



YEARBOOK

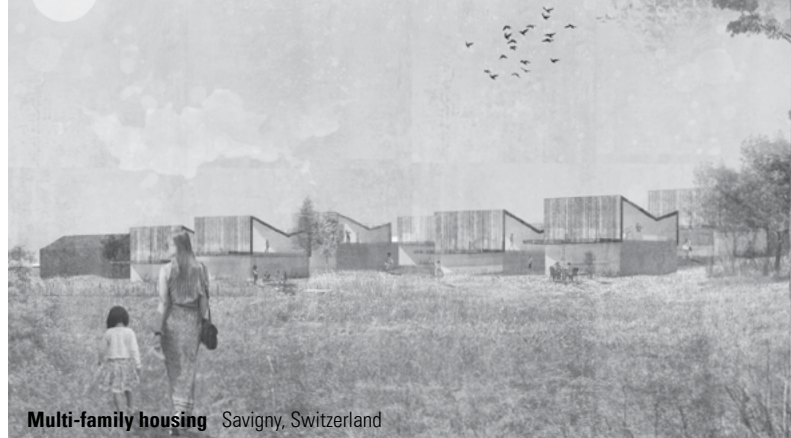
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF GENEVA / ANNUAL ISSUE 2019 **contacts · culture · people**



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 Club of Geneva.**
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VISION Embracing the American values of enthusiasm, entrepreneurship, openness, intellectual curiosity and diversity, the AIC strives to be the English language club of reference for the Lac Léman region that welcomes and builds bridges across all nationalities and communities.

MISSION To organize events (social, cultural, sports and professional programs) for our members and the international community of the Lac Léman region that are varied, informative, enjoyable, and encourage networking and friendships. Our prestigious Speakers Program attracts global, relevant leaders to exchange ideas and knowledge with our members and guests on topics making an impact on the world.

The American International Club (AIC) was founded in 1951 by a consortium of American, Swiss and international businessmen. It also offered unique networking opportunities for local non-US businessmen tapping into the US's post-World War II economic development programs. The Club has a current membership of 600 members and a mailing list of more than 2,000, comprising current and past members, corporate partners and sponsors, and attendees at professional, cultural and social events throughout the year. It continues to be the most well-known and respected club of its kind in Geneva. Its members are comprised of residents of the Canton of Geneva and the surrounding region.

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ED SCHNEIDER

AIC President

Dear AIC Members,

I want to personally welcome you to the AIC. Our Club was founded nearly 70 years ago, with a rich tradition of **community** and **speaker** events that make us a very special Club.

We have created a Club “**community**” for all to enjoy. We have our renown July 4th and Thanksgiving celebrations every year, monthly apéros on the first Thursday of the month, golf and tennis tournaments, guided art exhibit tours and concerts, student leadership/young professionals initiatives, and a host of other business, cultural, sporting, and social events.

This year, we have created an even closer bond with our members. We had New Member lunches at my home every quarter, a US Mission BBQ, special Ambassador Member and Corporate Partner dinners, exquisite art tours in Lausanne and Basel, an AIC Escalade Run and Training Group, and other spontaneous sporting events. We provided our members a guided tour of the CERN facility that was absolutely amazing!

Our Club is open to all nationalities and genders. This diversity is represented in our Speakers program, Executive Committee, and Club overall. We have created a community where everybody feels welcomed.

The hallmark of our Club is our **speaker** events. Thus far, we have organized 794 high-quality speaker events since our inception, with high-profile speakers ranging from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to Ivan Pictet.

In 2019, we continued our tradition of top-notch speaker events. We had an inspiring talk from Dr. Kamila Markram on Open Science, as part of our International Women’s Day celebration. The CEO of Audemars Piguet and SIG shared a personal perspective on their companies. Arancha González

of the International World Trade Center spoke about today’s turbulent trade issues. In conjunction with the AICC, we hosted Roberto Azevêdo, Director General of the WTO, as part of a business networking event with over 400 attendees.

We ad expert industry panels on Geneva Real Estate, AI/Genomics, and Mobility (which featured

Conseiller d’Etat Serge dal Busco and TPG Chair Anne Hornung-Soukup). We will finish 2019 with a Health Care panel on December 17th featuring *Conseiller d’Etat* Mauro Poggia and La Tour CEO Rodolphe Eurin. Our members can

look forward to another great speaker line-up for 2020.

I would like to thank all Executive Committee members for a job well done this year. Special thanks go to Vice President: Paige Holt, Membership Chair: Barbara Wetsig-Lynam; Speaker’s Committee Chair: Patrizia Carlevaro, Treasurer: Phillip Sundquist, Business Development Co-Chairs: Olivier Lacoste and Chris Benardis, Sports Chair: Elena Morier, and Culture Chair: Robert Race.

I would also like to thank past President Ron Banks for his solid support during my first year as President.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to our longstanding corporate partners—La Tour, Webster University, Montalba Architects, Ferring, Performance

Development Partners, PWC, and Swiss.

The essence of our Club is our members. Each member brings his or her own story that adds to the fabric of our Club. We treasure each member, and I, along with the rest of the Executive Committee, are here to ensure your satisfaction.

Ed Schneider

AIC President 2019

“The essence of our Club is our members. Each member brings his or her own story that adds to the fabric of our Club.”





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PAIGE HOLT

Editor-in-Chief AIC Lifestyle Magazine

I HAVE ONE of the best jobs at the AIC. About this time every year, I get to pour over the dozens of articles we've written about our events, and literally hundreds of photos we've taken over the past year. I get to review all the amazing speakers who have addressed the Club and see pictures of all the people we have touched. I can measure the intense energy and effort that our members invest in the Club, and I can attest to the fierce dedication of our Executive Committee. And I am impressed by the continual above-and-beyond effort made by our Office Manager, Ruth Dyson, who single-handedly keeps us all afloat and cruising.

We had a discussion this year about whether we should continue to print this magazine. Concerned about our carbon footprint and wanting to keep costs down, there was a strong argument to be made to go paperless. What's more, we are now offering

"I have one of the best jobs at the AIC. About this time every year, I get to pour over the dozens of articles we've written about our events, and literally hundreds of photos we've taken over the past year."

the magazine through the electronic publishing platform Issuu, which makes it all the easier to browse through the pages online. However, in the end, we felt that having hard copies of the magazine was still important to make the Club's activities tangible,

as well as leave a lasting souvenir to members who enjoy reviewing how the Club has impacted their lives every year. In fact, this magazine is a window into the Club, it is our highlight reel and one of our best marketing tools. It also serves to record our history, as the Club has been producing a yearbook of some form since its inception.

Going on 69 years, we have a lot to record!

What do you think of the magazine? Would you prefer it to only be online or should we continue to make a paper version? I'd love to hear what you think. Get in touch at admin@amclub.ch.



