



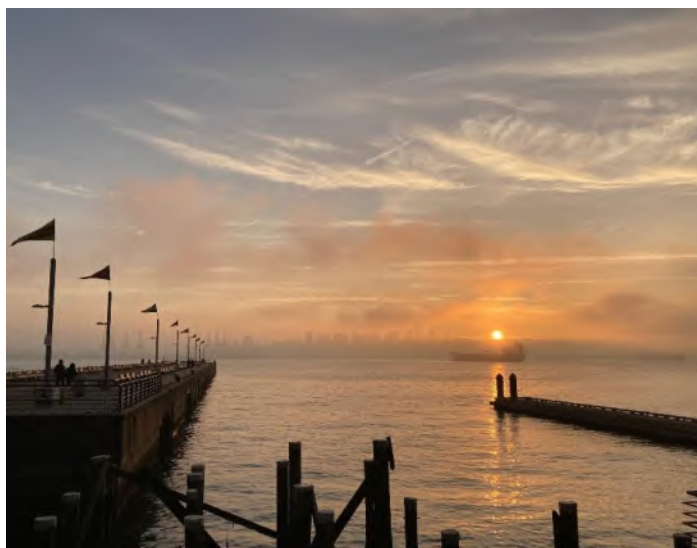
SWISS HERALD

September/October 2023 Edition

Swiss Society of Vancouver
P.O.Box 32021 Walnut Grove
Langley, BC V1M 2M3

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November 2022 evening at the Pier in North Vancouver
Ch.Llps

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:

The Celebration of the Swiss Society's 75th Birthday on Saturday, November 25, 2023 has been cancelled due to a lack of volunteers!



We will have a Birthday cake
(a different one than the one on the photo)
at our Seniors' Luncheon
Saturday December 9th, 2023

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

July 29th, 2023

It was a fantastic day at the Mountain Range: Blue sky, not too hot but warm enough to drink lots of beer, and hardly any bugs! The tasty sausages with potato-salad and the Crèmeschnitte or Nussgipfel added even more to the great atmosphere.

There were so many volunteers, from the Mountain Range Association and from the Swiss Society, that made the event a great success. A big thank you to **Elisabeth Rechsteiner and Dan Meier** for organizing all the volunteers and **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** of them for helping out.

Here are some photos I took, but I'm sure there are many more around.

Christina Lips



Andrea Flukiger (Choir President) and Susanne Wilson (Membership) Board Members of the SSV



Selling food/drink tickets kept volunteers very busy



Elisabeth Rechsteiner and Husband at the BBQ



Two of the special guests:
Consul Silvana Renggli, who attended her second Swiss National Day at the Mountain Range.
Consul General Andreas Rufer, who has left Vancouver by now to work in Oslo. Thank you for being here in BC during the challenging Covid Time and doing lots of duties the past four years. Good luck and lots of fun and joy in Norway!

Two very proud and devoted grandmas



**This year's entertaining band:
Silverstars**

They had a wide variety of music and played many popular pieces.

The temporary drummer of the the Dorfmusik spontaneously joined them. Bob Mullet has been the Conductor of the Richmond Concert Band since 45 years and plays many different instruments.



After a few years of absence the Vancouver Dorfmusik was there again and performed some waltzes, polkas, marches and even a version of "Edelweiss".

Conductor for many years:
Gordon Koch

Karin Kapp (former SSV President and now Advisor) and her son James volunteer at the BBQ.

Photo provided by Karin Kapp



The Choir of the Swiss Society Vancouver is an important part of the National Day Celebrations and its performance encouraged many other people to sing.

NEW: If you are a member of the SSV you can join the choir for free without having to pay extra fees!



The Highlight of many kids and those young at heart: The Lampion-Umzug.



Photo by Karin Kapp



CHOIR REPORT written by the President Andrea Flukiger

Chanting, vocalizing, carolling, crooning, warbling, humming, trilling, serenading, yodeling it all comes down to **SINGING. (it even includes GIN)**

.....and just like that summer is almost over. September sees us resuming our weekly choir rehearsals.

This year we started our fall season under the leading hand of a substitute conductor. H.Belluz is the musical director of the Austria Vancouver Club Melody Choir and will cover for Dubravko Pajalic while he is away.

During our summer break we only came together once to sing at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range in celebration of Switzerland's Birthday, same as the year before. Dubravko put together a little booklet with Volkslieder for a sing along. Quite a few people from the audience took a copy and joined us in singing.

As always, if you would like to join the choir, please do so or spread the word.

All voices welcome.

No need to be Swiss.

No auditions necessary.

Rehearsals are Thursday evenings 7 - 9 pm at the All Saints Anglican Church on 7405 Royal Oak Street in Burnaby.

