

Mark Your Calendars

Schwingfest
~ 2017 ~

July 15
Sierra Swiss Club – Truckee

Aug 26
Newark Swiss Club – Newark

Sept 2
SJVSC Schwingfest - Ripon



fondue **October Members' Meeting**
10-4-2017 / 7 pm

Fondue will be served to Members after our October meeting. Spouses and Guests are \$10 per person. Please bring check or cash to be collected at the door.

Bring your own fondue pot, long fondue forks, utensils, wine/ beverages, condiments etc.

We will offer cheese fondue and cubed French bread.

Monthly Brunch at Ettore's
Please join us ~ 10 am



Kafichränzli	Jass
Aug. 19 & Oct. 21	July 22, Sept. 23 & Nov. 18
Franziska: 916-216-1451	
Maya: 916-782-4572	Gabi: 916-364-5610

July	No meeting	Nov. 1	Mly Meeting
Aug. 2	Mly Meeting & August 1st Celebration (see flyer)	Nov. 4	Metzgete Celebration
Sept. 6	Mly Meeting	Dec. 6	Mly Meeting & Christmas Celebration
Oct. 4	Mly Meeting and Fondue Party	Jan. 3	Mly Meeting & New Year Celebration

~ **The Yodeler** ~
www.sacramentoswiss.com

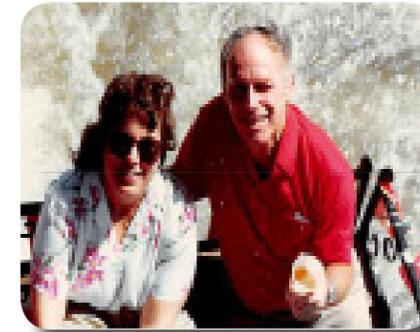
SHV Summer Spotlight

Gabi Wackerli




Gabriela Wackerli is in the spotlight for this issue of The Yodeler.

You may know her and call her by other names such as; “Gabi”, “Hey Gab!”, “Hey, You” and “Help! I need you!”. She is one of those club members who is not only known for all she does, but also as someone we all take pride in knowing. “She’s family”, is a comment I’ve heard many say in reference to Gabi. Coincidentally, Gabi refers to the Swiss Club as “like family” too. So I asked Gabi what “family” means to her. She explained, “It’s that familiar feeling of comfort and peace I share with friends and with many in the Swiss Lodge. It reminds me of family”.



1980, Gabi & her father, Al, cruising the Sacramento River with the Swiss Club

Gabi’s parents, Alfred and Heidi Wackerli were both Swiss immigrants who met in New York in 1953, got married and moved to California. Al and Heidi’s first daughter, Gabi, was born in the fall of 1954. Carmichael became the Wackerli’s home town and Alfred joined the Helvetia Verein in 1955. Gabi remembers growing up in the area and visiting local Swiss families; sitting at Jass tables amazed at the table banging and yelling; watching her father and his friends clinking schnapps’ glasses and she remembers attending the SHV’s events from a very young age.

Gabi’s best friend growing up was her sister, Heidi (Jr), who was 6 years younger, and according to Gabi, twice as wise. They became roommates as young adults and discovered the world together. They traveled to Switzerland and reconnected with family while visiting, although they made time to simply follow their hearts and ‘just go’. “We were camping in Europe for three months and it was a trip of a lifetime”, recalls Gabi, fondly. “Oh the adventures we shared!” So I can only imagine the devastating shock when Gabi got a call in 2005, saying that her sister was in the hospital; and within the hour, Heidi had passed away at the age of 45. “I was confused, my heart broken; I felt such a loss that I didn’t know what to do with myself”, explained Gabi.



Sisters, 1982 Paris

“Fortunately, I was able to go “home” to my Swiss friends. All my parent’s friends, in the Swiss Lodge, had known me since childhood. As a child, I remember Ilse Achermann taking me home from a party at Scheidel’s because it was getting late and she worried that it was past my bedtime. In my 20’s I joined the Friday night Swiss Bowling League when they finally became a mixed league. And in my 30’s I volunteered my time with



"Like Family" ... Ilse Achermann met Gabi when Gabi was 5-years old.

the Sutter Statue committee. In fact, the Time Capsule under the Sutter Statue contains a "floppy disc" with the names of all the members past and present at that time courtesy of my typing skills. So, is it any wonder that coming back to the Swiss Club has brought me comfort?"

