



AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF GENEVA

Welcoming All Nationalities in the Lac Léman Region

Message from the President

Dear AIC Members, Corporate Partners, and Benefit Partners,
As we approach the Summer Holiday season, we want to bring you up to date on forthcoming activities and events of the Club. We look forward to seeing you at these and other upcoming AIC-sponsored activities.

Upcoming Events

Independence Day Celebration

Tuesday, July 4
6pm—11pm
AIC Tent on the Place de Fete de la Campagne du Chateau
Grand Saconnex, Geneva

The 30 CHF for members and 50 CHF fee for non-members includes a meal at one of our food trucks and access to all activities. For more information, visit our website.

4th Annual AIC-Chand Kaul Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday, September 8
7:30am—3:30pm
Golf & Country Club de Maison Blanche
Echenevex, FRANCE

€50 for tournament participants and €40 for non-playing lunch guests). A limited number of carts are available for the day at €40 rental fee for 2 players.

Speaker's Luncheon: Is It A HUG or a Huge Hospital?

Bertrand Levrat

Directeur Général, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)

Friday, September 22
11:45am—2pm
Hotel Metropole, Geneva

Director Bertrand Levrat of the HUG will discuss public health care and research in Geneva. An event not to be missed by health care professionals and the public at large.

Attendance fee of 70 CHF for members and 140 CHF fee for non-members includes a 3-course meal and an engaging discussion of key topics by our speaker.

To register for these events to register or to view a complete list of AIC activities, visit www.amclub.ch

E-Newsletter Summer 2017

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AIC Membership Cards

Please contact our office if you have not received your 2017 AIC Membership — your pass for savings with a number of retail and Corporate Partners in Geneva. **E-mail: admin@amclub.ch** to book the number of cards/vouchers you would need. Upon confirmation, collect your cards at:

**American International Club—Geneve, AIC
c/o Schribler Hovagemyan Attorneys at Law LLC
3 bis, Boulevard du Theatre, Ground Floor
1211 Geneva**

All cards must be pre-ordered!

AIC Executive Committee

Ron Banks, President

Paige Holt, Vice-President, Business Development & Editor-in-Chief, Publications

Michael Parmly, Vice-President & International Organizations Relations Chair

Ed Schneider, Vice-President & AIC-TV

Mary Bernasconi, Civic Concerns Chair

Patrizia Carlevaro, CEO Forum Chair

Edward Patrick Flaherty, Club Develop Chair

Edward Karr, Nominating Committee Chair

Mark Mason, Sports Chair

Francis Pribula, Speakers Committee Chair

Robert Race, Cultural Events Chair

Tal Schibler, Speakers Committee Chair

Phillip Sundquist, Membership Chair

Giovanni Urso, Treasurer

Nhat Vuong, Social Media Chair

Jean-Claude Peterschmitt, Speakers Committee

Andre' Tombet, Legal Advisor

Jean-Frederic Berthoud, DEV Liaison

Jean-Luc Chopard, Geneva Government Liaison

Thomas Pierce, U.S. Government Liaison

Carlo Lamprecht, Honorary Vice-President

Kevin Crowley, Membership Committee

Roy Ryan, Club Development Committee

Ruth Dyson, Office Manager

Breaking News!

The AIC Executive Committee made the following appointments at its May 2017 meeting:

Paige Holt, currently Vice-President , Business Development was also named Editor-in-Chief of publications, including the *AIC Lifestyle Magazine*.

*

Mark Mason, formerly chair of the Corporate Partnership Program Committee and the Membership Committee, was named Sports Chair.

*

Phillip Sundquist, currently the Secretary to the Committee was also appointed the new Membership Committee Chair.

*

The Board formerly approved the first-ever **Corporate Partners & Sponsors Dinner** to be held in September 28, 2017. The dinner is anticipated to be an annual event to show the Club's appreciation for the on-going support of many of our current and past corporate partners and sponsors over the years. This unique event will give the CPs and sponsors to see, first-hand, the benefits of their AIC support, as well as a chance for the AIC to network with possible new partners and sponsors.

