

SWISS CULTURE FROM HOME



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Mid-February 2024

Dear Friends of Switzerland,

As the last of the cold days draws near, the Embassy of Switzerland invites you on a cultural journey with the 2024 Emna Rumantscha, the Festival de la Francophonie, and a special discussion on artificial intelligence on the occasion of the Swiss Day, hosted by the University of Zurich and Georgetown University. Also, don't miss our Swiss *Rendez-Vous* in D.C., as we explore the nation's capital through a Swiss lens!

Please continue to check our website, social media channels, and events calendar, where we are providing regular updates, for more cultural content. Have you found something we're missing? What would you like to see more of? Let us know – [we would love to hear from you](#).

We hope you continue to enjoy, and take care!

Language & Culture

Emna da la Lingua Rumantscha 2024

Emna Rumantscha: February 19-23, 2024

Register [here](#) for an online introduction to the Romansh language on February 22, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET



The only canton where Romansh is spoken is **Grisons**, this in addition to Italian and German

Multilingualism
is part of the Swiss DNA and contributes to the country's **cultural diversity**



ROMANSH

SWITZERLAND'S FOURTH NATIONAL LANGUAGE

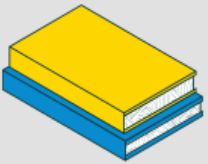
85 years ago



Romansh was recognized as the fourth national language



Romansh is the main language of **0.5 % of the Swiss population**, which amounts to around **60'000 people**.



5 regional varieties

have evolved over time; they are referred to as "**idioms**" instead of dialects because they have a **standardised written form**

the idioms are called:

Sursilvan, Sutsilvan, Surmiran, Puter and Vallader

Source: Embassy of Switzerland

In February, we celebrate the week of Romansh Language for the fourth consecutive year. Switzerland honors this rich linguistic tradition and the Romansh-speaking communities that continue to form an essential part of the country's cultural tapestry. Through educational initiatives, cultural events, and advocacy efforts, we reaffirm our dedication to preserving Romansh and celebrating the diverse linguistic heritage that defines Switzerland.

Did you know that Romansh was introduced as one of Switzerland's national languages in 1938 through a referendum? To learn more about this Swiss official language and its history, click [here](#). Would you like to learn a few words as well? Check out the website [Lia Rumantscha](#), or the 10-episode miniseries "[Learn Rumantsch!](#)" by the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York. Also, do not miss the Consulate General of Switzerland in Vancouver's [online class](#) on February 22!

DC Francophonie Cultural Festival 2024

Francophonie: March 16-24, 2024

Register [here](#) for the film screening *Stuntwomen* at the Embassy of Switzerland on March 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM ET



Source: [Francophonie DC](#)

The French language also holds a prominent place in Switzerland as one of the country's four official languages, particularly in the western regions that comprise the *Romandie*. As part of the vibrant francophone community here in Washington, D.C., the Embassy of Switzerland is a proud partner of the 2024 Francophonie Cultural Festival, celebrating French language and culture along with 40 other embassies and partners.

This year, our Embassy is delighted to host a special francophone film screening, as part of our Swiss Film Club, featuring the acclaimed documentary *Stuntwomen* (2022). By showcasing this film, we not only celebrate Francophonie but also highlight the diverse talents and contributions of women in cinema. Join us on March 2 for this enriching cinematic experience as we commemorate the richness of French language and culture in Switzerland!

Tech Diplomacy

Swiss Day 2024: Artificial Intelligence – who has the lead?

Register [here](#) for the online lecture on February 26, 2024, at 12:30 PM ET



Source: *DrAfter123/iStock*

This year, Swiss Day returns, continuing its tradition of celebrating the partnership between the Europa Institute at the University of Zurich and the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. This year's event will focus on the topic of “ *Artificial Intelligence – who has the lead?*”, discussing one of today's most significant challenges.

Attendees will have the opportunity to gain valuable insights from Katharina Frey Bossoni, Deputy Head of the FDF's Digitalization Division, Dr. Angela Müller, Director of AlgorithmWatch CH, and Anupam Chander, Scott K. Ginsburg Professor of Law and Technology at Georgetown University. The event will start off with welcome remarks delivered by Swiss Ambassador to the United States Jacques Pitteloud and Dr. Andreas Kellerhals from the University of Zurich.

Your Swiss *Rendez-Vous* in D.C.



Source: *Library of Congress*

Join us at this special *Rendez-Vous* to celebrate the portrait of Helen Keller, located in the "Struggle for Justice" room at the National Portrait Gallery, in Washington, D.C. Born to Swiss parents, Keller's remarkable life exemplifies resilience and advocacy. Despite facing profound challenges due to deafness and blindness, she became a pioneering advocate for people with disabilities, a prolific author, and a strong advocate for social justice. Don't miss the opportunity to explore her inspiring story and legacy through this captivating portrait.

Where: National Portrait Gallery 8th St NW & G St NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

Stay connected for more glimpses of the Swiss *Rendez-Vous* in D.C. – and [share your discoveries with us!](#)

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