



SWISS HERALD

September/October 2026 Edition

Swiss Society of Vancouver

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Photos from Aio Haeberli: Schaffhausen, also on page 16

New Events for the Swiss Society Senior Members **Monthly Luncheons in different Areas of the Lower Mainland**

First Luncheon: Tuesday, September 15 in North Vancouver

Second Luncheon: Thursday, October 8 in White Rock



**Please read more on
Page 11 & 12**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed our beautiful summer, although we could do with a good downpour of rain! I wish you all a wonderful September and October as we head into our fall season and that you have a chance to enjoy our beautiful autumn colours as you get out and about our city.

FIFA:

Yes, FIFA is now a lovely memory for most of us, but as the last Swiss Herald went to print Switzerland had not yet made it to the round of 16. On July 2nd, Switzerland triumphed over Algeria and then did make it to the round of 16. Earlier in the day, CBC interviewed a group of Swiss fans for their radio broadcast. Thank you to all the Swiss participants who came out early in the morning to support the interview. We also had a friendly photo taken with our Algerian opponents!



As Switzerland had won the game against Canada on June 24th, Switzerland ended up playing a total of 3 games in Vancouver! This was of course great for local Swiss fans and on July 7th, Swiss fans once again met at the Blarney Stone Pub in Gastown for the pre-game festivities, and the subsequent march to BC Place. It was a beautiful sunny day as the march was led by police officers on bicycles and the Swiss fans rang their cowbells, waived their flags and chanted various songs along the way including, of course, "Hopp Schwyz". The red wave of Switzerland was largely out-numbered by the yellow wave of Colombia, but fans from each country intermingled with each other and the atmosphere was positive and amicable along the entire route. The match with Colombia ended in 0-0, and Switzerland was able to come out victorious winning in the shoot-out. Switzerland was now off to the quarter-finals for the first time since 1954!



The quarter-final game between Switzerland and Argentina took place in Kansas City. After a hard-fought game and having to end the game with one man short, Switzerland lost to Argentina 3-1. Congratulations Switzerland for a wonderful FIFA experience for all your fans. FIFA 2026 was a great experience for many of us, and a memory we will cherish for a long time.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY:

This year we were once again able to celebrate our Swiss National Day at the premises of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association in Coquitlam. Our event fell on the actual birthdate of Switzerland, August 1st, which only happens every 6 or 7 years.

We had a wonderful turnout to the event, despite the weather looking very precarious early in the day. As my husband and I arrived at the Chalet on the morning of August 1st, the mountains were fogged in halfway down and one wondered if everyone would show up... and whether or not the helicopter flights would be able to take place. Luckily a few hours later the skies cleared up and we had a beautiful evening with a good turn-out, and the helicopter flights were able to take place.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended the Swiss National Day event, to the SCMRA for opening up their premises once again, to the Dorfmusik, the Choir and the Silver Stars for their music. Most of all, thank you to all the volunteers who came out to make this event possible. Without all of you, such an event could not take place. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

NORTH SHORE LUNCHEON:

I confirm that we will be having a luncheon on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at the Lobby Restaurant at the Pinnacle Hotel in North Vancouver. We will meet at 12:00 noon. Please see separate ad in this issue of the Swiss Herald and make your reservation with Irene Sturzenegger at 778-279-0414 on or before September 10, 2026 if you wish to attend this event.

We are also working on organizing luncheons in other areas of Greater Vancouver to be held later this fall. Look out for further details in the Swiss Herald.

FILM-NACHMITTAG:

Our Sunday afternoon film events will begin again in October. Please see the separate ad in this issue of the Swiss Herald and give Elisabeth Schupbach a call at (604) 584-3742 if you would like to attend, and also let her know if you are bringing any goodies/baking to the event.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our future events. In the meantime, take care and enjoy our fall season!

Elisabeth Rechsteiner at (604) 375-9802
elisabethrechsteiner54@gmail.com

SWISS NATIONAL DAY 1. AUGUST 2026

See below an email we received by Board Member, Irene Sturzenegger, from one of our guests at the Swiss National Day event:

Hi Irene,

I am compelled to write to you about what a great event the August 1 party at the chalet was for both Werner and me. Since you are on the Committee - congratulations to all of you, and thank you to all the incredible volunteers who make this event affordable for the families. Everything was impeccably organized, from the parking attendants, ticket collectors, food, drinks, to the flowers on the tables, and the music. We enjoyed the Dorfmusik, the Alphorns, and the Swiss choir. The 3-man band was over-the-top outstanding. We enjoyed it so much, we stayed to the end to listen to this wonderful band. We also loved the lantern parade, even though we did not have the kids with us this time.

