelong Friendship.



In the mid-1950s, three adventurous Swiss men from the narrow confines of central Switzerland set off on a journey to the land of unlimited possibilities. Franz Auf der Maur, Konrad Rickenbach and Franz (Gummel) Schmidig found themselves in California. With some luck and by dint of hard work, the three of them became prosperous selling "Chuchichäschtl" (from Swiss German: "kitchen cabinets") from their shop. Their closely interwoven life stories are characterized by their common Swiss origins and an extraordinary friendship.

The book will still be for sale at our next events, or you can go to aelplergruppe.com to find the ordering form and we will ship it directly to you.



Whom to contact when a Swiss Club member is deceased:
Please e-mail our club at aelplergruppe@gmail.com or call 510-936-2523

Passing of individuals in the greater Swiss community:
David Edward Emmenegger, aged 73, passed away peacefully at his California home outside of Clearlake Oaks on December 10th. Dave was a lifelong resident of Oregon, having been born and raised in Tillamook on a dairy farm. The youngest of 5 siblings, Dave was of Swiss heritage with both sets of grandparents coming from Switzerland. His Paternal grandfather was a cheese maker, and his father was a dairy farmer in Tillamook.

Memorial Fund donations can be sent in through the Aelpler Gruppe website:
<https://www.aelplergruppe.com/donations/>
We are grateful for donations to the Memorial Fund to honor members who have passed.

In memory of **Kaspar (Chaschbi) Gander**
Herb & Cindy Gander

In memory of **Victor Tschirky**
Milly Gaehwiler

In memory of **Leo Ott**
Brigitte & Ernst Lehmann
Michelle Ott

In memory of **Rosemary Aufdermaur, Jean Allgauer, Lloyd Harman, Emmely Dittman, Rosemary Tootle, Agnes Duffner, Louis Marchy, Bob Dobbel**
Donation made by Arnold Ambiel

In memory of **Reed Kappen**
Michelle Ott
Arnold Ambiel

In memory of **Reiner Keller**
Milly Gaehwiler

COLONY

Edward L. Ott
President
ed@colonylandscape.com



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Hosts: Steve & Monika Ambiel



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www.ediths-alpenrösli.ch/

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Steven J. Meyer, Artistic Director



Chasa Berggold



Situated just above the lakeside promenade in Brienz, our heritage holiday house has amazing views of the Brienzensee and the alps and is less than a minute walk from the lake. The famous Rotherh Bahn is steps from the house and Ballenberg and Interlaken are nearby too. Entire house sleeps 6 people. Chasa Berggold is the perfect jumping off point to explore the entire Berner Oberland

www.chasaberggold.com



Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club
 at Newark Swiss Park
 5911 Mowry Ave, Newark, CA 94560



Bring your Friends to the

Cheese Fondue Dinner & Jass Card Party

with The Aelpler Gruppe Fondue Crew

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Fondue Dinner served at approximately 4:30 pm

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Children 14 and under - \$5.00; Hot Dogs available for children

Bring your Fondue pot, forks, & lighter if you have them; burner fluid will be provided

There will be a raffle - please bring your raffle donations to the event.

Jass Party check-in begins at 11:45; Jass play starts at 1:00 PM

Refresher/Beginners practice from 12 noon - 1 pm, joining
 the regular games at 1 pm.

Jass Player entry fee \$10.00 - Prizes to be awarded

Please make your reservations by February 11, 2025 by:

mail, using the form below, or by Venmo @Aelpler

For more information email: aelplergruppe@gmail.com or call 510-936-2523



venmo

----- cut here -----

I/we will bring a fondue pot(s): Yes No ** We have a limited number of fondue pots

Reservation(s) for Jass @ \$10.00 ea _____ Reservation(s) for Fondue Dinner @ \$30.00 ea _____

Reservation(s) for Child's hot dog @ \$5.00 ea _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Make check payable to: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

Mail to: Charlene Ott Attn: Fondue Dinner

609 Stardust Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024



***Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club, Inc. and
Swiss Benevolent Society of San Francisco***

Invites you to:

***Swiss Folklore Luncheon & Dance
Honoring Bob & Linda Fuchslin***

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Newark Swiss Park

5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark, CA

(Celebrating it's 90th Anniversary!)

