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LOUISIANA

Celebrations in New Orleans

The Consulate General of Switzerland is 175 and the Swiss American Society is 150 years old.

Switzerland and New Orleans

Since the founding of New Orleans in 1718 by the French Commandant General Jean B. Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, there have been Swiss in the city. Swiss workers and mercenary soldiers were among the first arrivals shortly

after the spring of 1718. Specific mention is made of one group of 210 Swiss workers who were sent to clear the woods so that the new city could be established.

After the hurricane of September 11, 1722, which destroyed almost everything that had been erected in the settlement, one of

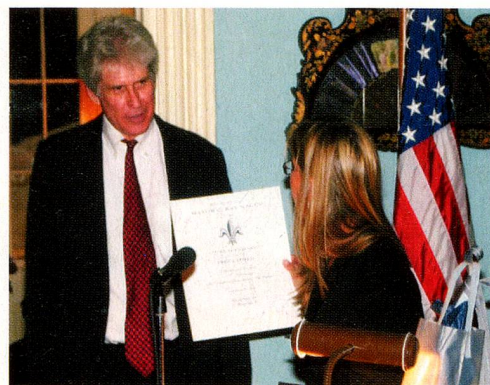
the first buildings to be put up was a barracks for the Swiss soldiers. Swiss troops stayed in New Orleans throughout the French Period. Early accounts of life in the colony describe official and religious processions with the Swiss soldiers taking a prominent part. This tradition was maintained into the early years of the 20th century. A guard, or "Suisse" as he was called, was present at the Saint Louis Cathedral as late as 1913 to take part in processions and maintain order during services.

Swiss soldiers were so highly respected that one French governor, Kerlerec, wrote: "I solicit an increase in the Swiss troops... The Swiss behave exceedingly well ... I would prefer reducing the French troops and augmenting the Swiss, such is the superiority of the latter over former".

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 there was an influx of settlers to Louisiana, including numerous Swiss. For this reason, the Swiss government established 1829 its third Consulate in the United States in the city of New Orleans.



The evening's speakers: Rev. Walter J. Baer; pastor of Grace Episcopal Church, Mr. Armin Meile, Consul General of Switzerland in Houston; Dr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States; Mr. John Geiser, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans; Mrs. Liselotte Comeaux, vice-president and, at the podium, Mrs. Myrtha Lovelace, president of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans



John Geiser, Honorary Consul receiving a proclamation from Mayor of New Orleans representative, Ms. Alexa Georges.

sistance among members and the extension of moral and material aid to other Swiss.

With increasing numbers of Swiss coming to New Orleans, the formation of Swiss organizations was inevitable. The first of these to be documented was a benevolent society organized in 1837. The group had seventy members but



Ambassador Christian Blickenstorfer speaking at the 150th anniversary of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans.

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The Swiss-American Society of New Orleans

The history of the Society began on May 1, 1855 when thirty-one Swiss men organized the Swiss Benevolent Society. Over the years, the organization has changed its name several times and altered the composition of its membership, but it has consistently maintained its original purpose of mutual as-

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Mrs. Christian Blickenstorfer and Mr. Armin Meile, Consul General of Switzerland in Houston at a luncheon at the World Trade Center in New Orleans.

did not survive the yellow fever epidemics of 1838 and 1840. In 1848 the Swiss Rifle Society was formed, but soon disappeared. The only one to survive was the Swiss Benevolent Society. In succeeding years its name was changed to the Swiss Society of New Orleans and the organization absorbed other Swiss groups such as the Union Suisse (in 1878) and the Swiss American Historical Society of Louisiana (in 1936).

At the Society's 100th anniversary it was noted that membership in the group had always been limited to Swiss men. However, the centennial program also noted the recent organization (in 1954) of the ladies auxiliary of the Swiss Society and also recorded the fact that this group after only one year's existence counted more members than the men. On February 18, 1959 the male members

of studying the matter, the statutes and by-laws were changed to allow ladies and non-Swiss to join. Accordingly, the name was changed to the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans to reflect the new composition of the membership. Seven ladies, including our present senior member Marie Louise Spoerri Preble, were present at this historic meeting.

Immediately the presence of the ladies was felt. Prior to their arrival, the usual meeting took place at Germania Lodge on Bienville Street and consisted of a business meeting followed by simple refreshments and bowling. Now meetings became more social with many taking place in members' homes. In February 1963 it was decided that two business meetings would

take an action that would probably have shocked the founders of the Swiss Society. After more than two years

be held each year and that other Society functions would be strictly social. Professional and amateur films and slides provided popular programs. Bowling continued and parties with various themes were organized, including Bingo and Jass and pool parties. Occasionally the members made excursions on cruise boats on the Mississippi River and nearby bayous. This full program of activities continues today.

The celebration

After a welcome from Myrtha Lovelace, President of the Swiss-American Society, introductions by John Geiser, Honorary Consul of

Street, which was the home of John A. Merle, who served from 1838 to 1848 as Switzerland's second Consul in the city. Candles and Swiss flags seemed to be everywhere, from the curved stairway leading to the entrance and throughout the house, as well as arrangements of flowers in the Swiss colors of red and white. In the courtyard, which was surrounded by more Swiss and cantonal flags, accordionist Julie Council entertained with a program of Swiss music.

On display were documents and articles telling the history of the Society and the Consulate. Also on display was the uniform of a Swiss Guard, on loan from Carl



Members of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans and invited guests enjoy refreshments and live accordion music in the courtyard of the Mèrle-Beauregard-Keyes House in the French Quarter of New Orleans.