*

This year's **CEO Forum** on November 16 will feature James Pooley, one of the world's most revered patent lawyers, speaking on cyber security in the age of mounting private sector, non-profit, and governmental concerns. A former director general with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) here in Geneva, Pooley is one of only three lawyers ever named to the Intellectually Property Hall of Fame, and the only American.

The AIC Executive Committee wishes everyone a great summer. We look forward to seeing you at our various programs and events in September and throughout the rest of the year. Enjoy!

AIC Executive Committee New Appointees

Meet Nhat Vuong

AIC Social Media Chair

AIC's Digitally-Driven Future

I really think social media is the best way for the AIC to communicate its activities with the international business community in Geneva and the surrounding areas. With a membership of 600 people and 2,000 people on our mailing list, plus our presence on Facebook (1,200 contacts) and LinkedIn (600+ current contacts), it's clear our members are using social media to learn about and participate in Club activities.

In addition, we are making major upgrades to the AIC which website averages about 6,500+ page views and 1,000+ distinct users per month. So, we know people have an active and on-going interest in our Club, says the Vietnamese-born web marketing consultant.

A resident of Nyon for more than three decades, Vuong is also excited about the possibility of expanding the AIC's social media initiatives and how that will bring the AIC to an even larger number of people in and around Geneva. The sky's the limit to where our Club can go, but social media will definitely be the driving force in that expansion. Other successful clubs use social media to their advantage, and AIC can be just as effective with our own efforts.



Meet Phillip Sundquist

New AIC Membership Chair

From Member to Membership Committee Chair

Phillip Sundquist has lived in Switzerland for nearly 25 years. Born in Fairbanks, Alaska (USA), he is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a BA in International Relations and Spanish. He received his MBA from the University of Washington in Seattle. He lived and worked in Zurich for 16 years before relocating to Geneva in 2008. He has worked in finance and asset management for a number of years, before launching his own investment advisory firm in 2013.

Phillip joined the AIC in 2009, attending the Speakers Luncheons and other events over the years. He was named Secretary to the Executive Committee in January 2017, and appointed Membership Committee Chair in June 2017.

With an evolving membership and competition from various other clubs in Geneva, Sundquist sees this as a particularly challenging and important time for AIC. He sees his priorities as (a) increasing the number of professionals within the Club, (b) employing various technological and programming tools such as an AIC phone App to attract and retain new members, and (c) listening to feedback from various members for their input on the future direction of the Club. His immediate plans call for:

- a) a customer survey to determine member needs and priorities
- b) identifying ways to improve the Club's membership value proposition
- c) working with various committees of the AIC — Professional Development, Speakers Series, Entrepreneurs, etc. — to make the Club's activities have appeal to the widest possible audience of professionals.

Stayed tuned for the latest developments, and please submit any ideas you have via our website or just seek out one of our Executive Committee members at AIC aperos and other events. We want and need your feedback!



Speakers Luncheons

Yves Bonzon, Julius Baer's Chief Investment Officer Paints a Positive Picture of Economic Times Ahead

Yves Bonzon, Chief Investment Officer of Julius Baer, presented "Understanding the Economic and Investment Landscape" to a full-house at the Hôtel Metropole on April 24th. Mr. Bonzon offered a cohesive economic vision of where we are today, and where markets are potentially heading.

Generally, Bonzon (pictured, on the right) had a sanguine view of the markets over the next twelve months. By late 2018, however, a bear market may be triggered by a few more US interest rate hikes and an economic slow-down. In this environment, he noted that small-cap stocks, which are currently outperforming in markets such as Switzerland, will be the hardest hit.

He frankly addressed questions about the zero-interest rate environment's adverse impact on retiree income, citing recent studies show that employees in their late 50's and early 60's are actually more productive, and are increasingly being retained by corporations. He said the days of protected workers retiring with full benefits at 50 are over.