12:00 Noon: No-Host Bar

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Luncheon & Dessert

Bratwurst or Roasted Vegetables over Polenta Cost: \$25.00

**** FREE Meal for Seniors over 70 and Children under 15 ****

Gift Baskets for all Seniors over the age of 90

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Program

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm: Dancing to the Gander-Scheiber Kapelle

Please enter date-of-birth (DOB) for free meals and gift baskets

Check meal preference of Bratwurst (BW) or Roasted Vegetables over Polenta (RV) below

Adult(s)	_____	DOB: _____	BW: _____	RV: _____
Name(s)	_____	DOB: _____	BW: _____	RV: _____
Children:	_____	DOB: _____	BW: _____	RV: _____
	_____	DOB: _____	BW: _____	RV: _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN April 4, 2025

Let us know if you would like to sit with friends and we will try and accommodate your request.

Mail check payable to Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club and reservation form to:

AGSC c/o Charlene Ott, 609 Stardust Lane, Los Altos, CA 94024 or pay via Venmo->

Contact: 510-936-2523 or E-mail aelplergruppe@gmail.com with questions



venmo

**** Send in your reservations early to allow us to make Gift Baskets for those Seniors over 90!**

General Information

Aelpler Gruppe Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors Meeting

Third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Newark Swiss Park unless otherwise notified

Newark Swiss Park Board of Directors

President	Thomas Imholz Jr.
Vice President	Marilyn Ramsell Manchester
Treasurer	Carl Ramsell
Secretary	Susanne Cameron
Assistant Secretary	Herman Betchart

Swiss Park Manager Robert Fuchslin

Newsletter Editor Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
aelplergruppe@gmail.com

Videographer Tom Coroneos

Memorial Fund Chairperson Jackie Zuger

Have you moved?

Please forward your new address to us at aelplergruppe@gmail.com
Thank you.

Officers

Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club Board of Directors for 2025

President	Arnold Ambiel 510-936-2523
1st Vice Pres	Michelle Bauhofer-Ott
2nd Vice Pres	Hugo Reichmuth
Recording Secretary	Monica Ulrich
Corresp. Secretary	Kathi Mathys-Imholz
Treasurer	Margrith Reichmuth
Assistant Treasurer	Charlene Ott
Past President	Kurt Clausen
Director 1 - Music/Historian	Pat Wipfli-Schaffarczyk
Director 2 - Membership	Rick Steiner
Director 3 - Newsletter Editor	Nathalie Mätzler-Schmidig
Director 4 - Historian	Darrell Ramsell
Director 5 - Wrestling	Dominick Reichmuth
Sennenmutter	Heidi Ambiel
Sennenvater	Pete Zuger
USS Delegate	Arnold Ambiel



View the calendar of
upcoming events and
more on our website!

Scan the QR Code to
learn more

Switzerland gears up for driverless transport era

Automated vehicles, which are controlled by software rather than physical drivers, have been given the green light to operate on Swiss roads from March this year. In December 2024, the government approved a new phase in the gradual introduction of driverless vehicles. From March 1, 2025, cars can operate on Swiss motorways using assisted driving systems that allow the vehicle to autonomously steer and control the speed and braking. But drivers must be continuously ready to re-take control if needed. These vehicles will typically be buses, taxis or delivery vans.

The Swiss government has been handing out permits for driverless vehicle tests under strict safety conditions since awarding licenses to Swisscom and Swiss Post in 2015.

Switzerland's 26 cantons will now assume responsibility for coordinating automated transport systems alongside regular vehicle traffic.

It will take many more years before cars without human drivers become a common feature or threaten to overtake the number of conventional vehicles. Part of the reason is that there is still much to be learned about the impact of such technology on the roads before car manufacturers would be willing to bet large on automated cars. Driverless vehicles could also improve public transport, particularly in remote areas, by providing shuttle services to and from train stations, the report predicts. Furthermore, it is hoped that the use of automated driver systems will reduce the number of road accidents caused by human error.

Read the full article at:
<https://www.swissinfo.ch/>