Thomas Huber, Cathrin Huber-Fehr and Eileen Fehr, grandson and daughters of Carl Ernst Fehr in front of his Swiss Guard Uniform.

Switzerland in New Orleans, and Armin Meile, Consul General of Switzerland in Houston, it was Dr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States, who took to the podium. He paid tribute to the Swiss presence in New Orleans and congratulated the Swiss-American Society on its 150th and the Consulate on its 175th anniversary. He also congratulated John Geiser on his 20th anniversary as Honorary Swiss Consul in New Orleans.

The party took place at the Beauregard-Keyes House on Chartres

Friedrich Fehr of Charleston, South Carolina, whose grandfather, Carl Ernst Fehr, served as a Swiss Vatican Guard in the 1930's. Present at the party were Carl Ernst Fehr's two daughters, Eileen J. Fehr of New Orleans and Cathrin Huber-Fehr who came with her son all the way from her home in Klosters, Switzerland, to join the celebrations.

Text and photo with Swiss Guard Uniform: John Geiser

All other photographs taken by Paul Muehleman

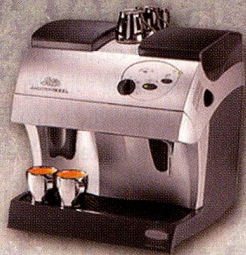
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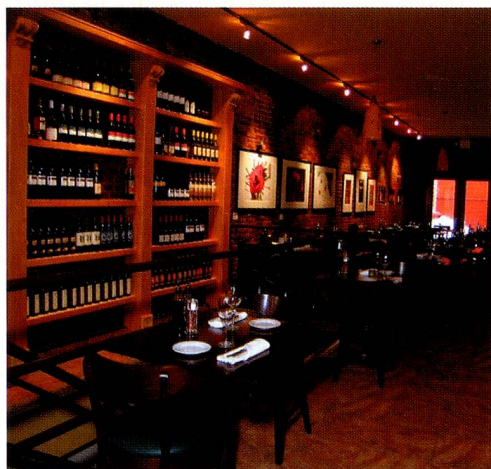
Restaurant & Wine Bar

A Restaurant Review

The newly opened Swizz Manhattan restaurant is a slice of Switzerland in Midtown. With the first step inside my nose filled with the warm aroma of Raclette cheese. In the cold Manhattan winter, it not only made my stomach growl, but

world charm. The two level restaurant has a main dining room on the street level and a secluded bar and "Wine Cave" below. The Wine Cave is used for parties of 8 or more. Roland Solenthaler, one of the owners of Swizz, was on hand to answer any questions we had regarding the menu or the restaurant.

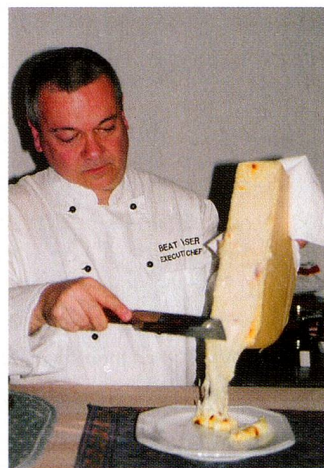
As I brought a party of five people, we sampled a fair portion of the menu. I had the Bratwurst with Onions, (white veal sausage) and Rösti (potatoes) on the side. It was exceptional. Others at my table sampled the "all you can eat Cheese Fondue", a Stuffed Chicken Breast and a Venison Special that melted on the tongue. We were able to substitute Spät-



The interior of the restaurant with red brick walls and the simple but elegant decorations and furniture

also warmed me from the inside out. The decoration is an expression in modern simplicity, but the brick building gives it a cozy old

can eat Cheese Fondue", a Stuffed Chicken Breast and a Venison Special that melted on the tongue. We were able to substitute Spät-



Chef Beat Waser preparing a Raclette

zli (egg noodle dumplings) for rice pilaf and Roland made sure that everything was in order. There was no shortage of Swiss ambiance.

The restaurant was pleasantly filled with 12 other diners. Swiss German could be heard from various tables around the room. The Wine Cave was also in full use for a private party. We finished off the meal with a chocolate fondue and took the grand tour. We had a lovely time and everyone was full of warmth and good cheer as we said Tschüss!

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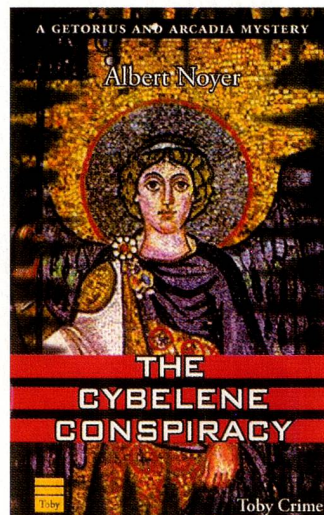
BOOK REVIEW

The Cybelyne Conspiracy

By Albert Noyer

After "The Secundus Papyrus", the second novel in the trilogy "A Getorius and Arcadia Mystery" has been published.

Surgeon Getorius Asterius, his wife Arcadia, a eunuch archpriest, a female head of a heretical Arian church, and an ambitious senator in league with a Chinese merchant: these are the prime movers in this mystery set again in



Ravenna, Italy in A.D. 440. When Getorius is summoned to examine the castrated body of a youth, who is the sobbing "Vestal Virgin" nearby? Why is the senator smuggling counterfeit Western coins to the Eastern Empire, and contraband Chinese products back to Ravenna? A coded message leads to a secret tunnel and the sinister temple of Cybele, whose devotees are self-mutilated eunuchs.

