

# z'Chuchichäschtl

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## President's Message

Dear friends and fellow members of the Swiss Society of Boston,

We had a wonderful 1st of August Celebration this summer. So many of you came out to Harvard and enjoyed a great day at the home of the Warren family. We even made the online versions of the 'Tagesanzeiger' and the 'Basler Zeitung' thanks to Ueli Suter who promptly submitted text and photos.

This year also marked the 50th anniversary of the 1st of August Celebration at the Warren's – and sadly the conclusion of it. A very special "thank you" from all of us to the Warren family for hosting us for so many great years.

For 2012 we are looking for a new location. If you have the space for parking, a few tents, soccer and games space, and are able to put up 200-300 guests for a day, contact me or any board member.

You will find a few photos of the Spring Outing, the Raclette Picnic and the Fall Hike in this issue.

Also featured is an article about financial planning when crossing borders, a talk held at swissnex earlier this year which was relevant to so many of us.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your calendars—Samichlaus will visit again this year at the All Newton Music School on December 4.

As always new ideas and suggestions for future events and outings are very welcome! Again many thanks to all who help at our events, pass on compliments or criticisms and participate in the activities we offer. We are always looking for dedicated people with a little time to join the board or volunteer for an event. I promise, this is more fun than work!



Yours,  
*Christine Whitebread*

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### Welcome! New SSOB Members

**George and Karin Arnold**  
*Lexington, MA*

**Yanitzia & Diego Mansilla Canetti**  
*North Andover, MA*

**Thomas Cushman**  
*Aiken, SC*

**Jacque & Claudia Schusterbauer Donze**  
*Brookline, MA*

**Brigitte Falke-Buhler**  
*Union, CT*

**Rolf and Tanja Fischer**  
*Stow, MA*

**William and Corine Haener Haggard**  
*Arlington, MA*

**Yasmine and James Brian Haley**  
*Quincy, MA*

**Erin and Adrian Huesler**  
*Middleton, MA*

**Kaspar Loeffel**  
*Cambridge, MA*

**John Moresi**  
*North Adams, MA*

**Andrin and Frederique Oswald**  
*Wellesley, MA*

**Denise Robbi-Arena**  
*Natick, MA*

**Andreas and Geovanna Rufer**  
*Cambridge, MA*

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**Welcome to our New Board Member: Marco Perruchi**

I was born in Rome to parents originally from Lugano and Sion in Switzerland. I grew up in Rome, attending the Swiss School of Rome through high school. We spoke French at home, and German was the primary language in school; however, Italian became my predominant language and I still consider it my native language.

After completing a degree in Electro Technical Engineering at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, I briefly worked at the University as a research engineer and then moved to San Diego to study English. During my two years there I enrolled in an MBA program, which I eventually transferred and completed at Boston College, in an attempt to be closer to Europe.

Subsequent to my studies in Boston, I worked as a project manager for a client server software company. Over the years my work experience changed its focus from classic client server application development to web-enabled systems and applications, which led me to work in the interactive advertising field. I have been working for Beam Interactive (an advertising agency) as technology director for the past seven years.

I am happily married and we have two wonderful young kids. Sophia, my oldest one, has started school this September while Francesco still has a couple more years to go before school. Whenever the weather permits I love to spend my free time with family and friends on day trips and outdoor outings.

*Marco Perucchi*

*New Members, continued on from page 1*

**Caleb and Jessica Sainsbury**  
*Arlington, MA*

**Florence Schelling**  
*Boston, MA*

**Nathanael Seiler**  
*Chelsea, MA*

**Heidi Sonnen**  
*Somers, CT*

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*Wellesley, MA*

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*Wellesley, MA*

**Holly and Patrick Duport Williamson**  
*Needham, MA*

**Fabian and Selina Winter**  
*Waltham, MA*

**Marsha Wyrsh**  
*Riverside, RI*

**Matthew and Rupa Zimmerman**  
*Rumford, RI*



**SPRING OUTING  
HOUGHTON'S POND,  
MILTON, MA  
JUNE 26, 2011**

# US-Swiss financial planning

Cross-border financial planning workshop sponsored by Swiss American Chamber of Commerce and swissnex Boston

A number of our members, myself included, attended a most interesting workshop this past May. *US-Swiss Cross-Borders: The Everyday Issues*, led by Jonathan Lachowitz, Certified Financial Planner, practicing both the United States and Switzerland, reviewed various topics about financial planning when crossing borders.