Paige with Arancha Gonzalez at the May 6, 2019 luncheon

A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB

THE ORIGINAL IDEA for the American International Club came from Henry St. Leger of the International Standards Organization and Henry W. Dunning of the League of Red Cross Societies. Its first constitution established that “the purpose of this organization shall be to foster and promote friendly relationships among American men residing or sojourning in Switzerland.”

Past Presidents have included the CEOs of Ford Motor Corporation, Pan American Airways, IBM, Caterpillar, DuPont, UNHCR, Procter & Gamble, JP Morgan and the World Heart Federation. Beginning with a modest goal of 100 members, the Club currently has more than 600 members—men and women whose pursuit of excellence and intellectual curiosity binds them together in the continuing search of global knowledge.

The AIC reflects the city of Geneva, the unique international City of Peace, where the world’s most important global multinationals, financial institutions and intergovernmental organizations co-exist and complement one another in their diverse and worthy pursuits.

Over the past 65 years, the AIC has hosted a great diversity of global leaders from the worlds of business, government, international arts and sciences—from Richard Nixon, Mikhail Gorbachev, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mikhail Gorbachev, Shimon Peres, George Bush, Sir Peter Ustinov and Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan to foreign journalists such as Arnaud de Borchgrave of Newsweek and United Press International and William F. Buckley.

Others have included Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees of UNHCR (and the current UN Secretary General), Arthur Rubenstein and Vladimir Ashkenazy as well as leading Swiss government officials, such as former Presidents Adolf Ogi and Micheline Calmy-Rey.

“Over the past 65 years, the AIC has hosted a great diversity of global leaders from the worlds of business, government, international arts and sciences.”

Global business leaders such as Umberto Agnelli, Managing Director, Fiat, Edgar Bronfman, CEO, Seagram’s, Ivan Pictet, Senior Partner of Banque Pictet, Nestlé CEO Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Jean-Claude Biver of Hublot Watches and Richemont Group CEO Richard Lepeu have also addressed our members with inspiring talks on current trends and emerging technologies.

But, we’re up for a little fun and adventure, too. We have also welcomed global personalities such as Solar Impulse founder Bertrand Piccard, Professor Henry Markram, Director of the Blue Brain Project, as well as Sir Jackie Stewart, Alain Prost and John McEnroe, among others.

The flagship activity of the American International Club remains its prestigious Speakers Program whose participants, in their actions and decisions, have often had a remarkable impact on the world. Some of the most important and influential leaders have spoken to the AIC community. What other city could feature such important and diverse global speakers and topics but Geneva?

With 600+ members, the AIC has successfully integrated both the American, Swiss and international communities of Geneva. We also host Professional Programs, Cultural Events and annual festivities such as our Thanksgiving Gala dinner and the July 4th Celebration. In addition, we offer fun sporting competitions, including golf, tennis, games, bowling events and more.

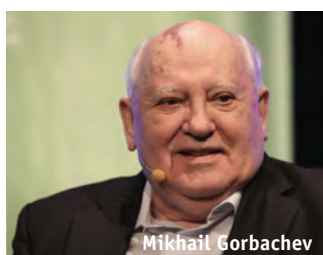
The American International Club embraces intellectual and cultural pursuits, as well civic concerns, encouraging on-going social interaction amongst its members on a regular basis. Our international membership is comprised of 30% American nationals with the balance coming from more than 45 different countries. Come join us—welcoming all nationalities for over 70 years!



Arancha Gonzalez



Bertrand Piccard



Mikhail Gorbachev



Fabiola Gianotti



Kamila Markram



Bracken Darrell



Arnold Schwarzenegger



François-Henry Bennahmias



US Ambassador Edward McMullen Jr.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The AIC Executive Committee is comprised of a cross-section of leaders from local and multinational businesses and organizations, government and civil societies based in Geneva and the surrounding regions.



RON BANKS
*American Celebration
Committee Chair*



CHRIS BENARDIS
*Secretary, Business
Development Co-Chair*



MARY BERNASCONI
Civic Concerns Chair



PATRIZIA CARLEVARO
Speakers Committee Chair



JEAN-LUC CHOPARD
Geneva Liaison



KEVIN CROWLEY
Member



RUTH DYSON
Office Manager



ANNA FINK
Member



EDWARD FLAHERTY
Club Development Chair



PAIGE HOLT
Vice President, Editor-in-Chief



EDWARD KARR
Nominating Committee Chair



OLIVIER LACOSTE
Business Development Co-Chair



CARLO LAMPRECHT
Honorary Vice-President



ELENA MORIER
Sports Chair



MARK MULLER
Vice-President



MICHAEL PARMLY
Member

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

With their years of accumulated experience and fresh ideas, our Executive Committee makes the vital strategic plans and decisions, ensuring that the AIC is the most relevant club for new, future and existing members.



JEAN-CLAUDE PETERSCHMITT
Speakers Committee



FRANCIS PRIBULA
Speakers Committee



ROBERT RACE
Cultural Events and Thanksgiving Chair



ROY RYAN
Club Development Committee



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Social Media Chair



BARBARA WETSIG-LYNAM
Membership Chair

OUTGOING



GIORGIO FERRERO
Speaker Committee Co-Chair



MARK MASON
Sports Chair



CHARLES UPCHURCH
Business Development Chair



BARBARA WETSIG-LYNAM

Membership Chair

IT'S BEEN A FUN and productive first year as Membership Chair. In addition to seeing an overall increase in membership numbers from last year, my highlights also include the New Member Lunches and the Welcome BBQ for new US Mission staff. Since the last magazine, we've hosted four new member lunches welcoming nearly 50 new members. The lunches have been well-received by members, offering a personal setting to meet new people, hear about ways to get engaged with the club and



Barbara with new member Charles K. Larson

discuss ideas with members from the executive committee. A big thank-you to our club president Ed and his wife Beatrice for hosting these lunches in their lovely home!

This year we agreed a new partnership with the US Mission in Geneva to offer all their staff a special membership to the club. Particularly for newly arrived staff on 2-3 year tours, the club is the best "fast-track" lane to get to know Geneva and Switzerland as well as stay in touch with American culture (think 4th of July and Thanksgiving!). We kicked off this partnership with a BBQ lunch held at the US Mission during their orientation. Around 100 staff enjoyed a burger, met new people and learned about the AIC.

"The AIC strives for balance in our membership not only in gender but also in age, ethnicity and political opinion, among others."

Finally, as shared with you last year, we have a renewed strategic focus on diversity in our membership, specifically on women and young professionals as a start (which came out of the results from the membership survey in 2018.) To that end, the AIC Executive Committee recently passed a Gender-Balance statement, which you can find on our website. Building on the 2019 theme for International Women's Day "Balance for Better" the AIC strives for balance in our membership not only in gender but also in age, ethnicity and political opinion (!) among others. The AIC is an inclusive club that values diversity—help us walk the talk in whatever way you can. I encourage you to reach out to me directly with your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to reporting back next year on our progress!

