



*We wish you
and your family
a wonderful
Christmas and
happy times
during this
festive season.*

THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS ABROAD (ASO)

The Council is looking for a new delegate to represent Toronto and the GTA, (as well as Central Canada in case no other delegate is elected for these regions) to be chosen in Spring 2021. As a delegate of the Council of Swiss Abroad, you represent the interests of Swiss expatriates, to voice an opinion on current affairs on behalf of the *Fifth Switzerland*. We invite you to visit the website at <http://osa-canada.com> for a look at the activities of the Canadian delegates. In order to be considered as a delegate, you must meet the following criteria:

- Swiss citizenship holder
- 18 years old or older
- Be registered with the Swiss Consulate
- Able to speak German or French
- Maintain regular contacts with the Swiss community in their represented region
- Be ready to participate, as much as possible, in two yearly meetings of the Council of the Swiss abroad held in Switzerland (tentative due to COVID 19.)

For any questions regarding the role and duties please contact our current delegate, Florence Pasche Guignard at florence@osa-canada.com

If you are interested in applying, please email us at info@swissclubtoronto.ca on how to submit your application. All submissions must be received by January 31, 2021 and must include the following information.

- First and last name
- Home and postal address, with other contact information (including phone number and e-mail)
- Year of birth
- Education
- Employment (current or past profession)
- Linguistic abilities
- Links to the Swiss community (affiliation to an association, etc.);
- A short statement (200 words) of your motivation to become the delegate to the CSA for Ontario (and Central Canada)
- A portrait photo (in high resolution).

Thank you!
Nadia

SWISS CLUB CONTACTS

Board Of Directors

Interim President

Nadia Berger

nadia.berger@swissclubtoronto.ca

Interim Vice President

Charlotte Mariller

charlotte.mariller@swissclubtoronto.ca

Past president

Thomas Guignard

thomas.guignard@swissclubtoronto.ca

Treasurer

Augustin Werner • Tel. 289.423.9077

augustin.werner@swissclubtoronto.ca

Interim Secretary

Simone Höhn

simone.hohn@swissclubtoronto.ca

Tell Tale Editor

Heidy Lawrance • Tel. 416.733.1827

heidy.lawrance@swissclubtoronto.ca

Swiss Club Sections

Amicale Romande

Jean-Marc Velen • Tel. 416.488.6493

jean-marc.velen@swissclubtoronto.ca

Bowling: 5 Pin

Simone Höhn

simone.hohn@swissclubtoronto.ca

Gym Section

Suzi Hubler • Tel. 416.534.5141

suzi.hubler@swissclubtoronto.ca

Jass Section

Albert Lenz • Tel. 905.513.1825

albert.lenz@swissclubtoronto.ca

Men's Section

Arno Sigrist • Tel. 416.493.8025

arno.s@sympatico.ca

Theatre Section

Magdalena Hess • Tel. 905.508.8014

magdalena.h@sympatico.ca

Women's Section

Paula Rico • Tel. 416.652.9067

paulajrico@gmail.com

Swiss Social

Nadia Berger

info@swissclubtoronto.ca

Website and Social Media

Charlotte Mariller

charlotte.mariller@swissclubtoronto.ca

Tell Tale is published 3–4 times per year by Swiss Club Toronto, P.O. Box 823, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2N7

OF INTEREST

SWISS RIFLE CLUB

Hans Christen, President

Tel. 905.584.1268 • ch.fl@sympatico.ca

COUNCIL OF SWISS ABROAD

Florence Pasche Guignard, Toronto

Tel. 647.230.2572 • florence@osa-canada.com

The President's File

Dear members and friends of the Swiss Club,

What a year it has been. None of us could have predicted the situation we all find ourselves in today. I hope that you are all staying healthy, and finding ways to enjoy the little moments in life as we wrap up the year.

Although we haven't been able to hold any of our events in person this year, we have been having regular virtual Swiss Socials every last Thursday of the month, and the Men's Section continues with their Kaffee Klatsch every Monday morning. All are welcome to join! And even though we do not have many events, we are always open to members who would like to volunteer on the board, or contribute to our events (when we're ready!) You are welcome to reach out to me anytime at nadia8berger@gmail.com.