Here are some of the points I found most fascinating:

- Under the Swiss-US Totalization Agreement each country can credit your AHV or Social Security contributions respectively in the other country. The 10 years of work requirement to be able to claim Social Security does not apply if you have paid into the Swiss system before.
- Life insurance, apparently, is cheaper in the US than in Switzerland!
- The penalties of not filing your FBARS (Form TDF 90-22.1) if you have accounts in other countries are severe. It could result in half the value of your account plus thousands in fines—so make sure you file those forms!
- Are you thinking of moving back to Switzerland? And if so, ready to renounce US citizenship so you don't have to fill out US tax forms for the rest of your life? Well, consider this: Expatriation is very complicated and expensive. The same goes for Green Card holders who have held their green cards for at least eight out of the last 15 years. In either case, make sure to consult a lawyer, especially if your children continue to reside in the US.
- The US social security is more generous to a non-working spouse than the Swiss AHV system.

The tenor among the members who attended was: I wish I had known all this years ago! I hope some of the above points might be helpful to you, too!

*Christine Whitebread*

**For information on recommended lawyers and tax experts contact:**

swissnex, Boston at 617-876-3076 or Christine Whitebread at [c.whitebread@hotmail.com](mailto:c.whitebread@hotmail.com)

**Swiss-US Totalization Agreement:**

Info/Contacts: [www.ssa.gov/international/Agreement\\_Pamphlets/switzrld.html](http://www.ssa.gov/international/Agreement_Pamphlets/switzrld.html)  
Contact info in Bern: +41 31 357 72 35

**Expatriation from Switzerland to the United States:**

[www.expatica.com/ch/finance\\_business/tax/Tips-for-Swiss-expatriates-in-the-United-States\\_17328.html](http://www.expatica.com/ch/finance_business/tax/Tips-for-Swiss-expatriates-in-the-United-States_17328.html)

Mr. Lachowitz worked in Switzerland for 15 years and has an investment firm in both the US and in Switzerland.

He has immense knowledge and likes to read government texts for relaxation! Check his background and services under [www.white-lighthouse.com](http://www.white-lighthouse.com).

50TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

1ST OF AUGUST  
HARVARD, MA  
JULY 31, 2011

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors and supporters who donated the raffle prizes:

- Swiss International Airlines
- Felix Bosshard
- Flatbread Company
- Helvetiq
- Lindt Chocolates
- Ricola
- SwissBakers
- William Tell Inn



The Warren Family



Photographs by Yanitza Canetti and Gabi Stewart

# Play Helvetiq and learn about Switzerland...

## Swiss Society of Boston member Hadi Barkat invents Swiss trivia game

Quick—what’s the Matterhorn called in French, and how long is the Swiss president’s term of office? How many cantons does Switzerland have and what makes raclette different from other cheeses? Don’t know?

Whether you would like to introduce younger members of your family to Switzerland in a playful way or share the fun with non-Swiss friends, this might be just what you were looking for: There is a new way to build up knowledge and have fun at the same time: A game called Helvetiq, invented by fellow Swiss and Bostonian Hadi Barkat.

The game has two distinct parts. The first one is a quiz that is rather like a mix between Trivial Pursuit and Ludo, for ages eight and up, with two to four players. There are a total of 312 questions but each game involves only 13. An interesting educational feature is that each card presents two related questions, both of which may be asked in the course of the game. This means that even if you did not know that Alinghi first won the America’s Cup at Auckland, New Zealand, you will be able to answer the related question that comes round, provided you can remember it. There is a certain amount of chance involved as players toss dice to determine how quickly they can lead their cows to the mountain pastures, which means that players have a chance to catch up even if they miss the early questions. There is a clear educational benefit to the game, and I can see it being used in international schools in particular as part of the attempt to help students integrate more with their host country.

