



## Arbenz Family Association

### 67. General Assembly of 11 September 2022 in Zurich

#### Minutes

##### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomes all participants, especially those who have never attended our General Assembly before. In particular, he welcomes those who have travelled from afar, in particular the three descendants of Jacobo Arbenz-Guzman, once President of Guatemala.

- 45 people attend the family meeting, of which 31 have the right to vote before the admission of new members, 16 would be the majority for a vote. The members of the association are entitled to vote, i.e. all those who were born or adopted with the name Arbenz and are over 18 years old and were admitted as members at a previous meeting.

- 16 members or their families are excused. Peter shows the list and mentions Gertrud Reiter-Arbenz (board member, with husband Manfred), Olivier Arbenz-Wegmüller (treasurer), Daniel and Annette Arbenz-Scheib who would have liked to come but have moved to Oman. Robin and Vivien from England had to cancel due to Brexit issues. Maurice and Denise Vulliez from French-speaking Switzerland also had to cancel at short notice due to hospitalization. Emil Arbenz (93) (with wife Ruth) broke his leg for the third time. We wish them all a speedy recovery!

- The Chairman is pleased that the meeting could be held after a year's postponement due to the pandemic. We chose Zurich because of its central location and the good transport connections in Switzerland and abroad. In addition, we had not gathered here for many decades.

- The Arbenz family was never deeply rooted in Zurich. This may be due to the fact that Pierre Arbenzon, the first immigrant, was rudely rejected by the government of Zurich in 1578, whereupon he moved to Andelfingen. However, the family has left its mark in Zurich: One is the Arbenz Street in Riesbach, named after Johann Jakob Arbenz, who was a cantonal councilor and silk manufacturer and died in Zurich in 1894. Still a well-known name is Eugen Arbenz, who ran the motor car factory E.Arbenz & Co. in Albisrieden from 1904-1922 and died in Zurich in 1972. In the current Zurich telephone directory, the name Arbenz appears only 6 times, although the fifth generation of owners of the Landolt-Arbenz stationery, founded in 1882, included in this number, no longer has much Arbenz blood in its veins.

- Members present by family branch: Lindenmüller: 16 persons out of 54 members, Bären: 18 of 36, Dorf: 0 of 15, Wheeling: 0 of 9.

- The Chairman presents the agenda, no changes to it are requested.

## **2. Minutes of the 66th General Assembly in Schaffhausen**

The minutes were sent out, published on the internet and approved at the virtual board meeting on 31st October 2020. Again, an English version was also prepared. Nobody wants the minutes to be read out. Likewise, there are no questions or comments. The author Gabriele Huggenberg is thanked for the minutes which are approved.

## **3. Tribute to deceased members**

Since the last AGM we have learned of the following deaths:

Davies-Arbenz Edith, USA, de L 79, deceased ca. 2010 in the 87th year of life.

Arbenz Paul Marcel, Klosters, de L 120, on December 13, 2018 in the 72nd year of his life.

Crone-Arbenz Annelies, Australia, de B 78, on October 5, 2019 in the 96th year of her life.

Arbenz-Himmel Anna Klara, Dorf, widow of L 124, on July 22, 2020 in the 95th year of life.

Arbenz John Clerke, Sapulpa USA, W 20, on September 5, 2020 in his 73rd year of life.

Arbenz Ruth, Suhr, de B 75, on January 22, 2021 in her 90th year of life.

Arbenz Hans Peter, Stäfa, de B 74, on March 13, 2021 in the 84th year of his life.

Schreier-Arbenz Nelly, Kreuzlingen, de B 93, on April 1, 2021 in the 81st year of her life.

Arbenz-Braunstein Sophie, Ligerz, de L 114, on April 11, 2021 in her 75th year of life.

Arbenz Klemens, Rotkreuz, de B 100, on May 9, 2021 in the 31st year of his life.

Arbenz Benno, Zollikon, de D 55, on May 18, 2021 in his 86th year of life.

Nyffenegger Jürg, Langenthal, husband of L 114, on June 11, 2021 in his 81st year of life.

Arbenz Markus, Zollikon, D 59, on September 2, 2021, in his 86<sup>th</sup> year of life.

Arbenz Yannick, Stäfa, de B 99, on May 14, 2022 in the 35th year of his life.