As for events for the rest of this year, our Annual General Meeting will continue to be postponed until further notice. Although we will not have our Fondue event in January 2021, we are hoping that things will be a go for the first of August celebration at the end of July and the Raclette in September. Let's keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

On behalf of the Swiss Club Toronto, I'd like to wish you and your loved ones a very safe and happy holiday. The holiday season will look a little different this year, with the silver-lining to take things slow, and perhaps celebrate with a less hectic close to the year. Whether you are celebrating Christmas or another holiday this season, may you find joy, peace, and love in all that you do, and may we all find opportunity in whatever 2021 has in store.

Nadia Berger

Women's Section

This must be the first time in the existence of the women's section that our most awaited Christmas luncheon at the **St. Georges Golf and Country Club** has to be cancelled. We missed several events the last few months, one of them is the monthly kaffeeklatsch.

Our priority is to stay healthy and safe from this terrible virus and be hopeful that one of these days it will disappear.

All of us on the board send you warm wishes for the upcoming festive season and keep well.

Please note: No membership fees will be collected for 2021.

Until next time.

Paula Rico, your chairperson

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Have you been a member for 30 or more years? Send us an email at nadia8berger@gmail.com and let us know if you would be interested in a free lifetime membership.



We would like to thank Swiss Club member, Marta Eiver, for her donation to the Swiss Club Toronto, in memory of her grandfather Mr. L. Safonov.



Member's Spotlight

For a few months now we have been gathering stories from our dearest members to celebrate our Swiss community!

With that said we have the pleasure of sharing our first stories and highlight, Maggie Hess and Albert Kehrli.

Maggie Hess (in her own words)

I grew up in Maerstetten, Turgau but I always wanted to improve my English language and England seemed too close to Switzerland that is how I arrived in Toronto, Canada in 1984.

At first, my goal was to stay at least one year working as a nanny. I could learn about life and traditions instead of going to school exclusively.

After living in Canada for four years, I joined the Swiss Club. Initially I joined the Young Swiss Dance Group. We had some performances at Caravan, a yearly occurring cultural event, taking place in the summer. Also performing at the First-of-August celebrations, Harborfront Centre in the winter, CNE 1991 and Christmas-Around-the World. A few years later, the dance group was disbanded.

My favorite memory with the Swiss Club was the CNE 1991 as Switzerland was guest country that year.

In 1989, I was asked to help the theatre group, doing the part of the "souffleuse". A role I have been playing ever since, never missing a year.

Every year, I help at the first of August Celebrations. The celebrations at Heritage Farm in Milton was always a highlight for all members and Non-Members of the Swiss Club, with guest musical groups from Switzerland participating or the Canadishly band from Toronto performing.

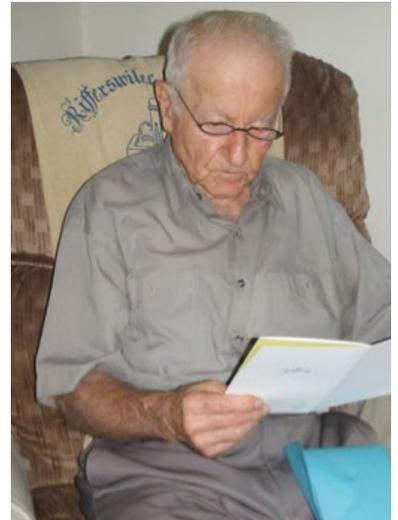
Even if I go back at least once or twice a year to Switzerland the thought has occurred me to move back there. I notice changes back home every time I go, but I think that assimilation would not be a big problem.

I would finish by saying that right now, moving back is not yet an option."

Albert Kehrli

Albert has been a member of the Swiss Club Toronto for many years. In 1954 he, Kurt Suter, and a half dozen fellow Swiss created the Swiss Canadian Club. At that time they rented a facility and held dances to raise money. They later amalgamated with the Swiss Club Toronto.

Albert moved to Canada from Rifferswil in 1950, to see what Canada was like. He used to visit Switzerland annually, and keeps in regular contact with his relatives. Albert currently resides in Richmond Hill.



Men's Section

Come and join us **every Monday morning** from about **10:00 A.M. till Noon** for a ZOOM Kaffi Klatch. It's not the same as the real thing of course, but we still have a lot of fun and we often have more participants than we usually had at the Lindt Chocolate Store, at the Bayview Village Shopping Centre.