You can reach us under
vancouverwisschoir1966@gmail.com
Or phone Rolf Brulhart:
604-710-7653 / 604-224-6718



SENIORS' REPORT

Filmnachmittag



The next Filmnachmittag will take place on
Sunday, October 15th, 2023

Location: **Martin Luther Church**
Address: **505 East 46th Ave, Vancouver**
Time: **1:30 - 4:30 pm**

Please register by the Monday before by calling
Veronika Sans at 604-730-9781 (or Susanne Wilson 778-908-5906)

If you want to donate some baking, please let Susanne Wilson know a few days before
by calling her at 778-908-5906

Next Filmnachmittag: Sunday Nov. 19. 1:30pm - 4:30pm

12 MUST-WATCH SWISS MOVIES

A PORTAL TO SWISS CULTURE by VLERA HAXHIAVDYLI from
<https://studyinginswitzerland.com/swiss-movies/>

Movies are the perfect way to immerse yourself in a culture, be it if you are looking to learn a new language or just get a glimpse of life through a country's perspective. We have listed below some of the best Swiss films that are worth watching to get a feel not only of Switzerland but also of some interesting universal themes and issues that they address.

Heidi – 2015

Johanna Spyri's Heidi is a popular and unique character in **Swiss culture**, so it is to no surprise that she appears in many film adaptations that visualize her beautiful story. However, this 2015 adaptation by the Swiss director Alain Gsponer is particularly special due to its authentic yet contemporary portrayal. The movie is in Swiss German and follows the novel's original plotline of the orphaned Swiss girl, full of character and life, who eventually finds happiness in the **Alpine regions of Switzerland**. With its combination of vivid characters and the majestic scenery of the Alps, Heidi is the perfect feel-good movie.

Die Schweizermacher (The Swissmakers) – 1978

Filmed in 1978, this Rolf Lussy comedy remains one of the most successful Swiss movies. The story satirizes the lives of foreigners in Switzerland, their struggles, and the bureaucracy behind the tedious process of obtaining Swiss citizenship. The Swiss-German film perfectly depicts Swiss stereotypes, culture, and the country's strengths and weaknesses, all tied together with humorous exaggeration and situational comedy.

Uli der Knecht (Uli the Farmhand) – 1954

Uli der Knecht is a 1954 Swiss romantic comedy directed by Franz Schnyder, adapted from the 1841 novel with the same title. The film is a story of the reformation of the main character, Uli, who is a careless and headstrong farmhand with a bad reputation. Uli der Knecht is in **Swiss German**, a perfect chance to spruce up your language skills.

Grounding – The Last Days of Swissair – 2006

In **October of 2001**, the Swiss airline company Swissair collapsed with a debt of 17 billion **Swiss francs**, forcing the grounding of all their flights worldwide. The informative and emotional film portrays this event's debacle and the consequences after the failure of what was considered one of Switzerland's national emblems.

Fögi Is a Bastard (F. Est un Salaud) – 1998

Fögi Is a Bastard is a 1998 French/Swiss drama filmed in **Zürich**. The movie is about a dysfunctional love story of fifteen-year-old Beni, with rock band singer Fögi. Fögi's drug use pulls Beni into a dark web of the intense and depressing life of addiction, making such for a film well-titled. This movie's portrayal of the 70's punk rock scene, addiction, and teenage love is an emotional and unique narrative that is a worthwhile watch.

Journey of Hope – 1990

Switzerland's postcard views and immigrants' economic success convince Turkish couple Haydar and Meryem to sell their livestock and land towards moving illegally to the promising country. Journey of Hope is a film by Swiss director Xavier Koller and tells the moving story of the hardships these characters encounter on their journey towards Istanbul, Milan, and Switzerland, along with their children. Among other spectacular movies filmed in Switzerland,

this 1990 film is distinguished by its winning title as the Best Foreign Language Film in the 1991 Oscars.

Vitus – 2006

This charming film was the official Swiss entry for the 2006 Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award. Vitus is a gifted 12-year-old boy, a piano prodigy, burdened with the parental pressure of excelling in his talent. The 2006 Fredi M. Murer film is an inspiring film on the boy's journey to pursue his own dreams and new talents with the aid of his grandfather.

Home – 2008

The Swiss-French movie by director Ursula Meier follows Marthe and her family's rural lives near the edge of a deserted highway. A renewed construction on the highway disrupts their sheltered, simplistic lifestyle, and they have to deal with the anxiety it causes. The narration incorporates comedic elements, drama, and an environmental statement, all joined together for an incredible artistic experience.

