



SWISS WITH US

NEWS & VIEWS



From the Embassy of Switzerland in the U.S.

May 2024

From the Ambassador's desk

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

Switzerland is reaching for the stars! This spring, Switzerland and the United States have advanced their bilateral relations on the ground, above the clouds, and even on the moon. Join me on this journey and you will see why for our bilateral partnership, not even the sky is the limit.

Those of you who live in the DC area know that late April is the White House Correspondents' Dinner season. For the second time, we co-hosted an afterparty for one of DC's biggest social gatherings – and it was a pleasure to welcome journalists, politicians, celebrities, and other notable figures in the DC social scene, celebrate the Fourth Estate, and share Swiss achievements and culture! Join the party and read more below about our event, co-sponsored by Time, Amazon MGM Studios, Mercuria, and Salesforce.

Last month, Switzerland signed with NASA to join the Artemis Accords. With our advanced technologies and world-class researchers, Switzerland continues to support a crucial part in the exploration of the universe. Find out below how the Artemis Accords will help humans travel back to the moon in the not-so-distant future.

In March, the presidents of both chambers of the Swiss parliament visited Washington, DC. Read more about their visits on Capitol Hill and with the national political community below.

And when the delegation returned to Switzerland, they had the opportunity to board the new direct SWISS flight between Zurich and Washington, DC. After a delay due to the pandemic, the first flight to travel the new route finally landed at Washington Dulles International Airport last month. Come aboard and learn more about our launch event with SWISS in this newsletter.

We talk a lot about our ties to the United States in trade, research, and politics, but Switzerland – despite our neutrality! – is also a reliable cooperator in security and defense. You can read about the new partnership between the Swiss Armed Forces and the U.S. National Guard below.

A key difference between our countries lies in our legal systems. Two Embassy colleagues recently taught a guest lecture at Georgetown University on Switzerland's civil law system. Learn more about the differences between common law and civil law in this newsletter.

This March, we also celebrated Women's History Month with a series of events at nearby universities. Find out how we helped empower young female leaders at Georgetown University and Virginia Tech below.

Finally, I am always amazed by the number of places in the United States that are named after Switzerland. From Geneva, WA, to Switzerland, FL – we truly have left a mark all over the country. [Send us a message](#) if you, too, know of a "Little Switzerland" here in the U.S. that we might not have heard of!

Sincerely,
Jacques Pitteloud



Jacques Pitteloud is the Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States of America.

Celebrating the Fourth Estate: White House Correspondents' Dinner After Party at the Swiss Residence

On April 27, 2024, Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud and his wife, Angélique Gakoko Pitteloud, co-hosted an event honoring the White House Correspondents' Association at their residence in Washington, DC. This exclusive gathering, organized in partnership with TIME Magazine, Amazon MGM Studios, Mercuria, and Salesforce, celebrated the Fourth Estate and the strong bilateral ties between Switzerland and the United States.

The event at the Swiss Residence was a key highlight of the White House Correspondents' Dinner (WHCD) week, which traditionally combines political humor with a focus on the relationship between the press and the White House. Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud remarked that this celebration not only honors the role of journalism in democracy but also serves as an opportunity to showcase Swiss culture during one of Washington DC's most anticipated weekends.

Guests from various fields, including media, film, music, fashion, politics, and government, gathered at the Swiss Residence to network and enjoy Swiss hospitality. This event demonstrated the importance of fostering connections between politics and culture, emphasizing the shared commitment of Switzerland and the United States to a free press and the exchange of ideas.

Find more photos from the event and exclusive red-carpet shots of the guests on [SWISS IMPACT](#).



*Illustrious guests celebrated the Fourth Estate with Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud and Angélique Gakoko Pitteloud, including **Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff** (third from right) and renowned science educator **Bill Nye** (third from left).*

Switzerland joins the Artemis Accords

Switzerland made a significant leap into space exploration by joining the [Artemis Accords](#) on April 15, 2024, at the NASA headquarters. It is the 37th country to join the agreement.

The Accords establish that nations do not acquire property rights to the materials they extract on the moon, and that the signatories will cooperate on the safe and sustainable exploration of space. This historic moment underscores Switzerland's dedication to responsible lunar exploration and collaboration with international partners.

Led by Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and attended by notable figures including Swiss astronaut Marco Sieber and Professor Peter Wurz from the University of Bern, the ceremony highlighted Switzerland's contributions to space science and technology. This partnership opens doors for exciting collaborations: for example, the University of Bern's DIMPLE instrument, a cutting-edge technology which promises to unveil mysteries of the moon's composition and age, was selected by NASA for the Artemis missions.