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of the AIC enjoy up to half-price discounts on AIC events, as well as reduced prices for events organized with other clubs and organizations.

In addition, AIC members benefit from exclusive discounts and offers from leading vendors and retailers in the Geneva and the surrounding region.



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NEW MEMBER WELCOME LUNCH

SO, YOU'VE JUST signed-up and been approved as a new member of the AIC. Congratulations! Now what? Most new members become a member after attending a particular event that they really enjoyed and likely don't know of all the other ways to get involved in the club. Or they found us on the internet and don't yet know personally someone in the club.

With the desire to ensure all new members feel welcome, know of all the ways they can leverage their new membership and for the club to harvest this fresh energy and get new ideas for creating value for its members, we created a new (and free!) event for new members. This time last year we launched a series of "new member welcome luncheons." Held at the private home of our club president, with culinary contributions from a few members of the executive committee, we have warmly welcomed nearly 50 new members in this manner. The lunches are informal; after a round of introductions and a brief intro to the club and its committees, we sit down to enjoy a warm meal and good conversation.

The feedback and results have been overwhelmingly positive. For example, one new member who came to the very first luncheon a year ago, quickly became active on one of our sub-committees and has now recently joined our executive committee. Other reactions from new members include "I found my people!" "Thank you for this great initiative!" "So nice to be introduced to the club this way."



"Reactions from new members include 'I found my people!' 'Thank you for this great initiative!' 'So nice to be introduced to the club this way.'"



The ultimate goal is to ensure a vibrant club for our community. Through these lunches we hope new members will actively engage with the club year after year, be encouraged to join committees, and bring friends, family and coworkers who share our values of openness, intellectual curiosity, entrepreneurship, enthusiasm and diversity.

Tip: One doesn't have to be brand new to the club to be invited: if you've joined in the past year or simply feel that you would like to reconnect with the club via these lunches, let us know and we will gladly invite you to the next one!

Barbara Wetsig-Lynam





ROBERT RACE

Cultural Events Chair



Francis Danby, *Dead Calm: Sunset at the Bight of Exmouth*

THE AIC CULTURE Events exhibition visit in May turned out to be almost pure discovery. Fondation de l'Hermitage in Lausanne offered *British Painting from Turner to Whistler*, a survey of art produced during the British Empire golden age. But putting *Turner to Whistler* in the title was “bait” to attract interest; they were hardly there. Instead, the 25 or so other artists are almost completely unknown, many works in Switzerland for the first time.

The 19th century was a period when art from the British Isles was dismissed by French critics, who proclaimed that “in Britain painting can be neither learned nor acquired.” And the English agreed! France set the standards for “good” art, which attracted English public and buyers. Many of these artists often painted for themselves, not on commission

or for sale, so works are unsigned. Of course, Turner is an exception, as are Whistler and Sargent—both Americans. So much for recognizable “British” artists of the period.

Instead, we discovered a body of painting uniquely British. There were local landscapes and seascapes. There were works reflecting the industrial revolution (cities, public transit, etc.) that occurred earlier in Britain than elsewhere, as well as its social repercussions, good and bad. There were scenes from English literature (i.e., Shakespeare) and legends (i.e., King Arthur), these stories unknown elsewhere and therefore their art dismissed. Who knows of *Lady of Shalott* or *Eve of St Agnes*? We met them both. Almost everyone would recognize *Death of Ophelia* as she floats down the river from *Hamlet*, but who knows the artist (Millais)?



The British also liked to see themselves. In *Closing time at the Post Office* (1860) by George Elgar Hicks, we see all sorts of Londoners at one minute to 6 lined up outside. In the center is a young girl with a letter to post, showing a bit of color from the postage stamp. We learned from our excellent guide that when postal service started, the recipient paid the postage. So many of the letters were refused that they made the sender pay the postage, and the postage stamp was born.

The exhibition concluded with a brief introduction to Pre-Raphaelites and the Aesthetic Movement. And closed with some early photogravures, which some artists used as models for paintings. All-in-all a wonderful, insightful discovery!

And then we went to lunch, at l'Esquisse restaurant next door. What a lunch! Often, we participate in the *Art & Gastronomie* dinner that is "themed" with the exhibition. For this "British" one, it included fish & chips and mushy peas; not very "gastronomie." So our guide Guy took charge to arrange a lunch within our budget. We had a choice of three starters, three mains and three desserts! One of the best meals we have ever had. Thanks, Guy.





OLIVIER LACOSTE & CHRIS BENARDIS

Business Development Co-Chairs

THE CLUB HAD another great year building relationships with the Lake Geneva business community. In 2019, we had seven Corporate Partners supporting the Club to offer a wide range of dynamic professional, cultural, social, and sports activities to our members.

Our business development vision is to continue to make the Club even more attractive for our existing and future Corporate Partners. We have further reinforced our Business Development team in 2019 and have continued to streamline our sponsorship levels with attractive benefits for our highly valued corporate sponsors. Our Business Development team spends considerable time reaching out to the Swiss and international companies in the region. These companies enjoy the benefit of partnering their brand alongside the AIC's 65+ years of presence as a well-respected and renowned English-speaking club in the Geneva region. We help bring visibility for companies to an attractive target market of international business leaders.

In line with this business development vision, we continued in 2019 to reinforce the Young Professionals Program (YPP) introduced last year. The

"The AIC provides excellent opportunities for all businesses, large and small, to reach out to our large membership community and to provide local social, cultural and sports networking to their executives."

YPP is intended for business executives 40 years old and under and focuses on soft skills development, company visits and other concepts proposed by our Corporate Partners. Our objective is to help attract young members to the Club and to enhance our value to Corporate Partners. We expect to hold four events each year.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our Corporate Partners and sponsors—La Tour Medical Group, Webster University, Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Montalba Architects, Performance Development Partners, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Geneva Relocation and Swiss. Many of them joined us for a fun Corporate Partners Appreciation Dinner in October 2019.

The Club continues to grow the number and quality of its signature Speaker Lunches, the American Celebration Events, the enriching cultural events and the exciting sports events. If your company would like to learn more about becoming an AIC Corporate Partner or Event Sponsor, our team would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the various options. Please send us an email to admin@amclub.ch.



Bernardis with new member Giorgios Fradelos



Olivier with several AIC members

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NEW MEMBER PROFILE



ANNA FINK

PROFESSION

Human Resources Senior Manager and Communications and Change Management Partner

NATIONALITY

Swiss and Polish

GENERATION

GenX

FAVORITE HOBBY

opera singing, music/arts/ballet watching, sightseeing, sharing my passions with my daughter, family and friends

BOOKS I AM READING

"Dare to Lead" by Brené Brown and "The Course of Love" by Alain de Botton

SOMETHING EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU

1. I have a wonderful loving teenage daughter and 2. am multilingual (speak 5 languages)

SOMETHING NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU

travelled to Europe and Africa by ship during 4 months at the age of 7

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AIC?