The second game is a more strategic affair, where the players compete to advance political careers in the three branches (judiciary, legislature and executive) and the three levels (communal, cantonal and federal) of government. This might be adapted by allowing negotiations and alliances. It’s designed for players age 10 and up, with three to four players.

*Didier Kreis*

### COMING SOON: HELVETIQ Swiss-American Edition

The Swiss Center Los Angeles in partnership with Lausanne-based RedCut will release later this year a Swiss-American version of the popular Swiss trivia game Helvetiq.

The object of the game is to follow the annual summer ascent route of Swiss cows and arrive at the top first. You make your ascent with every right answer about the history and culture of the Swiss in America. The game contains 240 trivia questions on diverse topics with attractive companion images. The Helvetiq Swiss-American edition is a game destined to enliven Swiss club gatherings, Swiss-themed functions and family events.



An electronic version of the game will also be available for iPhone and iPad, just in time for the Holidays.



The game is available in German, French, Italian and English, and in the United States through Esther’s European Imports in New Glarus, WI. [www.shopswiss.com](http://www.shopswiss.com)



Do you have a favorite recipe you’d like to share? Just send us an email: [contact@swissocietyboston.org](mailto:contact@swissocietyboston.org)

## GRITTIBÄNZ

### Ingredients:

- 500 g flour 1
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 60 g margarine or butter, soft
- 20 g yeast
- approx. 3 dl milk (room temperature)
- 1 egg to brush dough

### Directions:

- 1) Mix flour, salt and sugar. Add butter or margarine. Make a well.
- 2) Dissolve yeast in some of the milk, then add to the flour mix with the remainder of the milk.
- 3) Mix all together to make a dough. Knead for 2-3 minutes.
- 4) Cover dough with a damp towel and let it rise 2–3 hours at room temperature (or in the fridge overnight). Don’t knead dough again.
- 5) Form an oval with dough and start to mark head, arms and legs. Decorate with nuts, raisins, sugar crystals, ... (eyes, nose, mouth, buttons, etc).
- 6) Put dough on baking form and let it rise for 30–45 minutes. Whisk egg and brush on dough.
- 7) Bake for approx. 20–45 minutes (depending on size) at 400 F (200 Celsius).

Makes 2 large or 3 small Grittibänz.

For a sweeter version - also called the GRÄTTIMA (Basel) – use 60 g sugar (instead of 1 tablespoon).

En Guete!



### RACLETTE PICNIC

LARZ ANDERSON PARK, BROOKLINE, MA  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2011



### FALL HIKE

QUABBIN PARK, WARE, MA  
OCTOBER 9, 2011

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Do you have a favorite recipe or interesting story to share? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please send your contributions to Lena Bodos at: [contact@swissocietyboston.org](mailto:contact@swissocietyboston.org) or call 781-872-1050.

# SAMICHLAUS!

**Sunday, December 4, 2011, 3–5 pm**

**All Newton Music School, 321 Chestnut Street, Newton**

Join us for a Christmas party in the Swiss tradition. There will be goodie bags and fun for children of all ages including coloring, crafts, and cookie decorating on Lebkuchen, thanks to SwissBakers.

There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Please bring your favorite homemade Christmas treats—the Swiss Society will provide cider and juice for all.

*Samichlaus arrives at 3:45. Please do not bring any additional gifts.*

**RSVP by November 28** to Marianne Biber  
781-444-4691 or [biber.marianne@gmail.com](mailto:biber.marianne@gmail.com)

## Upcoming in 2012 *(invitations and details to come)*

Fondue Party: February (date tbd)  
Annual Meeting: March 10, 2012

# s'Chuchichäschtli

## THE SWISS SOCIETY OF BOSTON

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