Arbenz-Stäbler Marie, Schaffhausen, widow of L 121, on July 31, 2022 in her 101st year of life

Arbenz-Rohrbach Liselotte, Altendorf, widow of B 94, on August 24, 2022 in the 92nd year of her life.

Those present rise and remember the deceased for a moment of silence.

## **4. Treasury and Auditors' report**

The treasurer Olivier Arbenz-Wegmüller unfortunately cannot be present at the General Assembly. Therefore, the auditor Philipp Arbenz-Purt presents the accounts of the last three years.

Expenditures were mainly noted in the following areas: Family meeting in 2019, expenses board and administration (Homepage and My Heritage), bank fees. In terms of income, the budget was somewhat too optimistic in the area of donations. Nevertheless, the budget 2019 could be met overall. For pandemic reasons, not much incurred in 2020 except a contribution to the Chairman for the family saga. The same is true for 2021, which is not positive, but it did slow the decline in assets somewhat.

The accounts were audited. There are no questions or comments and the accounts are unanimously accepted. The Chairman explains the financial situation also to the guests from Costa Rica in English.

## **5. Admission of new members**

The following persons apply for membership:

- Joel Arbenz, de D67, born 16.5.1996, living at Kirchstrasse 4 in 8458 Dorf, married to Haitham Sigrist, born 5.1.1998, and his sister...
- Julia Arbenz, de D67, born 30.1.1999, resident at Mitteldorfstrasse 1, 8458 Dorf
- Robin Arbenz, L103a, born 25.7.1945, residing in Great Massingham, Norfolk England

- Paola Cristina Arbenz, de B102, born 19.1.1989, resident of Costa Rica
- Katharina Nyffenegger-Arbenz, de L114, born 16.3.1944, resident in Langenthal
- Barbara Lillian Arbenz, de L111, born 25.1.1957, resident in Adliswil

There are no questions or comments. The applicants are accepted into the association with applause, in the hope that they will become active members and will also participate in the anniversary.

## 6. Budget

Philipp Arbenz-Purt presents the budget 2022/2023/2024:

2022: Today's Meeting. CHF 4'000 is budgeted because the venue is relatively expensive. Therefore, we collect CHF 25 from each participant as a contribution to the deficit.

2023 is an interim year, probably little expenditure.

2024 is our 175th anniversary, therefore a large amount of CHF 8'000.- is budgeted. CHF 1'000.- are planned for the production of a third part of the genealogy. If we finish as budgeted, at the end of 2024 there will still be assets of CHF 34'000. The presented budget is accepted unanimously.

## 7. Elections

Olivier Arbenz wishes to resign from his position as treasurer at this AGM. He was our accountant for 9 years. Peter Arbenz-Schönenberger also wishes to resign from his position as second auditor, which he held for 7 years. The Chairman thanks both colleagues very much for their dedicated work and hands over a gift to Peter. Olivier received a voucher by mail. All other board members stand for re-election. Philipp Arbenz-Purt, until now first auditor, is ready to take over from Olivier as treasurer. Sandra Arbenz stands for election as auditor. Both are already thanked for their willingness to support the association. Andreia Arbenz volunteers as second auditor in accordance with our statutes. All board members are elected in globo. Peter thanks the colleagues of the board and the auditors for the good cooperation.

The new board is composed as follows:

- Peter Arbenz-Lehmann, Chairman (unchanged)
- Gertrud Reiter-Arbenz, Vice-Chairwoman (unchanged)
- Gabriele Huggenberg-Arbenz, Actuary (unchanged)
- Philipp Arbenz-Purt, new Treasurer (until now First Auditor)
- Jean Arbenz-Schmid, Assessor (unchanged)
- Felix Arbenz-Gehrig, Assessor (unchanged)
- Sandra Arbenz-Würgler, Auditor (new)
- Andreia Sina Arbenz Gomes da Silva, 2nd Auditor (new)

## 7. Miscellaneous

- No written requests were received.
- Genealogies: We still have about 60 copies of Genealogy I and 200 expl. of Genealogy II. Copies can be ordered free of charge from the Chairman.
- The third book of Peter's family saga, entitled "A Black Friday," is out in 2020 (in German only). It is still available in bookstores or directly from him (CHF 20.-).
- On May 23 and June 6, 2020, the historian Joseph Jung published a two-part series of articles in the local newspaper "Landbote" about Jacobo Arbenz. Subsequently, the municipal information organ of Andelfingen also published an interview with Jung. In it, he postulated a monument to Arbenz as rehabilitation. Jung then visited the Haldenmühle with a small

group. Peter shows a picture of Jakob (the father of Jacobo, thus the grandfather of Juan). Hanna informs that nothing has happened in the meantime concerning the monument.