I love the US where I did my undergrad and graduate studies and have international background having lived and worked in 7 countries

FAVORITE ACTIVITY AT THE AIC?

Meeting new people and collaborating with peer members in a friendly atmosphere and can-do spirit

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE AIC TO YOUR FRIENDS?

A community of amazing international professionals, both from the US and elsewhere, attached to the US culture and values, who want to meet like-minded individuals through diverse professional and social activities.

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AIC 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

2019



THIS YEAR OVER 350 people celebrated the 4th of July with the AIC. As always, we invite members and their families of the American International Women's Club, American Citizens Abroad, the US Mission, as well as all current and retired US military to join the AIC to celebrate the American Independence Day. It was held in Grand Saconnex's Campagne du Chateau on July 4. The AIC President, Ed Schneider, presided over the festivities and AIC member Patricia Ryan sang a resounding rendition of the national Anthem, supported by Al Blatter on keyboards.

This year was the first time a US Ambassador attended the event. We were pleased that Ambassador Edward McMullen and his wife took time out of their busy schedules to come from Bern to celebrate this American holiday with the AIC. The Ambassador had a few words to share with the audience and was able to meet many of those that attended.





It was a perfect day and while many of the adults chatted away, the kids played on the bouncy castles, played baseball, enjoyed cotton candy (compliments of Harsch Moving) and had their faces painted. One of Geneva's most famous bands, The Albert-Mark Band, played cover songs from Ellington to the Eagles. Needless to say, it was a rocking good time.

Ron Banks, the 4th of July Chairman, with the help of Ruth Dyson, raffled off two SWISS vouchers for flights within Europe and to JFK-New York and five Manor Department Stores cards.

Food is always a big part of the celebration and three of Geneva's top food trucks supplied the food: The Hamburger Foundation, Deli Mex and Gentleman Lobster. We welcomed back one of the most dynamic bartenders in Switzerland, Fanan, who entertained as he made mojitos and other drinks from the famous AIC Bacardi Bar.





A big round of thanks goes out to those that helped to organize and volunteer for this major event. First, I would like to thank Ruth Dyson, the AIC office manager who helped organize this event, Judy Mann and Lucee Grossenbacher for managing the check-in desk, to Protectus for on-site security and to Harsch Moving for their invaluable help in setting up and taking down the tables. We appreciate the support from our sponsors Geneva Relocation and Eric's Peanut Butter (the best American style peanut butter made in Switzerland).

But most of all, we want to thank YOU for celebrating this important American tradition with the AIC and we look forward to seeing at future AIC events

Ron Banks

American Celebration Committee Chair



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MARY BERNASCONI

Civic Concerns Chair

Serving the Community of Geneva and the Surrounding Region

THE AIC CIVIC Concerns Committee is dedicated to making a difference and enriching people's lives. We like to get out in the community, make connections with grass roots charities and volunteer at fundraising events to give back to society and network with other club members. As part of its annual Civic Concerns program, the AIC identifies a local charity to support each year.

Our beneficiary in 2018 was the Serve The City Geneva (STC). Based in Geneva, their mission is to provide volunteer resources to organizations already serving the poor and marginalized in the greater Geneva area.

Since 2011, they partner with homeless shelters, refugee centers, orphanages, and other associations,

and invite volunteers to show kindness through practical help and tangible support.

Cooking and serving meals, performing random acts of kindness, doing light construction, painting and gardening work, collecting and distributing food, staffing sporting and cultural events all help to improve social awareness and foster community.

For example, Gary Vannatter of STC explains that he finds financial resources and volunteers to work at the Samedi de Partage events

collecting 150 tons of food at 80 stores in Geneva ... which enables Serve The City Geneva's partner organizations to offer a hot meal to over 900 people every day.

Club members raised CHF 2,255 in donations for Serve The City Geneva at our annual AIC Thanksgiving Dinner to continue to enable them to transform the lives of those they serve, as well as their own.

Thanks to all who contributed so generously... and had fun while doing it.

If you'd like to know more about Serve The City Geneva, or get involved, see www.servethecitygeneva.ch

"Club members raised CHF 2,255 in donations for Serve The City Geneva at our annual AIC Thanksgiving Dinner to continue to enable them to transform the lives of those they serve, as well as their own."



If you are interested in enriching your life by enriching the lives of others, contact the AIC Club office or fill in the volunteer form under the Civic Concerns section of the AIC website,

www.amclub.ch

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



CHARLES K LARSON

PROFESSION

Trainee Lawyer

NATIONALITY

Swiss & American

GENERATION

Millennial

FAVORITE HOBBY

Opera & travel

LAST BOOK YOU READ

Bolshoi Confidential: Secrets of the Russian Ballet from the Rule of the Tsars to Today by Simon Morrison.

SOMETHING EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU

I'm a man of simple tastes.
I'm always satisfied with the best.

SOMETHING NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOU

Well sorry, you won't know it either

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE AIC?

I first heard about the Club through family friends. I looked up the events on the website and since I would have been happy to participate in most of the latest events it felt logical to join.

FAVORITE ACTIVITY AT THE AIC?

The luncheons for sure, there has been a great variety of speaker for these events who always bring their best insight in to their world. It is also a perfect moment to get to know new people and have good conversations around the table.

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE AIC TO YOUR FRIENDS?

The perfect international club to get to know new people, get involved if you want to and participate in a range of events from lunches to golf competitions and of course the traditional Thanksgiving and 4th of July.



ELENA MORIER

Sports Chair

Now into their 5th edition, the AIC tennis and golf tournaments have already become iconic among the panel of activities proposed by the Club. Both activities are graciously sponsored by La Tour Medical Group.

Hosted by the Tennis Club of Geneva, a club founded in 1898 and placed in the middle of the green and peaceful settings of the Eaux-Vives Parc, the tennis tournament proposes a Doubles Round Robin format to ensure three hours of fun tennis mixing levels and styles. The pleasure continued after the effort, with an excellent dinner in the club's restaurant followed by the nomination of the winners and bestowing of prizes. This year, the event ended with cake and champagne to celebrate the birthday of one of our players, who also happened to be the big winner of the men's section. Lucky day for him and a great one for all participants!

On a gorgeous Friday morning, AIC golfers teed up at the Maison Blanche Golf Course in Exchenevex, France for the annual AIC golf tournament. The event is well-engrained in the agendas of long-time AIC members, but was recently given the name of a long-

time club member and sports competition organizer Chand Kaul, who passed away in 2013.