Mr. Bonzon also addressed audience queries on the impact of recent French elections, seeing Emmanuel Macron's victory as a positive for stock markets and the economy in the short run. But, added that Macron's policy does not address the EU's long-term core problems. "The EU put the cart before the horse with a forced monetary union" in the 1990s (without first having a fiscal union). Also, the EU expanded too quickly. Some EC ministers are complaining that it is hard to implement policy with so many countries, according to Bonzon. He sees the Macron victory as "postponing the inevitable." The event was co-sponsored by the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, the British Chamber of Commerce, and the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services.



TPG Board Chair Anne Hornung-Soukup and AIC President Ron Banks share a light moment before her address.

TPG Board Chair Anne Hornung-Soukup Outlines Ridership Expansion Initiatives for Geneva

Nearly 80 AIC members and guests attended AIC's June 15 Speakers Luncheon with Anne Hornung-Soukup, Chair of the Board of the Transports Publics Genevois (TPG). Ms. Hornung-Soukup gave a fact-filled, humorous presentation on current transit system plans and innovations aimed at increasing ridership for an agency that currently serves 600,000 riders daily, and more than 200 million annually.

AIC President Ron Banks introduced Ms. Hornung-Soukup, a native Chicagoan and Smith College/American University graduate who has resided in Geneva for nearly thirty years. A successful entrepreneur, private banker, and an avid supporter of women's career causes, she has headed the TPG Board since July 2016.

Hornung-Soukup's discussion, entitled "Chairing the TPG – Present Challenges, Future Opportunities" revealed key logistical and technological upgrades to Geneva's current rail, tram, and bus network within the city and the surrounding region. She cited a number of ongoing challenges: potential strikes, a recent fair increase that was rejected by voters, and the likely financial ramifications of that vote. She also noted the rise of emerging competitors which could further reduce TPG ridership, including Uber, Mobility, Catch-a-Car, as well as a rise in the use of electric bikes.

After a lively Q & A session, she was presented with Lifetime Membership in the AIC by Club President Ron Banks. The event was co-sponsored by the Career Women's Forum (CWF) and the Chamber de Commerce, d'Industrie et des Services de Geneve (CCIG).

Corporate Partner-Sponsor News & Events

Entrepreneurship Program Scores a Knockout!

Our 2nd AIC Entrepreneurship Program kicked off at the Flux Laboratory on May 9th. We had the opportunity to hear from Alisée de Tonnac, the co-founder of Seedstars, the emerging markets start-up agency. Ms. De Tonnac discussed how the organization encourages impactful entrepreneurship in emerging markets through technology.

We then heard from three entrepreneurs from very different industries discuss each of their companies stages of development:

- ◆ Bill Berenson, co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer of PWR Station, told us how getting solar panels to remote locations can be challenging and how their transportable panels can be quickly installed in remote locations at a fraction of the cost and time.
- ◆ Next up was entrepreneur and CEO Glenn Meleder, who after years of working in the humanitarian industry, started Securaxis, and how their Safety Information Management System provides companies and their employees with real-time safety and security information.
- ◆ Last, we heard from Christian Johansson, a finance expert, who co-founded TCR-Platform, a company that aims to provide transparent corporate reporting to board members and investors.



Alisée de Tonnac, Co-Founder of Seedstars, addressing a captive audience of AIC members on May 9

It was an engaging evening of entrepreneurship and networking, with OGGI providing the catering and the Flux Laboratory donating their space for the event. Seedspace was the co-sponsor of the event.

Montalba Architects Hosts Bex & Arts Sculpture Event

On May 9, Montalba Architects presented a pavilion for Bex & Arts 2017, a collaborative project at the crossroads of art, architecture and new technologies. The Bex & Arts sculpture triennial was started more than 25 years ago. Original works of art are displayed in Parc de Szilassy, a beautiful park that offers views towards the Léman landscape and the Alps.

The exhibition pavilion, about 40 square meters in size, integrates the presentation to the public of the models of the works realized by the invited artists as well as a FabLab. There is also a small library section where books from the artists were displayed, allowing the exhibition to further impact each and every visitor.