This event is so casually, perfectly organized, that you don't even feel the "machine" behind it. It all flows seemingly effortlessly, the way a professionally organized event should be.

Feel free to pass this on to whoever was involved in doing the work. A big thank you to all who make this possible year after year.

Gerda Koch, North Vancouver



Some people came with their tents or mobile homes to stay over night. The weather was cooperating and ended up being great.



Photos are from the board members of the Swiss Society.

The children's games were well organized, and the children participated with enthusiasm.



A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL THE MANY VOLUNTEERS!



There were lots of volunteers from the SCMRA and the SSV who spent many hours before, during and after the celebration. That's why it was such a great event. Unfortunately there are not pictures from all the 80 or more people who donated their spare time.



The Silver Stars and the Vancouver Dorfmusik entertained a big crowd.



The Choir joined the Dorfmusik for the National Anthems and then sang some songs from their FIFA Performance in June/July.

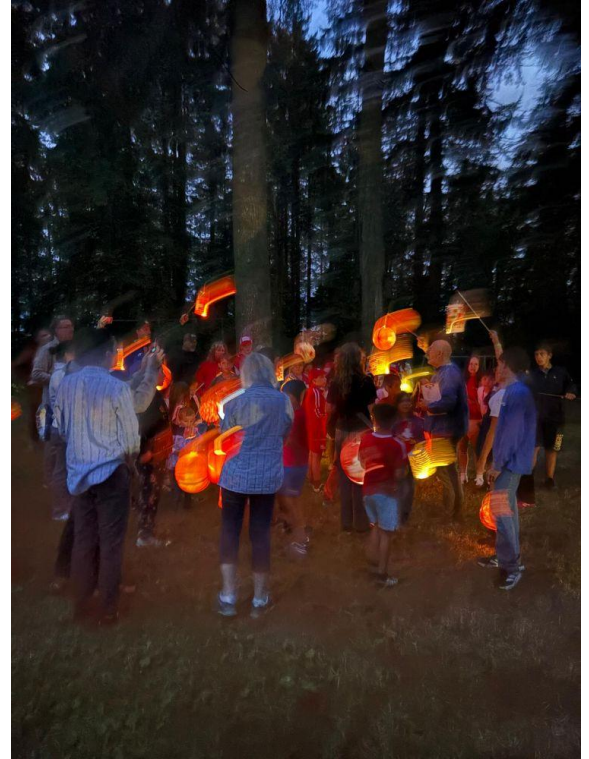
Our Consul General Thomas Schneider gave an interesting and thoughtful speech. The presidents of the Swiss Canadian Mountain Range Association Rene Zollinger as well as Elisabeth Rechsteiner from the Swiss Society in Vancouver spoke to the audience.





Consul General Thomas Schneider and his wife, Elisabeth Rechsteiner and Rene Zollinger

The lantern-parade was one of the highlights of this annual party.



CHOIR NEWS

Written by the Choir President Theresa Weltzin

“Vancouver Swiss Choir begins rehearsals on Friday, September 4th, 2026!

Do you like to sing? Does singing with others in harmony feed your soul? We rehearse every Friday at **All Saints Anglican church at 7405 Royal Oak in Burnaby from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

We are conducted by a professional music director and often socialize for coffee and treats afterwards. Some think that is the best part! We will be performing on **October 24th and November 21st** and other dates as requests come in.

Please contact **Theresa at 604-788-4973** or by email: swisschoir@swiss-society.org if you are interested and want to know more.”