- In 2021 the new bilingual association website [www.arbenz-family.org](http://www.arbenz-family.org) was launched and the previous homepage was discontinued. The website was designed by Kim Arbenz, daughter of the Chairman. As a new feature, some pages are in English.
- Anniversary meeting 2024: 175 years Arbenz Association. Place: probably Andelfingen and surroundings (foundation took place there on June 10, 1843). The Chairman presents the proposals of the board for the jubilee activities:
  - 3rd part of the genealogy ("Red Books") based on new data collection. The book will also contain individual portraits, in total about 50 new pages. Towards the end of 2022, members will receive a mail asking them to send the changes of their genealogy pages. Some family members will also be interviewed with standardized questionnaires. For example in Aosta Valley Cristiano, fitness trainer / Lukas, blacksmith from Stäfa / Family Arbenz Gomes da Silva from Geneva / Amelie in Munich / Alice from France / Robin in England / John Arbenz-Suddreth from USA / Claudia from Costa Rica / Daniel in Oman. The goal is to have an illustrated interesting book, not only family trees. Only 1'000 CHF has been reserved for this project under the assumption that we order the new edition from Amazon/Kindle (print on demand). Quality would be "soft cover" in black/white print. Peter Arbenz-Schönenberger spontaneously makes a donation of CHF 5'000 for the genealogy. His generosity is warmly thanked by all participants with applause. And so the quality of the genealogy will be better too....
  - Theodul Pass hike from Breuil-Cervinia to Zermatt (2 days). Summer 2024. The whole hike takes about 8 hours, but part of it can be done by cable car. It would also be possible to travel directly to Zermatt. This hike will also be done with few participants, but it would be nice if a bigger group could come together.
- Two present members have celebrated their 80th birthday this year or last year: They are Caspar Arbenz from Haldenmühle and Dietrich Arbenz from Munich. The Chairman congratulates them and presents both of them with a gift.
- The guests from Costa Rica also receive a gift: 2 genealogies and the Arbenz Saga. In return, the association receives the memoirs of Maria Vilanova de Arbenz and a Spanish translation of "Operation PB Success".
- Sports successes of family members:
  - Maud Jayet-Arbenz (26), daughter of Peter's cousin Denise in Lutry, competed in the Tokyo Olympics in the Laser Radial sailing discipline. She finished 19th, but was even 3rd in the world rankings in 2021.
  - Casey Arbenz (45, son of W22 William Robert Arbenz) of Gig Harbor, WA, competed in the 2019 Ironman World Championships in Hawaii, finishing in 10:52h.
  - FC Winterthur has been promoted to the highest soccer division in Switzerland. 3 Arbenzes have been presidents in this football club...: Max, Ernst and Carl Arbenz
- Caspar Arbenz requests to speak: Since 1578, mills in Andelfingen have been family-owned, first Obermühle, later Lindenmühle, then Haldenmühle. 50 years ago Kaspar and Hanna got married and took over the mill in 17<sup>th</sup> generation. He informs that they are now retired, the three daughters do not want to take over.
- Peter Arbenz-Schönenberger requests to speak: He thanks the Chairman for the prudent management of the association.
- Claudia Arbenz from Costa Rica requests to speak in English: She underlines how important this trip to the family roots was for her, her sister and her father, and how nice it is for them to be present at the General Assembly. They want to set a sign, to be closer to the roots and thank Peter very much for the information about their grandfather. The next day, a small

excursion to Andelfingen is planned for the Costa Ricans. On Wednesday they meet Andreas Hoessli, the director of "Devils don't dream!".

- The apero on the beautiful terrace with a view of the monkey enclosure and the giraffes of the Zurich Zoo is offered by the association. Afterwards we take a family photo.

Gabriele Huggenberg-Arbenz, 11 September 2022



All family members present on the terrace of the restaurant "Altes Klösterli"

Some impressions of the day



Our guests from Costa Rica : Claudia, Juan Jacobo and Cristina with the Chairman



Handsome Juan Jacobo



A gift for Caspar Arbenz, 80



Good atmosphere and nice conversations