Take a look at highlights from the event [here](#)!

for Peaceful Exploration of Deep Space



*Guy Parmelin, Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, signing the Artemis Accords on behalf of Switzerland, with Dr. **Martina Hirayama**, Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation, and **Bill Nelson**, administrator of NASA.*

Presidents of both houses of the Swiss Parliament visit the U.S.

From March 20 to March 22, 2024, Eric Nussbaumer, President of the National Council, and Eva Herzog, President of the Council of States, led a delegation of parliamentarians to Washington, DC.

The multiparty delegation had fruitful discussions on Capitol Hill with counterparts from both major U.S. political parties. They also exchanged views with representatives from the U.S. government and from fellow embassies, as well as with members of the business, academic, and think tank community. Throughout the visit, the strength of the relationship between Switzerland and the United States was evident, with many opportunities for even closer collaboration lying ahead.

Swiss Ambassador to the United States Jacques Pitteloud accompanied the delegation and provided insights into Swiss-U.S. relations.

For more information, read the [official press release](#) by the Swiss parliament and the report published on [SWISS IMPACT](#).



From left to right: Andrea Caroni, Maja Riniker, Eric Nussbaumer, Werner Salzmann, Eva Herzog, Greta Gysin, and Philippe Schwab.

Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud accompanied the Swiss delegation on its visit to Washington, DC.

SWISS starts new service between Zurich and Washington, D.C.

After a delay due to the pandemic, Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) finally launched daily direct flights between Zurich and Washington, DC, on March 28, 2024. The Airbus A330-300 aircraft offers comfortable seating for 236 passengers and takes approximately 8-9 hours for the journey.

This new route strengthens the connection between the U.S. capital and Switzerland, and with other European destinations SWISS serves via Zurich. It also reflects the strong economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

The launch was celebrated with [a special event](#) at the Swiss Ambassador's Residence on April 3. Representatives from SWISS, government officials, and travel industry leaders attended, highlighting the importance of this new route for fostering collaboration and understanding between Switzerland and the United States.



Switzerland to join U.S. National Guard's State Partnership Program

On March 15, Switzerland requested to participate in the [U.S. National Guard's State Partnership Program](#) to advance cooperation between the Swiss and U.S. armed forces. Under this program, the Swiss Armed Forces will be partnered with the National Guard of a specific state, fostering enduring relationships and developing people-to-people ties.

International cooperation is important to enhancing defense capabilities and interoperability, without entering into any obligations that would be incompatible with Switzerland's principle of armed neutrality.

The U.S. National Guard and the [Swiss Armed Forces](#) bear strong similarities, as both rely on reserve troops and remain ready to support their local communities during emergencies.



Comparative law guest lecture at Georgetown University

On March 20, 2024, the Embassy of Switzerland held a guest lecture at Georgetown University Law Center for 20 students of the J.D. Global Law Scholars program. The session compared the U.S. common law system, based on court decisions, with the Swiss civil law system, which relies on written legal code. Students then tackled a real-world case, analyzing it from both legal perspectives.

This program highlights Switzerland's stable legal system, which is often chosen for international agreements, making it valuable for future international lawyers.

Learn more about this event on our [SWISS IMPACT](#) website.



Simon Kürsener, Head of the Legal Section at the Swiss Embassy (right) and Jérémie Bongiovanni, Academic Associate (left), taught the guest seminar on the differences between civil law and common law.

Women's History Month at the Embassy of Switzerland

In March, the Embassy celebrated Women's History Month with a Women's Leadership Program, aimed at building transatlantic and inter-generational connections between current and future women leaders and empowering young leaders on their academic, professional, and civic journeys.

As part of this program, the Embassy organized two events at universities in the region. At [Georgetown University's Capitol Applied Learning Labs \(The CALL\)](#) in Washington, DC, the Embassy collaborated with the nonprofit organization [Running Start](#) to organize a networking training for students, followed by an event at which students had a chance to practice their networking skills with ten women leaders, all with connections to Switzerland.

At Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia, the Embassy held a full-day program beginning with a seminar on achieving gender parity in politics in the United States and Switzerland, followed by a workshop on civic engagement with Running Start, and concluding with a networking event with local women leaders, including Blacksburg Mayor Leslie Hager-Smith.



Students and women leaders engaged in a speed-networking session at the CALL.



*Embassy representatives met with local leadership at Virginia Tech, including **Leslie Hager-Smith**, Mayor of Blacksburg, VA (second from right).*

Consular informations

Do you need a new Swiss passport and/or identity card?