In a stunning climax, the conspirators try to escape Ravenna, planning to sell one product in Egypt, but failing to recognize the far more deadly nature of the other.

All Albert Noyer's books are available from Amazon.com for \$ 10.47

UTAH

Honorary Consul retires

The Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco has taken notice and accepted the resignation of Mrs. Marion MAZER - GHINOLFI, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Salt Lake City, effective June 30th, 2005.

This Consulate General would like to express to Mrs. Mazer its gratitude for the services rendered to Switzerland and the Swiss community while at the helm of the Consulate of Switzerland in Salt Lake City. Let me also wish Mrs. Mazer, her husband Norman, and their daughters, all the best of success for the future.

Roland Quillet, Consul General of Switzerland



Mrs. Marion Mazer-Ghinolfi, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Salt Lake City

CALIFORNIA

Swiss Eyes Check your Luggage!

Sergio Magistri – Swiss entrepreneur

Born under the Zodiac sign of the Aquarius would explain the inquisitive and creative mind of Sergio Magistri. In his case it has been more than proven.

Sergio Magistri grew up in Lugano. He graduated with a Doctorate in Pulsed Doppler Ultrasound for the measurement of blood in the human body (Institute für Biomedizinische Technik) and a diploma in Electrical Engineering, both from the ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in Zurich.

To satisfy his exploring mind, he and a friend were the first human beings to hang-glide over the Swiss Alps from Monte Lema/Lugano to Disentis/GR, a 50-mile trip of 5 hours!

However, Sergio Magistri was interested in Silicon Valley where at the time technology was changing the world. He found a research position at Imatron, a company that manufactures biomedical equipment such as CAT scan equipment (x-ray based computed tomography) to detect tumors in patients.

In 1988 the world was stunned when PanAm's Jumbo Jet Flight 103 exploded and crashed over Lockerbie/Scotland. Everyone on board was killed by the terrorist attack. This immediately chal-

lenged Magistri's mind. If medical science can detect "enemy factors", i.e. tumors in human bodies, why could not such systems be developed to detect explosives or bombs in checked luggage to protect the traveling public against terrorism?

Magistri, with a few colleagues, was part of the spin-off of InVision, an independent company with the purpose of developing, manufacturing and marketing explosive detection systems (EDS), based on x-ray computed tomography (CT). The company started independent operations in 1990 and Sergio became its President and CEO in 1992. Over time the company also began developing other technologies for civil aviation security.

The beginning of the company was slow. However, it became known as the first to have developed high detection FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) certified EDS systems for the screening of checked luggage at airports including integration with baggage handling systems and standalone use.

InVision headquarters are located in the San Francisco area. In 1992 the company had a staff of 20 researchers and was still

struggling. However, in 1994, after 4 years of development, the Airport of Manchester/GB placed an order for 7,5 million dollars and the company started to grow.

Then September 11, 2001 happened. Magistri knew what he had to do. As Congress passed a bill requiring all major airports to screen luggage for explosives before the end of 2002, airports urgently needed to be equipped with CTX/EDS systems. Magistri expanded his company to its full capacity as fast as possible. Instead of manufacturing one machine per week, InVision now had to produce 5-6 systems per day! Personnel increased to 1000 and worked 12 hours, 6 days a week. So far InVision has sold in excess of 1200 CTX units. By 2002 InVision revenues grew to 432 million.

The world and analysts now began to pay attention to Magistri. In November 2003 Ernst and Young at a Gala Event in Palm Springs named him U.S. Entrepreneur of the Year in the defense and security category. Winners were selected from 400 regional award recipients by an independent panel of judges. Fortune Magazine declared InVision to be "The fast-



Sergio Magistri's company sells most of the machines that scan your luggage at the airport.

est growing company" in 2003 among 10 such robust companies (median market value 1,35 billion dollars).

Among other awards, InVision received the Albert Einstein Technology Award for "incredible leadership and achievements in the defense industry" in January 2004 and the "Technology Fast 500 Award" by Deloitte and Touche, sponsored by Silicon Valley Business Journal in September 2003.

In Spring 2004 Magistri sold InVision to General Electric for a net price of 900 million dollars, i.e. \$ 50.00 per share. Although "retired" at an early age of 51, Magistri will not remain idle – nor will his brilliant mind.

Doris Ritzi



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FLORIDA

Swiss American Club of SW Florida

The following article is a summary of monthly reports written by member Eva Stern of Bonita Springs and published on our website: www.swissamericanclub.com.

The Cypress Woods Golf and Country Club hosted the October event. We had a casual dinner with lots of talking either in "Schwiizerdütsch", English or French, depending on the person sitting next to you. After the dinner all Bingo players moved to the back room, hoping to win a big prize. We had a lot of fun, and our Bingo host did a great job entertaining and announcing the winning numbers.

On Monday, November 8, club members and guests met at the Galaxy Lanes bowling center in Ft. Myers to enjoy the game, the cold buffet and Swiss company. Eight

and obviously didn't play for the first time. The teams seemed to be well balanced; everybody won at least one round. A few people spent the evening watching and cheering, or just chatting.