Prior to her sister's death, Gabi's father, Al passed away and later her mother died in 2014. Gabi's closest relatives now live in Switzerland. "My father was from Canton Zurich and my mother was from St. Gallen. My families in Winterthur and Schwanden treat me royally when I visit, which is every five years or so. I invite them to visit me all the time, but they don't want to see the U.S. for some reason. I wish they'd come so I could show them around Sacramento and throughout California. I would really like to take them to one of our club's annual events too. They would totally get a kick out of the great food and traditions that Swiss Lodge honors and they'd enjoy the fun we all have."

Gabi is a busy woman. She is a licensed insurance broker working as the Office Manager and Group Benefits Manager for PRJ Insurance Marketing, Inc., located in Dixon. She's on the road a lot; her commute is about 40 minutes, although hitting it at rush hour doubles the time. That is why Gabi often works late. "I have to admit I have too much to do too often. I am the type of person that likes to finish something I start and have a hard time leaving when I'm in the middle of a project." She is also travels throughout Northern California representing PRJ, meeting with business owner clients and their staff.



At the Whitehouse, 2012

I was shaking my head as she spoke, thinking of her stuck at work for hours and hours when she assured me that she's no dummy. She knows better than to allow a job to absorb her. "I stay sane by filling my calendar up with fun things to do", explained Gabi. "I schedule 'me-time' and I stick to it. I am fortunate that I have several groups of friends with whom I travel and play. As a matter of fact I just got back from a 4-day camping trip in Yosemite. It was absolutely beautiful there!" Gabi went on to say that just prior to that escape she enjoyed a wonderfully fun Princess cruise to Mexico. When she is not travelling she loves to play Mixican Train Dominos, Phase 10 and Jass with close friends.



She also schedules volunteer time with the Sacramento Helvetia Verein and loves it! Gabi holds the office of Treasurer right now and has held a post with either the Ladies' Club or SHV for the last 11 years. She and Paul Kiser also co-chair the Activities' Committee. "I love helping out." Gabi said. I asked her why she enjoyed volunteering. "I think there are a few reasons I like working with the Verein," she explained, "First of all, I participate in honor of my Dad. He loved the Swiss Lodge so I feel like I am paying it forward in a way. Like I'm giving something back for all that the club meant to him. For my Dad it was a link to Switzerland and a connection to the people away from home. And as a volunteer I also appreciate the opportunity I've had to develop new skills and am able to build on existing experiences." She went on to say that of course she enjoys visiting with the old family friends and "having them right here in one spot is especially sweet", but she also likes



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making a difference and working hard for the membership as a whole. "The wonderful friends I've made throughout my 45 years as a benefit member are an added bonus. Without volunteering I don't think I'd have gotten to know so many amazing people over the years. It's been wonderful," she beamed.

It was my pleasure to interview Gabi for this article because she's like family, of course! And I would like to add, on behalf of our membership, "THANK YOU, GABI" for all you do to keep this club alive and well; for caring and holding the members, the friendships and the Swiss traditions dear.

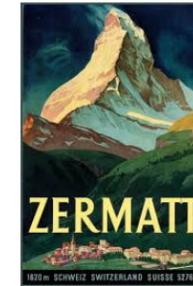


Joan Achermann

"I would like to personally thank Spring Picnic volunteers that assisted with decorations, covering picnic tables, setting up the appetizer contest, arranging Mother's Day bouquets, as well as running the registration table and selling raffle tickets: Alice Kiser, Joan & Bob Achermann, Sandra Wipfli, Franziska Froriep and her friend Annila, Traudal & Gerhardt Gump, Anita Kassel and Margaret & Rick Trivett"

Sincerely, Gabi Wackerli

Time for Summer Vacations! ~ Let's Go to Switzerland!



Most overnight stays in 2014 in Switzerland were from the following countries of residence

Rank	Country	#of overnight stays
1	Germany	4,394,457
2	United Kingdom	1,667,437
3	United States	1,644,424
4	France	1,337,882
5	China	1,142,438
6	Italy	1,014,058
7	Gulf States	770,725
8	Netherlands	681,671
9	Russia	532,775
10	Nordic countries	508,264

Popular Destinations in Switzerland



According to Expatcia.com / Switzerland News, here are the top 10 places that you should visit to experience the best of Switzerland's tourism.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Matterhorn, Zermatt | 6. Lugano |
| 2. Chateau de Chillon, Montreux | 7. Bern |
| 3. The Jungfrau Region | 8. Lucerne |
| 4. Swiss National Park, Zernez | 9. The Rhine Falls |
| 5. Lake Geneva Region | 10. Zurich |

Switzerland made it into the top five countries where people are happiest.

Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Sweden are the top 10 according to the latest 2017 World Happiness Report.

(The United States placed 14th, dropping one spot from last year).