Sorry, due to COVID 19, there was no **Raclette** at the Simeon Park in September. It was cancelled like most other events of the Swiss Club.

I also couldn't reserve the library for our usual **November Swiss Movie Matinée**, Maybe just as well, I wouldn't have wanted to be responsible for possibly spreading the virus around.

I actually had an interesting movie to show, but it will have to wait for next year.

On Friday, December 4, the reservation for our **Christmas Lunch** at the St. Georges Golf and Country Club, is still confirmed, but with the current COVID restrictions, the best

we can hope for is, that our **AGM and Lunch** scheduled for January 21, 2021 might happen? Time will tell.

If any unexpected events should come up, I will let you all know by email or telephone.

MEMORABLE BIRTHDAYS

Freddy Wenger will be 75 on December 17

Otto Bertschmann will be 92 on December 28

Freddy Kern will be 90 on February 7

Meinrad Meerkamper will be 85 on February 29 or on March 1!

Many happy returns and continued good health to you all!

As this is the last *Tell Tale* of the year, I would like to wish everybody a Very Merry Christmas and a good slide into a Happy New Year!

Arno Sigrist

Theatre Group Report

Look back to 2020

The year 2020 has almost come to an end. For some people it flew just by, for some others it seemed twice as long.

Under normal circumstances our **Swiss Theatre Group of Toronto** would soon be selecting a new play for the upcoming season.

As we all know, due to COVID 19, 2020 didn't play out as planned for all of us.

Earlier this year we were rehearsing the play *In Himmel waend alli*. In the middle of March we stopped practising, postponing all performances to spring 2021.

More than half a year has since passed and COVID 19 is still with us. It would be foolish to already plan for the upcoming season, as we can't have large group gatherings yet. As a group we came to the conclusion that there won't be a play in 2021 either.

In 2019 we celebrated 50 years **Theatre Group Toronto** with the play *Im Meister sini Geister*. We performed in Wellesley and Toronto. In both places the attendance was higher than the years before.

It helped that we played on Sunday afternoon, it brought older and younger members together. Most of the players are seasoned pros, some having worked with



the group for almost 40 years. Over the last 10 years it has become increasingly more difficult to attract players who were equally enthusiastic and committed for about four months each winter to practising twice a week and travelling long distances.

Together we built a nice social circle which kept our Swiss traditions and different German dialects alive.

We hope, that in the future, some normalcy, as we remember, will return. We look forward to meeting again in person in 2021.

I wish you and your family a happy holiday season and all the best for the new year.

Maggie Hess, theatre group

JASS 2019-2020

Award Presentation

On April 8, 2020, we were supposed to have our Jass Luncheon with Awards Presentation. However COVID 19 made it impossible to get together and have a fun afternoon with lots of prizes for our winners and socialize one more time at the end of the season.

I would like to thank all the players for participating again this year.

A special *Thank You* goes to all our sponsors, corporate as well as private within our membership, for their support.

And finally, we also would like to thank the Swiss Club Toronto for their support. We appreciate their generosity by advocating membership in the Swiss Club.

I am writing this at the end of September at a time, we were usually looking forward to start another season of companionship, while enjoying a few JASS games with our friends.

We are still hoping for an end to this unusual life we are forced to lead. A second wave has arrived and we can still not



make any plans for the near future. I hope and wish that all of you and your family and friends are making it through these times and don't lose hope. Better times will come again.

Below are listed the most outstanding players of the past season:

MAKEUP WINNER: Trudi Huber

Followed by: Ruth Lenz and Jeani Zuend

OVERALL WINNER: Heidy Lawrance

Followed by: Robert Furger, Brigitte Smith, Sepp Odermatt, Trudy Huber, Anneliese Martin and Jeani Zuend

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNER: Silvia Koller

Followed by: Anneliese Martin, Elisabeth Walder, and Walter Egger.

CHOSEN PARTNER WINNERS: Heidy Lawrance and Ruth Lenz

Followed by: Sepp Odermatt and Brigitte Smith, Miggi Marbach and Daniela Kasper.

HANDICAP PARTNER WINNER: Jeani Zuend

Followed by: Heidy Lawrance, Robert Furger and Ruth Lenz

Congratulations to all!

With the Best Wishes...until we meet again!

Albert Lenz, Chairman