The Shotgun Florida Scramble was sponsored by La Tour Medical Group (AIC Corporate Partner), and prizes were donated by Golf Center, Sandor Szabados/BTL, SVR Wine Lausanne, and RNJ Associates.

The Maison Blanche served a well-deserved lunch for all participants and made for an excellent start to the weekend!

Likewise, the golf tournament dedicated to Chand Kaul, former AIC Competitive Events Chair, was held at the number one choice for golf outings in the Geneva area, the Golf and Country Club La Maison Blanche in Echenevex. With its stunning view of the Mont Blanc, this 18-hole course facility offered the right context for everyone to reach a great personal performance. The buffet lunch enhanced by a fine selection of wines rounded off a satisfying social and sport event.





GIORGIO FERRERO & PATRIZIA CARLEVARO

Speaker's Committee Co-Chairs

THE AIC SPEAKER'S Committee has a long history of attracting world-famous figures ranging from Arnold Schwarzenegger to Peter Ustinov to John McEnroe. The Speaker's Committee has been a cornerstone of the American International Club dating back to its inception in 1951. Over this period, the AIC has organized 784 high-profile speaker events.

In addition to world-renown figures, many of the speakers are key local leaders—members of the Grand-Conseil of the Canton of Geneva, CEOs of premiere international companies and institutions with offices in Suisse Romande, US Ambassadors located in Switzerland, and leading innovators, professors, and artists. For example, we recently hosted Mrs Arancha Gonzales, Executive Director of the International Trade Center, and we had a very enriching panel discussion on Artificial Intelligence and Genomics.

These events consist of a high-level speaker presentation combined with an open Q&A forum, where attendees can interact with the speakers and have a direct impact on our local economic and political environment. This unique platform of sharing professional and personal knowledge creates a very special experience for all attendees.

The AIC's ability to draw such speakers is twofold. First, the Speaker's Committee members have a net-

work of contacts from different walks of life ranging from academic, literary, business, innovation, and politics. Secondly, over the years, the AIC has developed a reputation for high-quality, well-attended events, so that local leaders are more than happy to accept our speaking invitations, often on more than one occasion.

The Speaker's Committee focuses on select, quality events. The speakers must be able to draw a large audience, and cover a topic of interest to our members and the local community. The committee does not allow promotional events, and tries to remain politically neutral.

The current Speaker's Committee is co-chaired by Patrizia Carlevaro and Giorgio Ferrero. Patrizia is an accomplished life-science executive with long experience in international business and public policies. Giorgio spent many years as a high-level executive at Bacardi. Other members of the Speaker's Committee include Charles Méla (a renown French writer and professor of literature), Jean-Claude Peterschmitt (previous international head of Digital Equipment Corporation), and Carlo Lamprecht, former President of the Geneva Canton Council, among others. Tal Schibler, the longstanding former Chairman of the Speaker's Committee, continues to be a valuable contributor to the committee's efforts.



Giorgio with Bracken Darrell



Patrizia with Arancha Gonzalez

SPEAKER'S LUNCHEONS HIGHLIGHTS

Economic Forum on Reinvigorating Geneva's Economy

Hotel Métropole, November 19, 2018

THE AIC HOSTED its annual Economic Forum with three of Geneva's top political and business leaders: Pierre Maudet, Ivan Pictet and Xavier Oberson.

"Banking secrecy is dead and Geneva is doing well" declared Pierre Maudet, Conseiller d'Etat in charge of the Department of the Economy. Mr. Maudet expects the 2018 economic growth to be 3%, which is in line with the strong United States economy. He highlighted that foreign investment has remained an economic pillar and that Geneva has more jobs to offer than the number of inhabitants which is an exemplary situation.

Ivan Pictet, President of the Fondation pour Genève and former Senior Managing Partner of Banque Pictet et Cie SA, gave a refreshing and frank perspective on some of the issues Geneva is facing. He noted that we are the most expensive canton in Switzerland with a very significant government administration cost. Mr. Pictet stressed that Geneva has great assets to leverage and noted that the international businesses and organizations in Geneva makes up about half of the local economy.

Xavier Oberson, Professor of Swiss and International Tax Law at the University of Geneva, described the significant international tax trends starting with transparency, the fight against tax evasion and tax avoidance schemes (BEPS: Base Erosion Profit Shifting). He noted that Geneva is complying with these requirements and even leads the class with its efforts, but we are not receiving the benefits. The solution for Mr. Oberson is to follow another trend: redesigning the tax system to be more competitive. To do this, he recommends passing the unified tax rate under the RFFA to reform the wealth tax in order to keep the wealthy from leaving Geneva.

Charles Upchurch



Panelists Yvan Pictet, Pierre Maudet and Xavier Oberson

Geneva Mobility (Public Transportation)



Hornung-Soukup and Dal Busco

ANNE HORNUNG-SOUKUP, Chair of the Board of Directors, Geneva Public Transport (tpg), and Serge Dal Busco, Conseiller d'Etat of the Canton of Geneva in charge of infrastructure, came to discuss "Geneva Mobility" with the AIC Carlo Lamprecht, former Conseiller d'Etat of the Canton of Geneva and honorary AIC Vice-President, eloquently introduced the two speakers.

Mrs. Hornung-Soukup gave a brief history of the organization along with noting a few interesting facts. For example, tram line 12 is the oldest tram line still operating in Europe. She further explained that the 20th century was marked by "cars and wars", and the trend at the time was to move away from public transport toward cars, the latest technology of the day.

Mrs. Hornung-Soukup then announced that on December 15, 2019 at 5:02 am, the Léman Express (formerly known as Ceva) will begin to run. This will be a fundamental change in the mobility in the canton and beyond. Forty percent of Geneva public transport will change on this date to adapt to this new line.

Mr. Dal Busco took to the podium with a presentation entitled, "Mobility: A Prerequisite for Geneva's Prosperity and Attractiveness". As the Conseiller d'Etat in charge of infrastructure, Mr. Dal Busco related his four primary objectives: 1) accompany the deployment of the Léman Express to make it the backbone of greater Geneva, 2) sharply reduce car commuter traffic, 3) accelerate the implementation of the law LCME (law for coherent and stable mobility), and 4) build new road and public transport infrastructures within deadlines.

Mr. Dal Busco explained that the Léman Express was actually 100 years in the making, and that more than 80% of the canton's inhabitants and almost 86% of the canton's jobs are located within 1.5 km of one of its stations. He also reiterated the profound impact the Léman Express will have on the mobility in the canton and the surrounding areas, including neighboring France.

Paige Holt



Bracken Darrell
CEO of Logitech

Hotel Métropole, December 7, 2018

“LOGITECH IS A human company.” For the final luncheon of 2018, the AIC welcomed Bracken Darrell, the CEO of Logitech, to address a group of over 50 people. Based in Lausanne, Logitech is a Swiss provider of personal computer (PC) and mobile peripherals.