David Montalba, founder of the award-winning architecture firm, has known this event since his childhood and initiated the temporary pavilion idea at the 2017 exhibition. The theme of the energy that connects the works guided the design of the building. The wooden structure is lightweight and removable, making it reuseable, too.



is pleased to invite you to an exceptional sale **up to 80%** on all the collections.

All AIC members may enjoy an extra 10% discount on the selected jewelry, watches, accessories and unique pieces by mentioning the Code: **AIC Summer**. The offer is valid until July 28.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the AIC. We look forward to these professionals becoming active AIC members. We encourage you to give them a warm AIC welcome when you meet them at future events.

Name	Position	Company
Max Bernstein	Junior Team Member	UBP Investment Advisors
Susan Cave	Administator	JCS
Ivailo Chervenkov		
Francois Chopinet	General Manager	Intercontinental Geneva
Timothy Connerton	Professor	Haute Ecole de Geneve (HEG)
Ronald Crawford	Managing Partner	Bwritr Sarl
Cathy Gerard	Teacher	
Luciano Gobbi	Founder	Firmius
Ellyn Levin	University Guidance Counselor	International School of Geneva
Cecilia Merametdjian	Business Development Manager	BBGI Group
Zoe Barbey Ross	Owner	ZBR Events
David Ryan	Head of Group Strategic Planning	Banque Pictet & Cie
Francoise Sturdza	President	Heart for India Foundation
Vivienne Talbot	HR Director, International	InnerWorkings
Mojdeh Taleghani	Painting Instructor	United Nations Women's Club—Geneva
Chris Terry	Business Development Director	T & T Publishing Associates

AIC Members Get Special Discounts at Select Merchants



Visit www.amclub.ch for Specific Discounting Information by Merchant

Member Profile

Meet Vanessa Neil

Goodbye, Paris. Hello Geneva!

When I was preparing to relocate to Geneva, and launch into my new career in wealth management, I realized I knew no one in Switzerland. So, before leaving Paris, I prepared my “First 100 Days” plan for living and working in Geneva.

Having done a lot of professional networking in Paris, I decided that active networking would be the key to my integration as part of the international community in Switzerland. After some online research, I found the American International Club and planned to join it and a few other clubs, too.



I commenced my professional life in Paris in 1995 with EDS (H. Ross Perot’s company before it was absorbed by Hewlett-Packard), thus fulfilling my initial career plan to work in finance and international business development. I was fascinated by US business culture and the possibilities of adapting business strategy to meet local specificities, enabling the company to succeed in Europe. This “American experience” was truly inspiring, so the AIC was a natural choice of network upon my move to Geneva in 2015.

While still working in Paris in 2009, I began working with international small business owners at my own consultancy firm, and I came to realize the importance for busy professionals of having an independent Financial Advisor who is able to understand their requirements, offer expertise and provide the appropriate solutions. With such busy working lives, economic pressures, and pension systems which are out of touch with today’s social, economic and demographic environment, financial planning is becoming more essential now than it ever has been in the past.

This reflection led to a move for me from the finances of businesses to the finances of people, and consequently to a career in wealth management. I also realized that Switzerland offered greater opportunities in the field than France, hence the move to Geneva.

In my current role as a wealth management advisor, I’m passionate about supporting my individual clients — many of who are international clients — in their financial needs. From savings to retirement planning I provide my insights and expertise with a specific focus on the finances of women and their families. In fact, I am writing a book on this very subject even now....

On Day 3 here, I attended the vernissage of an art gallery where I met a fellow AIC member, I was able to consolidate my networking plan with the AIC. I attended events, joined officially in November 2015 and the rest, as they say, is history! I have been delighted, but not surprised, by the warm welcome of Ron Banks and the AIC community. I’ve attended Thanksgiving twice now, and celebrated July 4th for the first time last year, enjoyed some superb luncheon speaker events and very pleasant, evening aperitifs.