You will find all the information about how to go about this [here](#). Please note that each applicant has to come in person to the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, DC, in order have his/her biometric data (photograph + fingerprints) recorded, as the old biometric data cannot be copied. A link to make an appointment will be sent through the passport application system once the passport and/or identity card application has been verified by the Embassy.

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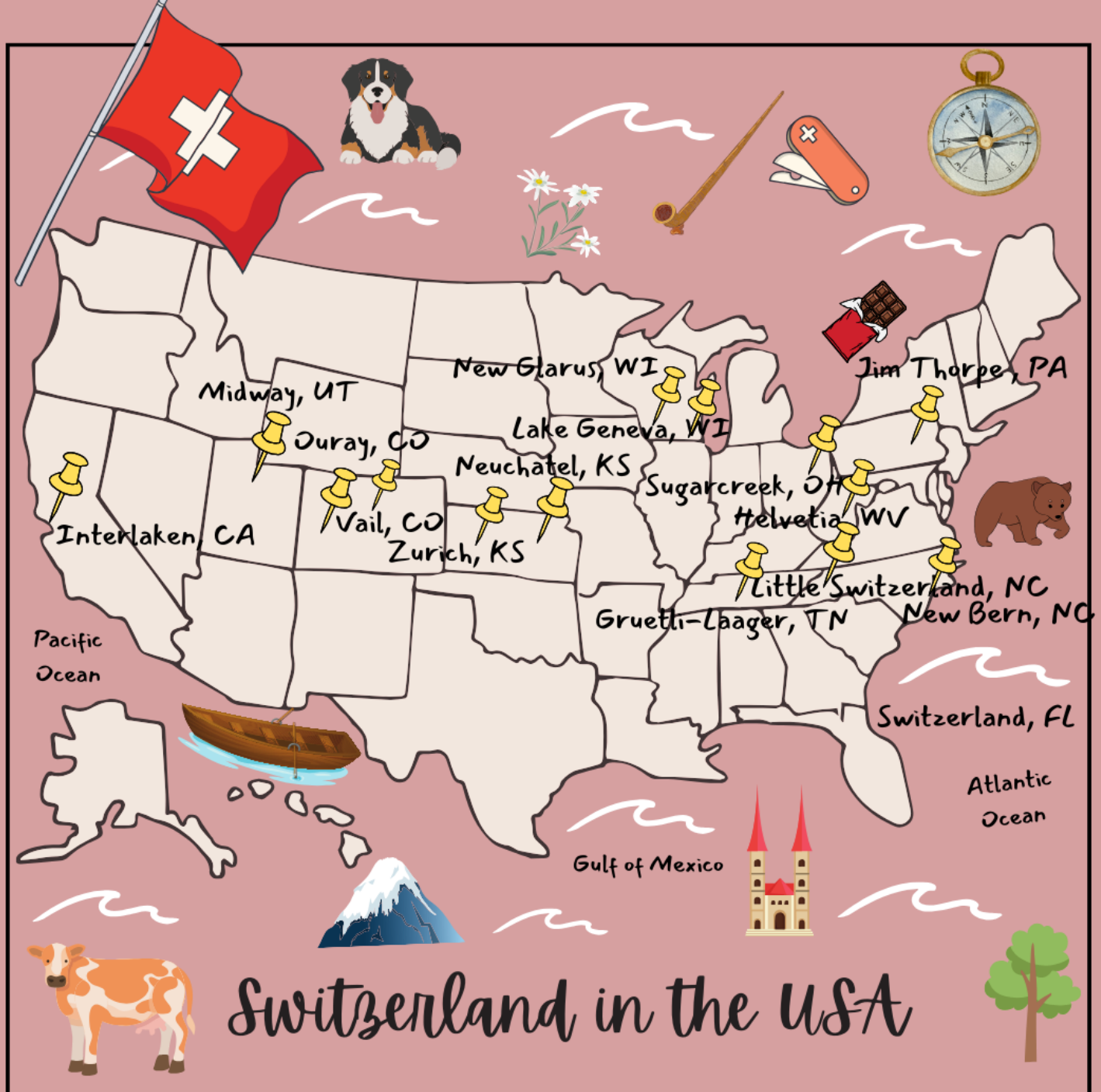


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P.S. from Switzerland



Switzerland in the USA

We love discovering pieces of Switzerland or places that remind us a little of home here in the U.S.!

Do you know of any places in the United States that capture a little bit of Switzerland? [Share your recommendations with us!](#)



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