Mr. Darrell took us through the last six years of Logitech, since he joined in 2012. “I made everything worse”, he said with a wry smile. In fact, the PC market was suffering great losses at the time, and Logitech was tributary to the general market trends. Mr. Darrell has since been on a quest to “rediscover who we are” and has brought the company back into healthy black figures, primarily through leveraging the value of design and exploring cloud-based products and services. Logitech now has 150 designers around the world.

Logitech is now exploring peripherals around cloud-based services. These include PC gaming, music and video-conferencing. He explained to the audience how they go about innovating and growing these products through a system he called “Trees – Plants – Seeds”. The trees are the cash cows that are growing but at a slow rate, such as their PC peripherals. The plants are the newer products that are growing fast, such as the peripherals around gaming. And the seeds are the small-scale teams working confidentially on innovating new products, many of which don’t make the assembly line.

Discussion around the “seeds” led Mr. Darrell to talk about a subject he claims to be fascinated about: leadership and teams. He believes that small teams are the most productive. In fact, he argues that the best teams are pairs, since there is only one relationship to manage. This seems to be the basis of his vision of the structure of Logitech, which he says is “superflat”. Indeed, he has 25 direct reports in the company and meets with each of the “seed” teams himself every two weeks.

Mr. Darrell’s presentation was informal and entertaining yet very informative. Eschewing any PowerPoint presentation, the CEO of Logitech took to pen and paper on three flip charts to draw for us his ideas.

Paige Holt





Dr. Kamila Markram
CEO Frontiers

March 8, 2019

AS PART OF its celebration of International Women's Day, the AIC welcomed Dr. Kamila Markram, Dr. Markram is the co-founder and CEO of Frontiers Media SA, as well as a neuroscientist and autism researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL). Frontiers Media is a leading Open Science platform, which makes scientific research accessible to all for the benefit of humanity.

Dr. Markram showed billions of lives had been saved over the past two centuries from scientific contributions ranging from sanitary improvements to vaccines to improved farming methods. To continue to reap the benefits of science, however, the scientific publishing ecosystem needs to change.

Currently, a large majority of scientific research is not open to the public. Each scientific publisher charges access fees to users that effectively block even large institutions such as Harvard University from accessing all available research. Frontiers Open Science solution grants free access to all users, while charging a reasonable one-time fee to the researchers themselves. Frontiers' solution i) is 60% less expensive than the current closed



publishing system, ii) provides a more transparent peer review process, iii) utilizes artificial intelligence data analysis to provide higher-quality peer review with much faster turnaround times, and most importantly, iv) gives access to all so that humanity can fully benefit from these scientific breakthroughs.

Looking towards the future, Dr. Markram posed four challenges that need to be solved: 1) have Healthy Lives by eradicating disease through artificial intelligence that accelerates drug discovery and enhances diagnostics; 2) Feed All People on the Planet by producing more food with less resources; 3) Consume Less Energy by improving energy conversion efficiency and wasting less energy; and 4) inhabit a Healthy Planet by polluting less, moving to clean energy, and sustainable food production. Dr. Markram noted that open access to scientific innovation and research will help enable us to meet these challenges.

Ed Schneider





François-Henry Bennahmias
CEO Audemars-Piguet

Hotel Métropole, March 19, 2019

IN JEANS, SNEAKERS and a sweater, the CEO of Audemars Piquet took the podium like a rock star. Funny, gregarious and very down-to-earth, François-Henry Bennahmias led the nearly 90 attendees through the most interactive presentation ever made to the AIC.

Describing Audemars Piquet as the “first startup in the watch industry” Bennahmias took us through the history of the family-run business from its creation in 1875 by Jules Louis Audemars and Edward Auguste Piguet in the Vallée de Joux. Two members of the Audemars family are still active in running the business. Their most famous collection is the Royal Oak, introduced in 1972 as the world’s first luxury sportswatch, effectively breaking all the codes of the time.

Its most recent collection, Code 11.59, launched earlier this year, once again broke the codes of today’s watchmaking. Bennahmias recounted how social media went crazy about the watch, singularly divided between either loving or hating the new, audacious design. “People on social media actually asked for my resignation!” said Bennahmias.

It is certainly this audacity that has helped Bennahmias succeed as the company’s CEO for the last seven years. Although the watchmaker has maintained its long-time production level at 40,000 watches a year, with Bennahmias at the helm Audemars Piquet has recently become a billion-dollar company. The slogan “To Break the Rules, You Must First Master Them” certainly describes his leadership style and was introduced about the time Bennahmias became CEO.

Announcing without shame that he has no diplomas and barely finished high school, Bennahmias explained that he started in sales for the brand as a young man in Paris and has been working there for 25 years. His approach to management is a combination of working on the basics, giving clear direction, paying attention to detail, and creating one team. He asked several members of the audience to come up on stage for an experiment to prove the importance of clear communication, and interacted with the attendees throughout his speech, asking questions and encouraging interaction.

The luncheon was cosponsored by the Wharton Alumni Club, represented by Philippe Monnier who introduced the speaker.

Paige Holt

Geneva Real Estate Panel

Hotel Métropole, April 16, 2019

AIC HOSTED AN informative panel on the Geneva real estate market featuring Stéphane Tanner of Tanner Conseil, former director general of tax administration for the Canton of Geneva; Julien Blanc, partner of GVA Law, former secretary general of the Swiss Association of Real Estate Professionals; and Mark Muller, lawyer, partner at Muller & Fabjan and vice-president of the AIC.



Ed Schneider with Stéphane Tanner

Mr. Tanner discussed real estate taxes in Geneva. He provided an overview of the taxes involved in the initial property purchase (3% to the canton of Geneva), ongoing cost (1% of property value per year), and sale/succession (including inheritance taxes). Mr. Tanner noted that a homeowner in Geneva has to pay income tax on the *valeur locative* or rental value. The rental value represents what an owner theoretically would receive if the property was rented to someone else. This tax on phantom rental income can be offset by deductions of mortgage interest payments and other costs for the upkeep of the property. Mr. Tanner noted that discussions on

the abolition of *valeur locative* have been ongoing but cannot be resolved until a replacement of this lost income can be found.

Mr. Blanc talked about becoming a property owner in Geneva. He pointed out that foreigners (except EU citizens) can only purchase housing property in Switzerland if they are eligible for C Permit. Mr. Blanc mentioned the Swiss Constitution and the civil code protect property owners, such as limiting the State's invasion on personal property and protecting civil rights and prerogatives. Personal ownership can be individually or via co-ownership structures, such as a limited liability company or cooperative; the same structures can be used for commercial purposes. He noted that notaries have to authenticate property transactions. Mr. Blanc added that property financings are traditionally a 20% down-payment / 80% mortgage. Part of the down-payment (maximum of 10%) can come from the second pillar of retirement savings, while the third pillar may help reduce taxes on debt amortizations.