For the annual "Chlaushock", members and guests met December 4 at the vice president's house in Naples. Long tables were set up in the courtyard to accommodate all the people. The committee had worked hard and served an excellent dinner: Delicious Black Forest Ham and mustard, potatoes and home made sauerkraut. We all had a good time and were pleased about the mild temperature. People stayed quite long and enjoyed the outdoor event under the shining stars.

A special event took place in January: Club members boarded the "JP Stevens" in Ft. Myers for a dinner and dance cruise on the Caloosahatchee River. The buffet was excellent, surpassed only by



Members of the Swiss American Club of SW Florida getting ready to settle down for their traditional "Chlaushock" - all bundled up in their winter clothes!

February was a feast for golfing enthusiasts. They traveled to Cape Coral and had a nice round of golf, followed by a meal at the clubhouse.

In March the club held its 6th annual meeting in an Italian restaurant in Cape Coral. The outgoing president gave a brief review over the activities in the past year, and a new president and one new board member were elected. The four-course dinner, Italian style, was followed by a demonstration by members of the professional team of a local dance studio and general dancing.

The Cypress Woods Golf & Country Club was once again the location for the April event. During happy hour, friends who had just returned from a vacation in Switzerland brought the latest news about the homeland: Skiing in Zermatt is still great and one of the many Swiss tunnel projects is finally completed. Later we enjoyed an excellent dinner with live music in the background. Most attendees

then met in the game room to play "Eile mit Weile" or a "Jass". Some ladies tried their hand at "Mah Jongg", a Chinese game played by four players with 144 domino-like tiles marked in suits.

Due to inclement weather the May picnic had to be cancelled.

*Rosmarie F. Strother, President
Swiss American Club of SW
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Naples, FL 34119
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www.swissamericanclub.com*



After dinner at the Cypress Woods Golf & Country Club, some of the ladies tried their hand at "Mah Jongg", a Chinese game played with 144 domino-like tiles marked in suits.

teams played with great commitment, hitting or missing the pins and punching their scores into the computer screen. Competition was out there; some people showed up with their own shoes and balls

the good and cheerful mood everybody was in. And most of the participants could be seen on the dance floor. The common consensus was that this was a party to be repeated in the future.

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CALIFORNIA

Shepherd's Journey into the Third Millenium:

Erich and Silvia Langjahr at San Francisco Film-Festival!

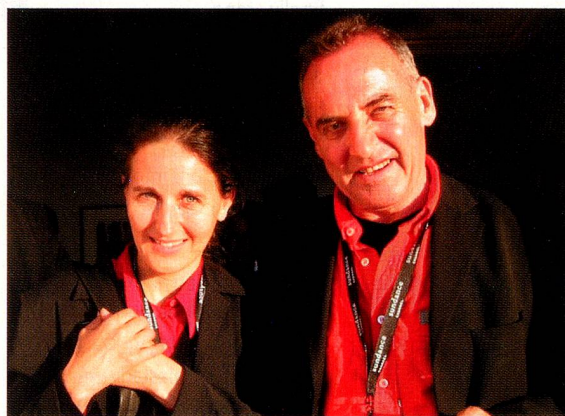
In the early 90s I witnessed a performance as many a Swiss-American of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area did of Langjahr's film "Men in the Ring" (Maenner im Ring) – one of the finest documentaries written and produced by Langjahr – his personal present to our homeland's 700th birthday. This Swiss film maker won my vote instantly.

The more I accepted - with pleasure that is - an invitation of the San Francisco International Film Festival to attend the showing of his "Shepherd's Journey into the Third Millenium" (Hirtenreise ins Dritte Jahrtausend) at the Kabuki theatre.

Close to ten years – Erich and his wife and workpartner Silvia gave their all to create yet another documentary (the third of a trilogy). This film followed "Alpine Ballad" and "Peasant's War".

I felt the soft, musical, artistic and realistic stream flowing between men's reasoning, animal instinct and simply nature at its best. When taken with the abso-

lutely superb cinematography of the Swiss landscape, suddenly the viewer concentrates on the realistic fact of life – the countless hours of hard work, of simplest living conditions. One night here,



Silvia and Erich Langjahr at the International Film Festival presentation in San Francisco

then there – from the lowlands to the high mountains always moving, caring, sharing and waiting for the season to end or the new one to arrive.

I asked Langjahr who also attended the presentation to sum up this film for our readers – let's

listen: "I tell a modern shepherd's story based on transhumance, the transfer of herds between the seasons in search of greener pastures. The shepherds in this film take on a life of privation and face a

challenge that often reaches the limit of their capacities. They do not come from an agricultural background, but have chosen this life

selves out of need for the freedom to do something meaningful."

Needless to say that this film won 10 awards on an international level including the Swiss Film Prize (Best Documentary) in 2003.

The shepherds Thomas and Sussanna Landis-Giacometti and Mi-

chel Cadenazzi and Bea Ammann gave us the true picture – they are true shepherds after all.

The Swiss Government and many Swiss agencies signed as sponsors for the realization of this film. Music: Hans Kennel.

Web: www.langjahr-film.ch

Text and photo:

Gaby H. Burkert

Grueziwohl@aol.com

The Trilogy of Langjahrs work will be shown at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission & Third Street, San Francisco, in cooperation with the Goethe Institut, the Consulate General and Swiss Films:
Thu, Sept. 8, 7:30 pm, Alpine Ballad (Sennen-Ballade)
Thu, Sept. 15, 7:30 pm, Peasant's War (Bauernkrieg)
Thu, Sept. 22, 7:30 pm, Shepherd's Journey into the Third Millenium (Hirtenreise ins Dritte Jahrtausend)

Playing with Butterflies

"Open your wings. Free your soul. Fly like a butterfly!" I discovered



Eternal flight

this saying on one of the many butterfly paintings created by Anna Coulter. When I asked what the saying meant to her, she explained that the burden of an ego is un-

necessary, and that it is enough to enjoy life just as it is.