Thanks to the AIC I have quickly become part of the local international community in Geneva. Its events have enabled me to meet some wonderful people and to discover some great people as well. I very much look forward to more happy “AICing” in the future and building my network of business and social contacts along the way.

* * * *

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Cultural Events Round-Up

AIC Gets Exclusive Tour of Exquisite Pieces from Christie's May Auction

On Saturday, May 13, about twenty AIC members received a special, guided tour of the world-famous Christie's auction house's upcoming auction, "Magnificent Jewels and Rare Watches" at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues in Geneva! The exhibit featured a selection of beautiful timepieces created between the 19th and 21st century by the world's foremost watchmakers, including exquisite Rolex watches and some of Cartier's finest jewelry.

The sale offered a diversified range of exceptional vintage watches and modern timepieces. One such piece, the rare Rolex Afternoon watch had an estimated pre-auction value of more than 400,000 CHF.



AIC members got a special tour of rare and exquisite jewels and watches on auction from Christie's

But the highlight of the auction was certainly the magnificent array of jewelry. The head of jewelry for Christie's Geneva was our guide, and her enthusiasm and knowledge provided insights that we would not have gotten from simply wandering around and reading the catalogue. Among the prominent items on display were:

- a) a private collection by one of Cartier's master craftsmen – not that expensive, but selected for their artistic value – a master jeweler's jewelry collection!
- b) a large heart-cut diamond — which are quite rare, at that size, as you lose much of the stone in the cutting process.
- c) several old-fashion exquisite brooches — which we learned are making a fashion comeback.

Our visit to Christie's was a lovely way to spend a Saturday morning at an event that marks Geneva as the center of the jewelry and watch auction world. And the AIC was there!

AIC Enjoys an Evening of Classical Music and Opera

On June 6, AIC Cultural Events Chair Robert Race and about 40 AIC members attended an evening of classical music and opera at the Batiment des Forces Montrices. "Made in USA" was presented by L'Orchestre de Chambre de Geneve with the Harlem Opera Theatre and featured the music of the American composers George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Aaron Copeland.

The first half's musical program featured a powerful version of Copeland's *Appalachian Spring*, composed for Martha Graham's famous ballet of the same name, as well as Gershwin's "Lullaby for Strings" and Porter's "Songs." Each was performed flawlessly by L'Orchestre de Chambre de Geneve, led by Conductor Arie van Beek, and comprised by more than forty excellent instrumentalists.

The second half featured songs taken from Gershwin's acclaimed "Blue Monday." The songs were performed by five leading singers from New York's Harlem Opera Theatre. Composed in 1922, Gershwin's opera was one of the first examples of the fusion of classical opera and jazz, ushering in a new era in classic musical form.

Afterwards, the OCG hosted a end-of the-season reception, where AIC members met members of L'Ochestre and the Harlem Opera Theatre whose five cast members each performed a beautiful solo during the course of the evening's second act. It was a good and festive night all around!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 2017

AIC-English Speaking Cancer Society (ESCA) Annual Bake-Off	Thursday, Sept. 3	9am-5pm	Lac du Joux, Switzerland
4th AIC-Chand Kaul Memorial Golf Tournament	Friday, Sept. 8	7:30am-3:30pm	Golf & Country Club de Maison Blanche Echenevex, France
Monthly Apero	Thursday, Sept. 14	6pm-8pm	The, Clubhouse, Rue Plantamour 25 Geneva (Tentative)
Speaker's Luncheon—Bertrand Levrat, Director General, Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)	Thursday, Sept. 22	11:45am-2pm	Hotel Metropole, Geneva
1st Annual Corporate Partners Dinner	Thursday, Sept. 28	6:30pm-9pm	Venue to be determined

2017 Corporate Sponsors

The AIC would like to thank our Corporate Partners who are a vital backbone of the Club. If you are interested in becoming a Corporate Partner, please contact Paige Holt, Vice-President and Director of Development at: admin@amclub.ch or call: 022 310 0015.



MONTALBA ARCHITECTS