Mr. Muller addressed *droit du bail* or renter's contracts. He stressed that form and process are important from a federal law perspective. Mr. Muller said that Geneva renters have many rights covering lower rental prices, repairs and maintenance, which can be presented to landlords. Geneva rental prices can be fixed, and possibly change as the property evolves via improvements by the owner, interest rate changes, etc. He stated that renters must give three-months' notice to end a rental contract, with the option to find a viable replacement before that time. He added that it is much more difficult for a landlord to annul a contract with a renter.

Ed Schneider



Mark Muller and Julien Blanc



Arancha González
Executive Director of the International Trade Centre
Hôtel d'Angleterre, May 6, 2019

WITH EXTRAORDINARY PASSION and extensive knowledge, Arancha González, the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, spoke to the AIC on May 6, 2019 about the current stakes for global trade today. Marking the club's 790th luncheon, Ms. González addressed a captive audience of nearly 50 people.

"It's a super interesting moment to be alive", González said. While international trade used to incite yawns of boredom, in the past several years it has become the center of global discussions. According to Ms. González, this is due to the convergence of several events and factors we are struggling to cope with.

Three revolutions are affecting international trade: a digital revolution which impacts how people work and the future of work, an ecological revolution which has seen huge changes in consumer behavior, and a social revolution from citizens who are reclaiming their social, civil and human rights. In addition, González further stated, there has been a profound effect of the US elections on global trade. The use of unilateral trade agreements in American politics as a measure to handle deficits, the geopolitical situation with China, and the desire to increase investment in the US are arguments that

"It's a super interesting moment to be alive."

have been used in the US political sphere and are unprecedented. The approach is one of a "zero-sum" game, as opposed to a "win-win" situation, which is normally the basis of trade.

On a positive note, Ms. González mentioned several constructive trade measures currently occurring, such as the recent Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan, and the Latin American Pacific Alliance. However, "Good things are happening, but not enough to buck the trend", she said. Businesses, and especially SMEs, need to be more on the frontline. Domestic policy is also important and can weigh heavily on a country's international trade. And a reform of the WTO seems inevitable.

"It's important we set the narrative (on trade) right," said Ms. González in her final comments.

Leaving over 30 minutes for questions, Ms. González answered each with energy and conviction, displaying her mastery of the subject and her broad, solution-based thinking. The final question concerned her opinion of the future of Switzerland within the context of international trade. Her answer: "I am very optimistic!"

Paige Holt

Panel Discussion on AI and Genome Science

Hotel d'Angleterre, September 17, 2019

THE AIC HOSTED a panel on Artificial Intelligence and Genome Science and its Applications in Medicine and Public Health Fields. Composing the panel were: Emmanouil (Manolis) Dermitzakis, Professor of Genetics, University of Geneva Medical School, Director, Health 2030 Genome Center; Antoine Geissbuhler, Chief-physician, division of e-Health and telemedicine, vice-rector University of Geneva; and Prof. Marcel Salathé, School of Life Sciences, School of Computer and Communication Sciences; Academic Director, Extension School, EPFL. The panel discussion was led by Serge Michel, Editorial Director of Heidi News.

We often hear about genomic science and genetic tests, but these topics remain difficult to grasp for a layman. This event brought together three experts who have been working in these fields for years. They gave us an overview of the purpose and progress made in these fields and how they can help improve our quality of life, prevent and treat diseases, and better predict epidemics to reduce mass infections. The use of AI in health and genomic science will revolutionize our future although it will be decades before the majority of the population can benefit from it.

While each panelist came to the subject from different angles, a main theme of discussion was the necessity to include social aspects when considering digital health and genetic testing. The smartphone is ubiquitous in today's world and can be a vital tool to

collect data, for example. It gets people much more involved in their healthcare and is moving us away from a doctor-centric healthcare system to a patient-centric system.

Artificial intelligence allows us to analyze data in ways we have never before been able to. The panel agreed that it was not a predictor tool, but rather a tool for risk analysis. Until now, we were not able to detect or give much attention to rare diseases due to lack of knowledge and resources. With AI, we can assess risk at a much granular level for each individual. If more people share their data there will be less discrimination, as we are all in a risk group, according to Mr. Dermitzakis.

To round up the discussion, a member of the audience raised the question most of us wonder when thinking of AI: when will machines take over from humans? All three panelists were reassuring. For the moment, machine learning is concerned with correlation of data. Machines have not yet learned causal reasoning, and we are a priori far from the day they will learn this. The evolution and integration of AI in our lives will be incremental, according to the panel. Scientists and doctors will integrate the technology into their practices, rather than being replaced by it. "It's not humans versus AI, it's humans versus humans using AI", Mr. Salathé stated.

"It's not humans versus AI, it's humans versus humans using AI."

Paige Holt



Dermitzakis, Geissbuhler and Salathé



Christian Brunier
Director General of SIG

Hotel Métropole, November 6, 2019

THE AIC WELCOMED Christian Brunier, Director General of SIG, to talk about Happiness at Work (in French). SIG was named best Swiss-Romand employer of 2018, largely due to the dramatic changes Mr. Brunier made to the culture of the company since he took the helm in 2014.

The thought process which led to the transformational planned called EquiLibre started with a smartphone. When one of his IT managers came to him to discuss the impact of smartphones on work right when the smartphone began serving this purpose, Brunier realized it was time to rethink the way the whole company worked, from where to when to how. He introduced the notion of “distributed work”: the way a collaborator works based on the best space (office, home, other), the time to complete his tasks, and the best way to work. Time tracking was virtually eliminated, people were given up to 2 days a week to work outside the office, the “silos” that physically separated people in function of their product were removed to create aesthetically pleasing, open workspaces, including foosball tables to encourage

collaboration. Relaxation rooms, nurseries, fitness centers and other facilities were created to encourage employees to be happier at work!

This was not just paying homage to the latest trends with some of the bigger companies riding the happiness train to lure talent. Brunier backed this up with a real culture of trust, compassion and empathy. Autonomy and responsibility were given to teams to create their own work rhythms and environments. As long as productivity is up, no one at SIG is checking what time you come or go.

While it took a few years for the majority of the staff to be completely convinced, Brunier says, “Today, there is no way going back.” Besides being a great place to work, productivity has gone up and costs have gone down. The hardest challenge, says Brunier, was to get buy-in from the managerial class. Managing on the base of trust was foreign to many cadres, more used to the “carrot and whip” approach to managing.

Paige Holt



AIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In May 2018, the AIC initiated this new program to build awareness of the benefits of the Club to qualified undergraduate and graduate students from all universities in the Geneva area.