While visiting the artist's studio I discovered all kinds of butterfly paintings in the midst of other designs, which all seem to express the same thing: "Life is a gift. It is precious. Enjoy it!" The paintings are mostly large and fun to be around. They are uplifting, beautiful, happy and colorful.

I became curious about the personal background of this artist with a funny accent. I found out that she is a Swiss butterfly who

made it all the way across the ocean and landed in California, where she now lives happily with her American husband Michael. Anna grew up in the famous ski resort St. Moritz. During that time she developed a special love for the deep blue mountain lakes and their crystal clear reflections. She completed her studies at the Art Institute and Teacher's College in Zurich.

Anna Magdalena Coulter - Reimann established herself as an exhibiting artist and group leader

for creative processes. She has had many successful exhibitions in Switzerland, France, Israel, Canada and the USA. Her work is truly remarkable and worth seeing. She is an accomplished artist who is able to express her inner joy of being alive. So, open your wings, take flight and visit the artist's studio in Campbell, California.

For a showing by appointment call: (408) 866 4658.

To see more pictures:

www.AnnaCoulter.com

Norma Taylor

How "Swiss" are we?

"If you only knew what happened to me in Switzerland!" Maybe you said it yourself and if not, you definitely heard somebody else telling a story about it.

Remember that time you innocently boarded the bus or the streetcar, and after a few stops started wondering why there was nobody on board selling tickets? Then you realized in horror that you were supposed to buy a ticket before boarding. A picture of a "Schwarzfahrer" loomed ominously over your head, together with an even larger word "Busse" (fine). So you got off at the next stop. By the time you figured out how the ticket dispenser worked, you had missed the next bus!

Same thing if you want to ride the train. Long gone are the times when even the smallest train station had a friendly person on the other side of a window who would sell you the ticket and explain how to get from here to there, where to change trains and even look up the schedules for you. Now I stand in front of large automatic things. If I want to go from Zurich to Bero-münster, is it better to travel via Lucerne or via Lenzburg? The machine has now answer.

Frank went back and after renting a car for years and years, decided to travel by train. He saw the numbers painted on the platform where the train should stop and

decided to wait where it said # 1 to get into the first wagon. When the controller arrived, he asked him politely why he was sitting in first class when he only had a second-class ticket. It took our friend quite some time to convince the controller that he hadn't set foot in a train for the last 40 years and had no idea that he was in a wrong compartment. He must



Fred Burri at the Swiss Fair in Los Angeles: Typical Swiss, born in the USA.

have done a good job, because he didn't have to pay the fine, which would have been 87 Swiss Francs.

Hans also rented a car. When it was time to "fill her up" he couldn't find a pump that worked with his credit card without insisting on a pin code. So he finally rang the service bell to ask for help. He was informed that he could refill his tank without a problem by simply inserting a 20 Swiss Francs bill into the machine. Credit cards we're used to, but cash!?

Jeannette just arrived at her vacation home and hurried over to the grocery store to do her first shopping. The saleslady was standing quite impatiently by the door. Jeannette inquired, why she was already closing. "Today is Thursday, that's when we close early. It was in the newspaper. Haven't you read it?"

One of the highlights of every Swiss vacation is certainly a trip to the Migros. Wide-eyed we look at the sausages, the meat cuts, the pastries, chocolates and what else. Only when we stand with a fully loaded cart at the cash register do we realize that we forgot, once again, to bring our own shopping bags! Nobody asks "paper or plastic" and "do you need help out with this?" Bags are available, but at a price.

I arrived in the middle of December in Switzerland coming from the tropics. The first morning I went out for a stroll, snugly dressed in winter boots that I had packed away for several years. Soon I realized that they had suffered very badly in the heat. The sole was crumbling to pieces and after a few steps my feet were soaking wet. So off I went to the nearest shoe store. It was at a



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time when the salesperson would bring you the shoes practically one pair at a time. After the third pair I still hadn't found what I was looking for and the saleslady said: "If you have something that specific in mind, you should shop at the beginning of the season when there are more choices!" What was I going to do? Tell her my life story?

That is our problem. We sound Swiss but we aren't. We don't speak the same language, even if it is "Schwyzertütsch". In Argentina for example there is a large group of people who emigrated from the Valais. They still speak that dialect but don't understand High German or Züritütsch. In New Glarus, some older people speak a Glarner dialect just as it was spoken 200 years ago.

And we don't always "look" Swiss! I realized that when it seemed that I was the only person walking around in white gym shoes. Swiss wear brown, black or otherwise discreetly colored hiking shoes.

For us, time stopped the day we left. Everything remains the same or gets a slightly golden halo. But the Swiss evolved and made changes in their daily life that we completely ignore. That's the moment when we melancholically realize that we are "Ausland-schweizer (Swiss Abroad)" with emphasis on "Ausland."

*Text & Picture: Wal Baur
wbaur@adelphia.net*

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NEW YORK

A Modern Swiss Hero Remembered in New York

Carl Lutz's memory celebrated at the Park East Synagogue in New York

The Park East Synagogue was quite full on Wednesday, 11th May 2005 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Carl Lutz's death. This event was organized by the



Ambassador Raymond Loretan, Consul General of Switzerland in New York

International Wallenberg Foundation, the Park East Synagogue and the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York.