SENIORS' CORNER

The next **Filmnachmittag** will take place on

Sunday, October 18, 2026

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Next Film Nachmittage Datum:

November 15, 2026

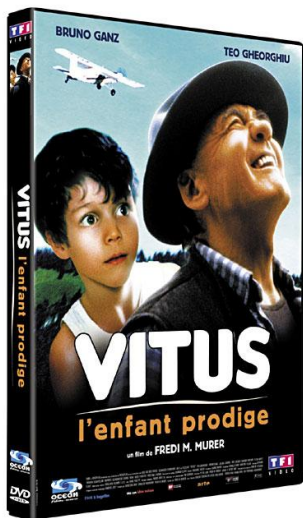
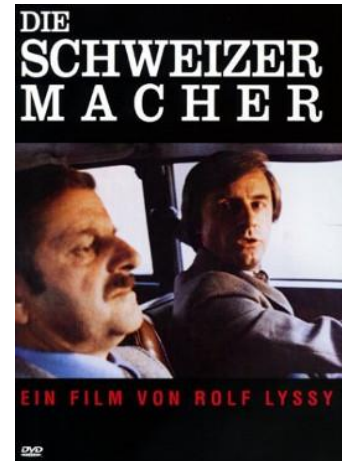
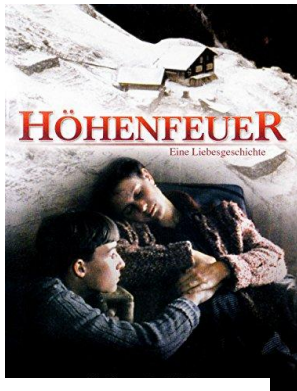
Location: **Martin Luther Church**

Address: **505 East 46th Ave, Vancouver**

Please register by the Monday before by calling

Elisabeth Schupbach 604-584-3742.

If you want to donate some baking, please let **Elisabeth Schupbach** know.



FIRST SWISS MONTHLY LUNCH FOR SENIORS

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 12 noon

THE LOBBY RESTAURANT

At the Pinnacle Hotel

138 Victory Ship Way
(bottom of Lonsdale Ave.)
North Vancouver, BC V7L 0B1

Website: lobbyrestaurant.ca

Phone #: 604-265-7410



We invite all Swiss Seniors of the Swiss Society, bring your spouse or bring a friend - we plan to have a few hours of fun and good food with socializing!!

Each member of the SSV will get \$10 paid towards his/her costs from the SSV.

Please make a reservation by email at:

Irenesturz22@gmail.com

Or call 778-279-0414

Deadline : September 10th, 2026

HOW TO GET THERE:

BY CAR: no problem, there is parking in the Hotel; you have to buy a ticket at the machine in the lobby of the Hotel, keep the ticket, when you pay your bill part of the fee will be deducted!

BY BUS OR SEABUS:

Take any bus that takes you to the Seabus Terminal at Lonsdale Quai and you walk to Lonsdale to the Pinnacle Hotel right there on the bottom, just north of Tap & Barrel Pub.

WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON AND LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL TO OUR **FIRST SENIORS LUNCH!**

Any Questions: please write to: **irenesturz22@gmail.com**. or call **778-279-0414**

Looking forward to seeing you there!!

Irene Sturzenegger



SECOND SWISS MONTHLY LUNCH FOR SENIORS

October 8, 2026 Thursday at 11:30 am

ULI'S RESTAURANT

15023 Marine Drive

White Rock, BC V4B 1C3

Website: ulisrestaurant.com

Phone#: 604-538-9373



You are invited to lunch with other Swiss Senior members, connect, socialize, share memories and good food in an Oktoberfest atmosphere!

Feel free to bring Friends, Family or Neighbours to this joyous event.

Each member of the SSV will get \$10 paid towards his/her costs from the SSV.

Photo is not from Uli's Restaurant

Please make a reservation by calling

Silvia Fassler 604-541-6010. Please leave a message if your call is not answered.

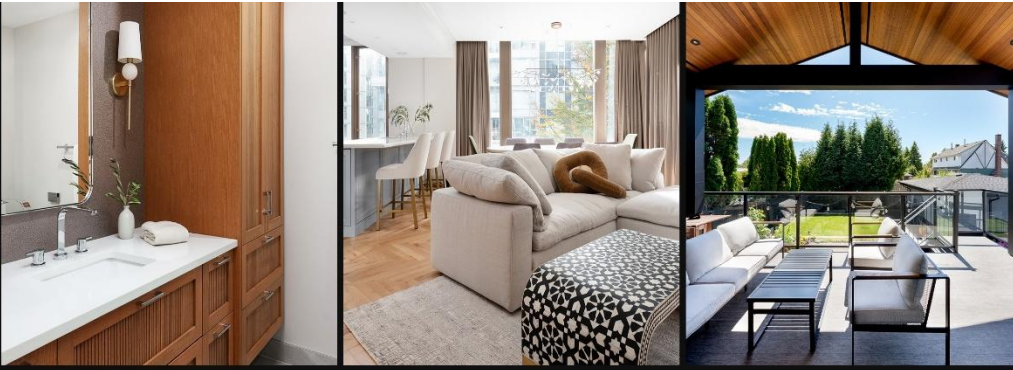
Deadline: Friday, October 2nd, 2026





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FEES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SWISS HERALD