THE AIC STUDENT Leadership Program is designed to provide all serious university students under the age of 30, with an opportunity to join the American International Club of Geneva at no cost and to attend all AIC events at member prices. They are also encouraged to join committees, come to events and to play an active role in the Club.

We feel it is important to give back to the community and to provide a platform for bright young talent. The Student Leadership Program will provide these students with a chance to develop their networking skills and to interact with leading business professionals in the Lac Léman region.

Once the student graduates from university and if they decide to remain in Geneva, they will be able to join the AIC as a regular or Ambassador member. If they leave Geneva, they will have great memories of their time with the AIC and can become a non-

resident member. In the long run, we hope some of the students will become life-long AIC members and future leaders in the Club.

As of this this writing, several students have participated in the Program and have become active in a committee or volunteered to help at events. This program is growing, and additional students are seeing the benefits of being a part of the AIC. They are also recruiting some of their fellow students.

For those students who have joined the AIC under this program, we are pleased you decided to become active members and we appreciate your contributions to the Club and look forward to your continued involvement.

As a past member once said, “it is the best Club in town” and we are glad you are here.

Ron Banks

INAUGURAL AICC BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT A GRAND SUCCESS

THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL Club (AIC), in conjunction with the Association of International Chambers of Commerce (AICC), hosted its inaugural AICC business networking event featuring WTO Director General Roberto Azevêdo and Conseiller d'Etat Pierre Maudet. The splendid WTO facilities were overflowing with over 400 attendees. The participants consisted of the 22 international chambers of commerce and clubs that make up the AICC, of which the AIC is a founding member.

The AICC was founded earlier this year, and was the brainchild of Claudio Bozzo, the President of the Swiss Italian Chamber of Commerce. Claudio is replicating the New York City International Chambers of Commerce model that he participated in. By combining the individual chambers into a united force, the AICC creates larger economies of scale in terms of attendance, business networking, visibility, and sponsorship revenues to the benefit of all chambers.

The main presentation took place in a large WTO auditorium, in which both Mr. Maudet and Mr.

Azevêdo spoke about the benefits and challenges of international trade. Mr. Azevêdo noted that international trade laws and procedures need to be respected. If not, then the global economy will suffer. He added that these rules may need to adapt to the rapidly changing technology-led world we live in today.

After the speaker presentations and some Q&A, the event moved to the vast meeting hall of the WTO. Delicious Turkish delicacies and Asian hors d'oeuvres were served, accompanied by wine and non-alcoholic beverages. There was a lot of social interaction between the numerous guests from various regional backgrounds. Many business cards were exchanged, and relationships established. The event appeared to be quite a success.

The next AICC event is being planned for March 5, 2020 in conjunction with International Women's Day. AIC Vice-President, Paige Holt is championing the event featuring leaders, both men and women, in Blockchain technology.

Ed Schneider





THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION 2018

FOOD, FUN AND GOODWILL

THE 2018 AIC Thanksgiving Celebration was once again on Friday, the day after the official Thanksgiving Day observance. This gave Americans the opportunity to do Thanksgiving at home with family and friends, and then enjoy a repeat celebration without any of the hassle and work. And to dance the night away with the Albert-Mark band. That is something you can't do at home!

We returned to the InterContinental Hotel and were able to work out together some of the “kinks” from last year, our first year back to the place where AIC Thanksgiving started in the modern era. We certainly thank the hotel for the excellent service provided in the planning and execution of the event. The entire Grand Ballroom was opened up to the AIC, so there were no crowds around the two starters and desserts buffet tables. And those buffets provided plenty of delicious choices, and much tastier than last year. Especially the pumpkin pie. The main Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings was served, with “seconds” of mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce available on each table! They were excellent and much appreciated.

An important part of the AIC Thanksgiving Celebration is to say “thank you” to our local community by supporting an important charity in Geneva. This year we selected *Serve the City* for the volunteer work they do to help other local charities in the field. To raise funds, we conducted a Live Auction and a Silent Auction during the evening. There was much spirited bidding for several lots at the Silent Auction during and after dinner before bidding closed. One of the more notable items was a 6-liter bottle—a Methu-



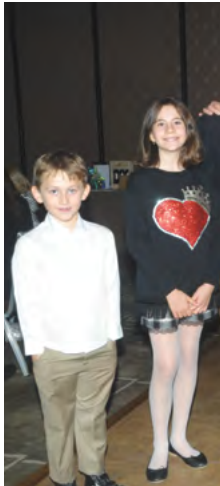
selah—of red wine! Congratulations, Leroy. The Live Auction was conducted by the ever-gregarious Ed Karr, which was both highly successful and entertaining. Among the items auctioned was again a snow toboggan from KM Enterprises in the US.

Aside from the auctions, everyone had a chance to win from seven draws from a champagne bucket: two SWISS vouchers, and five Manor Cards. And after all of this, the Albert-Mark Band got most of those remaining onto the dance floor while the hotel staff cleaned up the tables. The dance floor was packed most of the time.

We want to give special mention of “thank you” to those who offered prizes for the auctions and draws: Manor, SWISS, Lindegger Optique, Firmenich, Hotel Intercontinental, Hotel Métropole, Caran D’Ache, as well as ED KARR, Julie Birenbaum, Mark Mason, and Ed Flaherty. And to the team that helped on the night, especially Ruth who handled the Silent Auction and proceeds; Judy, Lucy, and Christa at check-in, and our ever-welcoming Club President Ron Banks, who presided over his last Thanksgiving.

Robert Race, AIC Thanksgiving chair





AIC APÉROS



Bistro 23, Rue de la Coulouvrenière 23, 1204 Geneva

THE FIRST THURSDAY of each month, you will find many AIC members and guests enjoying their favorite beverage at a local bistro after work. The AIC Aperó is a popular place to be and a great time to have a drink with other AIC members and to meet those interested in learning more about the AIC.

They are held in various establishments around town. In 2019 we held most of them at the Bistro 23, a friendly and welcoming bistro in Geneva.

It is interesting to watch new people show up for the Aperó after hearing about it from a friend, from the AIC website or from an email. Up on arrival, they seem a bit shy and lost at times, but when they depart, it is as if they are leaving their friends, with smiles and handshakes.

We are seeing more young professionals from many different business sectors, plus graduate students from local universities. They all have one thing in common: an interest in American values and traditions, and they want to better understand what the Club does. Many of these guests become active members and great ambassadors for the Club.

For the members attending, it is a chance to get caught up on past conversations. Each member is

most willing to meet the guests and tell them about the AIC.

Overall, the AIC Apéros provide an opportunity to share life and the AIC with everyone. The AIC is the largest and oldest English-speaking club in the Lac Léman region, and we welcome all nationalities to become members.

As a long-time member once said, “the AIC is the best club in town”. Well, come and find out! You’ll know where to find me on the first Thursday of the month.

Ron Banks





**Let's build tomorrow's
healthcare together.**



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