Carl Lutz was the first Swiss national elevated to the rank of Righteous among the Nations by Yad Vashem. As chief of the Swiss Legation's Department of Foreign

Interests in Budapest, Vice-Consul Carl Lutz helped 62,000 Jews to survive between 1942 and 1945. He issued tens of thousands of protective letters ("Schutzbriefe") to Hungarian Jews, which the Nazi officials reluctantly recognized. He also established 76 safe houses throughout Budapest to hide and save Jews. Carl Lutz was an unusually gifted, quite religious and sensitive man. He acted very courageously, exceeding his authority to find new tools to save lives.

Carl Lutz can be seen as a modern Swiss hero, a man whose deeds are benchmarks for us to face our future. It is important that Switzerland can rely on such modern righteous men who have done so much for humanity. Almost all Swiss historical heroes — such as Wilhelm Tell, or Winkelried — are indeed very old ones.

Furthermore, this commemoration was of high importance, to

show that Switzerland, after having revisited its history — a painful introspection —, has also its own heroes, as Ambassador Raymond Loretan, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, stressed in his speech. He also wished that Carl Lutz, whose deeds have become part of world history, may inspire all those today and in the future who struggle for racial justice and fight for peace.

The promoters of the celebration also asked Agnes Hirschi, Carl Lutz's daughter — who came from Switzerland especially for the event —, to address the assembly with a few words on her father. Her greetings were full of emotion. The last speaker of the evening was Michael Vertes, a Holocaust Survivor, who explained how Carl Lutz saved him when he was only eight years old in Budapest. The evening was also embellished by a work of Franz Liszt played by the

pianist Sebastian Forster.

The commemoration was followed by a reception. This kind of joint celebration between the Swiss and Jewish communities in New York is important to strengthen the ties between them,



Agnes Hirschi, Daughter of Carl Lutz

and also to improve the picture of Switzerland that has faced quite hard times during the last years.

*Cédric Alber, Swiss Consulate
alber0@hei.unige.ch*

*Photos courtesy of
The International Raoul
Wallenberg Foundation*

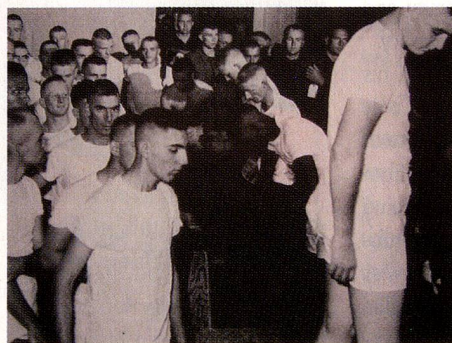
Looking for Swiss in the Korean War

Swiss film director and historian Theo Stich's newest project is dedicated to the fate of Swiss who emigrated to the US and who were called to serve in the Korean war, although they were not American citizens.

In fact a treaty existed between the US and Switzerland that in theory allowed those called to serve to opt out. However those Swiss who knew about the treaty were also informed by the US authorities that refusing to go to Korea would have negative consequences. They would lose the right to apply for US citizenship and, when leaving the United States, could

be refused re-entry. These consequences were too costly for most Swiss who tried to build their future in the US.

During his research, Mr. Stich



Recruits in Fort Ord (Monterey, CA) lining up for the health inspection

met a Swiss who had fought at the Korean front. A second person completed basic training at Fort Ord, Monterey/CA in the Infantry but was lucky enough to be sent to military school for advanced training and studies.

Mr. Stich is still looking for more Swiss with similar experiences who would be willing to talk about their time in the war. Preference will be given to Swiss who actually fought in Korea and later

obtained US citizenship. Shooting for this documentary is planned to start next year.

More information on Mr. Stich can be found on his homepage www.lumenfilm.ch.

Persons who are interested in participating in this project should contact Mr. Stich in writing, relating shortly their experience and giving some basic personal information.

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Ottikerstr. 10, 8006 Zurich,
Switzerland
Tel./Fax 011 41 44 461 0022
E-mail: info@lumenfilm.ch*

WASHINGTON D.C.

"Swiss Sensation" at Washington's Top Spring Event

Switzerland had the honor of being this year's guest country at the annual Flower Mart Festival in Washington, D.C. Through various cultural, culinary and entertaining activities, the Swiss Embassy showcased a traditional but also modern and surprising Switzerland. With over 20,000 visitors, the festival on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral reached a record high.



Sam Burkhardt plays the National Anthems on the main stairs of the Cathedral

Each year a different nation has the opportunity to be in the spotlight of Washington's top spring event, the annual Flower Mart Festival on the grounds of the National Cathedral. This year Switzerland was chosen as the honorary guest at the 66th annual celebration, which was not only dedicated to flowers but also to crafts, culture and foods from the region and the guest country. Switzerland is the only country that has been selected twice to participate in the Flower Mart Festival in the last decade, the previous time in 1996.

Susanne Blickenstorfer, wife of Swiss Ambassador to the U.S. Christian Blickenstorfer, served as

honorary chairwoman and opened the festivities, accompanied by the Swiss and American national anthems played by renowned Swiss saxophonist Sam Burkhardt. Mrs. Blickenstorfer emphasized the close ties between Switzerland's official representation in Washington and the grounds of the nation's largest Cathedral: "The National Cathedral neighborhood is our home away from home since the Embassy and the residence have been located here for over fifty years." She also commented on how the main theme of the festival - flowers - plays an important part in Swiss culture: "Flowers are a reflection of the Swiss passion for nature and our commitment to protect the environment."