Sister (L'Enfant d'en Haut) – 2012

Ursula Meier made another great appearance with Sister, a 2012 film that was Switzerland's entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar at the 85th Academy Awards. The drama was based on the director's memories of growing up near a ski resort in Geneva and follows the lives of the twelve-year-old Simon and his older sister Louise. The boy, despite his age, supports himself and his sister by stealing from the foreigners at the ski resort. This critically acclaimed film exploring the complicated familial relationship between the two siblings, as well as two different social classes, is definitely worth watching.

Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000 – 1976

Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000 is a Swiss film by director Alain Tanner released in 1976. The drama inspects the lives of several characters in their 30s as they face the life approaching the social and political tumult brought by the demonstrations and strikes of May 1968 in France. The movie depicts the post-revolutionary confusion of that year and is a masterful critique of the pressures that come with living in capitalistic societies.

My Life As a Courgette (Ma Vie de Courgette) – 2016

My Life As a Courgette is a magnificent 2016 stop motion animation film directed by Claude Barras, which was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Film at the 89th Academy Awards. The film is a story of a nine-year-old boy nicknamed Courgette and his path to gaining trust in the people around him after his mother's disappearance. The film treats the struggles of abandonment and abuse, yet the spirited characters pull through to transmit the universal calling for solidarity through empathy.

Les Petites Fugues – 1979

After 65 years of living a solitary life as a farmhand, Pipe reaches the age of retirement and decides to buy a motorcycle to tour the Swiss countryside. Despite difficult setbacks, he discovers a life he had never known before in his mundane reality. This 1979 Swiss-French comedy of the director Yves Yersin is an uplifting watch that takes you on the characters' journey and adventures along the way.

A Quote from Emil Steinberger

Oft werde Emil gefragt, wie er in seinem Alter noch so aktiv sein könne. «Ich mache keinen Sport, aber das Lachen ist mein Leben. Und Lachen ist Jogging an Ort und Stelle: Das Zwerchfell schüttelt die Organe durch, es gibt eine Sauerstoffdusche.»



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 12th, 2023

Jass-Tournament

at the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range, starting at 1 pm.



Please call Elisabeth Rechsteiner at (604 375-9802) or e-mail at elisabethrechsteiner54@gmail.com if you would like to come to this event, but **not before October 2.**



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RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU

SENIORS' LUNCHEON 2023

Mark the date: Saturday, **December 9th, 2023**
11 am to 3 pm
at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Coquitlam.

More Information in the next Swiss Herald for November/December 2023. All other members younger than 65 and friends or relatives are welcome to join too, but they'll have to pay the full price for the meal.

And we'll celebrate the SSV 75th Birthday by sharing a Birthday cake.

99th CONGRESS OF THE SWISS ABROAD

By Thomas Arn, Delegate of The Swiss Abroad from Western Canada

The 2023 Congress of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad took place in St. Gallen from August 18 to August 20.

This year's themes were the enhancement of participation in the political process and the promotion and perpetuation of Swiss culture abroad. [Congress program](#)

[Swiss around the world call for fairness](#) (Swissinfo, DE, EN, FR, IT)

Canadian delegates in attendance were Thomas Arn, Antoine Belaieff and Philippe Magnenat. Johann Roduit intended to attend but fell ill, and both Sam Oettli and Suzanne Schürmann were unable to attend.



Political participation

Discussions and panels took place around the theme of increasing the political participation of the Swiss Abroad, which remains much lower than in Switzerland. Ideas include providing better information on elections, and consulates encouraging people to register since only 36% of those eligible are registered. We also brought forward the possibility of exploring legislation requiring the Confederation to collect more data about participation and analyze and report periodically on the results. They would then identify ways to increase participation in groups where it is weak, such as among the Swiss Abroad. This type of work is something that Elections Canada and Elections Ontario do routinely.

Antoine Belaieff, delegate for Ontario has been leading the work with Carmen Trochsler from Adelaide, Australia. They will continue this work with the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad.



Antoine and Carmen at the press conference

- Find out how to do it online [here](#), and by sending a form [here](#) – do it very soon in time for the October federal elections!
- Votes and elections in neutral and plain language: [Easyvote](#)

Articles and videos in Swiss media

[Swiss Abroad Congress: 'e-voting isn't enough'](#) (Swissinfo, DE, EN, FR, IT)

[Réunis en congrès, les Suisses de l'étranger veulent davantage de poids politique](#) (RTS)

[Die politische Partizipation der Fünften Schweiz, eine gemeinsame Verantwortung](#)
(Swissinfo, DE, FR, IT)

[Sie wählt mit E-Voting in Adelaide, wer St.Gallen in Bern vertritt: Rheintalerin in Australien engagiert sich für bessere politische Teilhabe der Auslandschweiz](#) (St. Galler Tagblatt) -
[Access without paywall](#)

[Tiefe Wahlbeteiligung der Auslandschweiz](#) (SRF, Tagesschau)