Fees for design:

To make minor adjustments: **Free**

To make major changes to an ad: \$ 25

To create a new ad: \$ 50 – 100

Fees for advertisement:

Ad Size	One Issue	Six Issues
One full page	\$ 150	\$ 825
½ Page	\$ 90	\$ 495
1/3 Page	\$ 60	\$ 330
¼ Page	\$ 40	\$ 220
Business Card (5 Line	\$ 20	\$ 110

Deadlines for sending in ads or articles:

20th of August, October, December,
February, April and Ju



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RESULTS THAT MOVE YOU

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

Date	What kind of event	Where
Tuesday, Sept. 15	Seniors' Lunch	The Lobby Restaurant, N-Vancouver
Thursday, Oct. 8	2. Seniors' Lunch	Uli's Restaurant, White Rock
Sun, Oct. 18	Filmnachmittag	Martin Luther Church
Sun, Nov. 15	Filmnachmittag	Martin Luther Church
Nov. 21	Choir Concert	All Saints' Anglican Church, Burnaby
Nov. ?	Filmnachmittag	
Sunday, Dec. 6	Christmas Luncheon	Double Tree by Hilton
Sunday, Dec. 13	Waldweihnacht	Mountain Range Coquitlam



Dear Swiss Patriots.

First, warm greetings from faraway Auckland New Zealand.

My name is Kurt Hirzel, born in Bern and as a six-year-old put under guardianship and Placed into a farmer's family as a foster boy , educated and grew up. As a young man and Free; I immigrated to New Zealand and lived there ever since. Now I am an old patriotic Auslandschweizer with a lot of time on hand to write my Memoir as a legacy for my family.

I have published two books. "The Foster Boy" and "The Swiss Kiwi". Also available translated in German and available from **Amazon Canada**.

"The Foster Boy" is the story of my upbringing and life of the first twenty years of my youth. An enlightening read for young adult to learn of past time in Switzerland and for the older Generation to awake past memories.

"The Swiss Kiwi" is my experience as an immigrant to New Zealand, learning to become a Kiwi and not loosing the Swiss identity. This is a story a lot of Swiss abroad will identify with, Having a foot in two camps.

You can check it out and have a sample read on Amazon under Biography, just simply Type Kurt Hirzel and the book Titel in the book search.

I hope I was not too intrusive in making you aware of my books. A Swiss story to read, living Abroad, could be a nice change.

A note from the editor Christina Lips:

I'm reading the book right now and it is fascinating and interesting. After reading 1 or 2 pages I was wondering if Kurt Hirzel's book has ever been edited.

Then I noticed the Note from the Author in the front of the book. He writes:

" I am Swiss born and my native language is Swiss German with a Bernese accent but educated in the German language. Now I am a naturalized New Zealander, and my English is self-taught.

You may find spelling errors and incorrect grammar in this book. For that I apologize. On purpose I did not get my writing edited and glossed over to keep my story pure and natural and not being just a translation into English.

I hope you enjoy reading this book warts and all and anticipating the sequel The Swiss Kiwi."

If you are an English Teacher or if it bothers you when you see spelling-or grammatical mistakes, don't buy the book.

If you like humor and can tolerate Swinglish writing, you should buy/read the book. It's worth it.

Christina Lips

"Snails are our speciality", the head waiter of a Bernese restaurant informed the guest. " I know, I was served by one yesterday!"

"Waiter, there's a fly in my soup!"

"Not for long, sir. Look at the spider sitting on the rim of the plate!"

A Swiss was complaining about the whole family constantly watching television:

"My daughters never miss any of the films, so they don't do their homework. My wife would much rather watch "Dallas" or "Dynasty" than get on with her housework. I swear that as soon as the World Cup is over I'll unplug the set!"

From the book: Tell Me a Swiss Joke! 1987 by Benteli Publishers Berne

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Elisabeth Rechsteiner	president@swiss-society.org	
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Advisor	Walter Humbel	ewhumbel@yahoo.com	778-997-9951
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