On behalf of the Swiss government, Ambassador Blickenstorfer highlighted in his opening remarks the excellent relations between Switzerland and the U.S. "Switzerland and the U.S. have a long history of shared values and our two countries remain connected by a continuing cultural exchange fostered by over 1 million Americans of Swiss descent." The Ambassador also invited the festival's visitors to experience a traditional but also very modern and surprising Switzerland, famous not only for its mountains, watches, cheese and chocolate, but also for its innovative spirit, diversity and unique form of direct democracy.

The Swiss ambassador and his wife Susanne were not the only celebrities spotted at the two-day festival: Several heroes from Switzerland's past were roaming the area; famous Swiss personalities such as Wilhelm Tell, Swiss lady liberty Helvetia, automobile company founder Louis Chevrolet, Albert Einstein, and Red Cross founder Henri Dunant shared with

the visitors details of their lives and the resounding importance of their contributions.

Watch, listen, taste... and smell!

The Swiss made sure that festival visitors got a full portion of "Swissness" - for all of their senses: The

Embassy showcased a number of attractions featuring Swiss culture, music, art performances, food and entertainment. Fribourg-born artist Franklin Wassmer and actors of the renowned theater and circus school "Teatro Dimitri" from Ticino charmed the crowd with interactive performances, while Sam Burkhardt and the National Cathedral's organist Erik Suter offered a unique duet concert within the Cathedral. Brass band "Alte Kameraden Blaskapelle" played robust Swiss tunes, while flag-throwing, yodeling and Alphorn-blowing demonstrations pleased old and

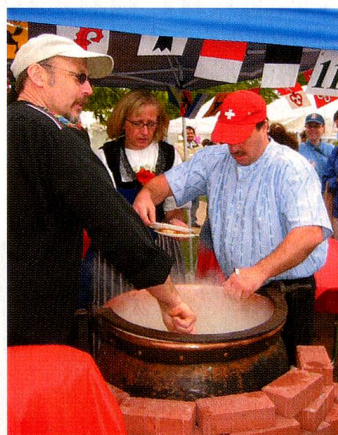


Switzerland in the spotlight at Washington's premiere spring event. Over 20,000 visitors got a full portion of "Swissness"

the traditional music.

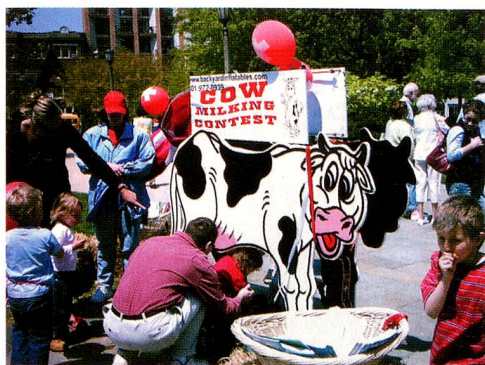
In a cinema tent, the Embassy aired short films and lectures on Switzerland. Visitors could learn from Olga Gaston, the Swiss Ambassador's Chef, the secrets of Swiss cuisine and how to easily prepare great Swiss specialties. The official Embassy Tent, decorated with red and white geraniums, bells and flags, and loaded with information about Swiss politics, economics, science, tourism and culture was often so full to bursting that people could hardly move. Visitors had a chance to show off their knowledge about Switzerland at a Swiss trivia contest. Almost 2500 participating visitors guessed the Swiss national languages or the number of Americans with Swiss ancestors, but also learned that the family of NFL-Star Ben Roethlisberger came from Emmenthal and that the World Wide Web's birthplace was not somewhere in space, but in Geneva.

With the support of the Swiss Center of North America, several cheese-making experts from New Glarus, Wisconsin not only dazzled Washingtonians with an aromatic fondue-for-all out of America's largest fondue pot, but also demonstrated the traditional techniques of producing one of Switzerland's most famous products. It



Cheese-for-all out of "America's largest fondue pot"

young alike. The Hip Hop dance act by the Zurich-based group "i-d-8 aka Indiscriminate Dance Troupe" presented a modern contrast to



One of many children's attractions: The cow milking contest, a hit with young and old!

was a rare hands-on experience for all who have always enjoyed Swiss cheese yet have never had the chance to see the process in action.

For the Flower Mart's smallest visitors, a specially "patient" cow was available for milking so that kids could get a feel for what it's like to live high in the Alps. Other activities included a craft area where children participated in various Swiss arts and drawings. Among the great attractions was the Wilhelm Tell Puppet Show where the youngsters could watch the amazing story of Wilhelm Tell and learn about the roots of Swiss independence and precision through one of Switzerland's national heroes.

Happy Organizers

With visitors loaded with red-and-white-carrier bags and Swiss gadgets, and with the Swiss flags and insignias adorning the entire area, the 66th Flower Mart Festival was soon transformed into a true "Swiss Mart" in the heart of the

nation's Capital. The "All Hallows Guild" which organizes the annual Festival for the benefit of the gardens of the National Cathedral was extremely happy with the outcome of the event. The festival reached a record attendance of over

20,000 visitors, not only because of the pleasant weather, but also due to live TV and radio coverage and an original and ample program offered by the Guild and the Swiss Embassy. Linda Daisley, a seasoned Flower Mart veteran



Embassy Staff dressed up as Swiss heroes. From left to right: Dunant, Einstein, Tell, Helvetia, Chevrolet.

and member of the Guild, praised the Swiss and said "I have never seen such crowds as came to this year's Flower Mart – it truly was a 'Swiss Sensation'!"