[Svizzeri all'estero soddissatti per il voto elettronico](#) (RSI, article and video)

[Pourquoi il est important, en tant que Suisse de l'étranger, de faire usage de son droit de vote?](#) (Swissinfo, video on Twitter)

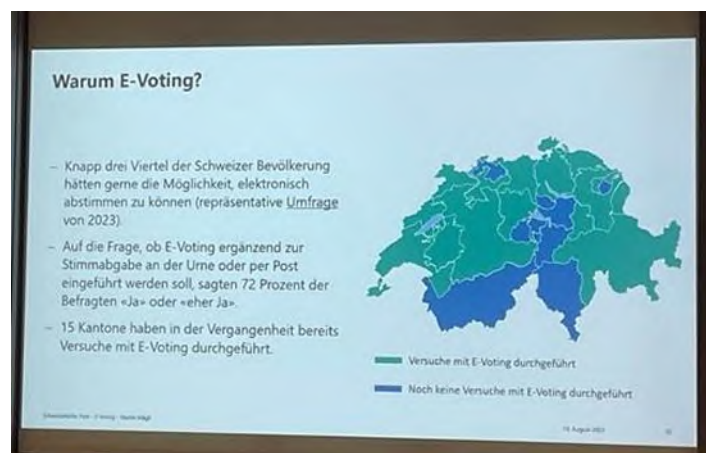
[Philippe Magnenat on the importance of voting and of bringing back e-voting](#)

Wir haben uns am Auslandschweizer-Kongress in St. Gallen unter die Auslandschweizerrät:innen gemischt und sie gefragt, warum sie abstimmen und wählen. (Swissinfo, video on Twitter)

E-voting

E-voting is available for those registered abroad and voting in Thurgau, St. Gallen and Basel Stadt. Graubünden is expected to join soon. To ask your canton to offer e-voting, consider sending a letter. There is a template below, which you can use. Also, keep in mind that the envelope with the necessary codes will still have to be mailed to you. We will have to wait for the e-ID for the information to be also sent electronically.

- [Template letter](#) you can send to your Kanzlei/chancellerie to ask for e-voting



Swiss culture abroad

Johann Roduit, a delegate from Valais who resides near Vancouver, presented his project to save a Swiss village in Golden BC, and presented the idea to create a virtual museum of the Swiss presence abroad.



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We also heard that a foundation is being set up to promote Swiss culture abroad and is already issuing a call for Swiss artists.

- [Swiss Edelweiss Village](#)
- [What exactly is Swiss culture?](#) (Swissinfo, also in DE and FR)
- [‘Digital museum’ aims to preserve heritage of Swiss Abroad](#) (Swissinfo, DE, EN, FR, IT)
- [Recorded video intervention of Johann Roduit during the Congress](#)
- [Foundation aims to attract Swiss artistic talent from around the world](#) (Swissinfo, DE, EN, FR, IT)

Representativeness of the Council

A working group has started analysing how delegates on the Council of the Swiss Abroad are selected and found that often, ordinary Swiss citizens have no influence on the nomination process. This puts in question the representativeness of the Council, meaning how effectively it represents you. A representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs has specifically indicated that the Confederation is concerned about this, expects changes, and will support these changes. Concretely, this may mean that individual Swiss could elect their delegates. Antoine Belaieff is a member of this working group.



Working group members Monique Heymann, Israel; Antoine Belaieff, Canada; Andreas Feller-Ryf, United Kingdom; Tobias Orth, Germany; Noel Frei, Ethiopia.

[Auslandschweizer-Rat: Bern will mehr Repräsentativität](#) (Swissinfo, DE, FR, IT)

“Real members of parliament”

Another group is looking into the possibility of creating a “virtual canton” to allow Swiss Abroad to elect their representatives on the National Council and even perhaps on the Council of States. Italy, for example, has members of parliament representing every area of the world. Currently, we all vote in different cantons. This makes it difficult to make our voice heard. There are huge obstacles to this, beginning with the need to change the constitution.

A new procedure for travelling to Europe

[ETIAS](#) is a new electronic visa waiver process for citizens of countries other than the EU, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Prior to travelling, it will be necessary to register for an authorization and pay a €7 fee. The timeline is not known. What this means:

- To avoid registering for the ETIAS, you will need to travel to the countries above on a Swiss ID card or passport (TBD if it needs to be a passport, or if an ID card is sufficient).
- Any family member who does not have Swiss or European citizenship will need to register for ETIAS. There is an exemption if they have a residence permit in these countries (which does not apply to Canada).

Thomas Arn, British Columbia
 Antoine Belaieff, Ontario
 Sam Oettli, Yukon
 Johann Roduit, British Columbia
 Suzanne Schürmann, Ontario
 Philippe Magnenat, Québec

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