Alex Biscaro

www.swissemb.org

Foto Credit: Swiss Embassy

French Church Service in Washington

For the second year in a row, the French-Speaking Protestant Church of Washington, DC will celebrate the "Jeûne Fédéral" on Sunday, September, 18, 2005, at Wesley Theological Seminary, 4500 Massachusetts Avenue in Washington, DC.

10:30 am: Worship of Repentance and Thanksgiving (in French)

12:30 pm: Light Meal: Come and share your plum or fruit cake!

Offering to be taken for a designated charity project

Every one is welcome!

For more information, please contact The Rev. Dr. Olivier Bauer, Pastor, at 301-320-3955.

En' Guete Appetit

A few members of the Oregon Swiss Ladies Club are seated in Sally Schoch's kitchen to talk about their new cookbook "En' Guete Appetit". Released in December 2004, the first printing of 1000 has sold out, and a second printing is in the works.

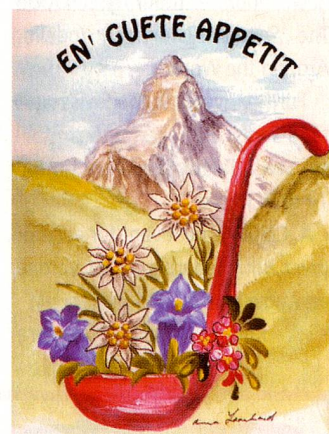
All fingers point to 84-year old Elizabeth Gillenwater for the cookbook's success. The Swiss ladies long ago came up with the money-raising idea, and the club members submitted recipes. But it wasn't until Gillenwater – food editor of the now defunct Oregon Journal – came to the project.

They decided they wanted it to look good. And it does. Col-



Elsie Neff (center) slices Emmy's Swiss Apple Pie. Surrounding Neff are (from left) Sally Schoch, Elizabeth Gillenwater and Lorraine Schiebel.

orful Swiss scenes by artist Anna Leonard illustrate the book's cover and chapters. Recipes read easily and often come with factual tidbits, such as Potatoes and Leeks in Cream Sauce, which contributor Julie Johns tags as "a typical rural family dish in the Grisons". Lorraine Schiebel remembers well the smells wafting from the kitchens



of her Swiss relatives. Pork chops with apples and onions, cheese fondue and Swiss Brätzeli cookies. And Sally Schoch ads "I want my children to know about their heritage, including the food".

But what makes the book most special, Gillenwater says, is the wide range of authentic Swiss recipes, and a smattering of other recipes often prepared by Swiss cooks: everything from Kartoffel-suppe (potato soup) to Zopf (Swiss braided egg bread) to Fondue Bourguignonne.

Cookbook sales go toward scholarships (they've awarded 49 \$ 500 scholarships so far), and toward Swiss Kids Kamp, a week-end-long retreat on Mount Hood.

The book costs \$ 12.50 plus 2.50 shipping. To order, write to Oregon Swiss Ladies Club C/o Maxine Borosund 2190 Fernwood Circle Lake Oswego, OR 97034

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WISCONSIN

Turner Hall, Monroe: Swiss Heritage Series

The Turner Hall of Monroe, Wisconsin has launched an innovative new public program series designed to celebrate and raise awareness of Green County, Wisconsin's Swiss heritage. The organization's new 2005 Swiss Heritage Series was kicked off on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. with the appearance of widely-published author, Bart Plantenga, of Amsterdam, reading from his new book, "Yodel-Ay-Ee-OOoo: The Secret History of Yodeling Around the World".

Further events in the Swiss Heritage Series are:

- A Swiss Talent Showcase on July 14 at 7:30 p.m.;
- A CD-Release event for accordionist Bill Niederberger of Verona, on August 18 at 7:30 p.m.;
- A Kilby-Oktoberfest celebra-

tion on October 1-2, which will include a Saturday evening Beer and Cheese Tasting event; Monroe Swiss Singers' trademark show;

- The 39th Annual Swissfest on November 6 at 3:00 p.m.;
- The Christkindlmarkt - Old World Holiday Shopping Market, on November 25-26 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.;
- An Alpine Carol Singing and Tannenbaum Lighting, to coincide with Monroe's Christmas parade on December 2;
- And an Old Year's Night Gala Ball on December 31.

The Turner Hall of Monroe is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Built in 1868, its mission as it exists today is almost identical to what it was when it was first established by Swiss immigrants. The

Turner Hall facility, an authentic Emmenthal-style chalet, opened in 1938 following the destruction by fire of the original Turner Hall on the same site in 1936.

The building, which houses the Ratskeller Restaurant, a Grand Hall and stage, and a neighborhood family-oriented bowling facility, is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

More information on the Turner



Turner Hall was built in 1868 in authentic Emmenthal Chalet Style

Hall of Monroe and the Swiss Heritage Series is available at www.TurnerHallOfMonroe.org or from phone 608-328-4838.

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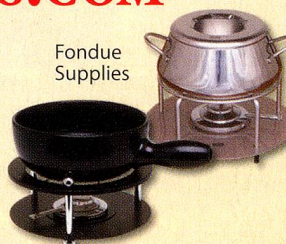
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