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Editorial

Dear Readers

My brother and his wife were visiting from Switzerland. Besides showing them the sights in and around Los Angeles, we took them to a trip that went mostly through Arizona, from Wickenburg to Sedona, to Monument Valley, Grand Canyon and back via Laughlin. Monument Valley was a first for us too. I was absolutely thrilled by the wide vistas, the imposing rock formations and the light. Mother nature even brought on a spectacular storm with some hail, thunder and lightning in the evening, followed by a perfect sunrise the next morning and a sky with just a few white clouds to bring out the blue even better. What a great country we have the privilege to live in!

Obviously, we want to keep nature as original as possible, that's why we are environmentally conscious. Check out the article on the "Bio-Haus". Ties between the US and Switzerland are the theme of a scholarship program and the visit of a Guggemusig. And as usual, we have news from Swiss clubs, such as a large gathering in Sacramento and smaller ones elsewhere and somebody looking to make new friends. And should you have a touch of "Heimweh", well, just mark your calendars to visit Portland/Oregon next year for the Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival.



WAL BAUR, EDITOR, REGIONAL NEWS USA

REGIONAL NEWS USA

Next Regional News (last ones for 2007):

5/2007
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California

Sacramento Swiss Celebrate Anniversaries

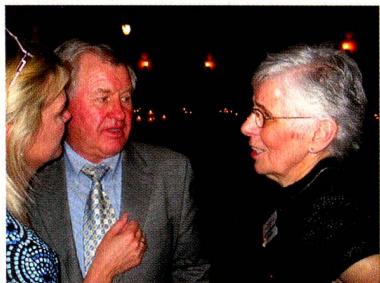
The Sacramento Swiss celebrated their anniversaries with an elegant banquet (an every 5-year occasion) on March 10, 2007 at the Croatian American



Steven Fox, René Sommer and Susan Fox
Alphorns, Martin Gisler, Fahnenschwinger

Cultural Center in Sacramento: The Sacramento Helvetia Verein, established the 13th day of March 1892, 115 years; Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society came into existence 30 years later on May 11, 1922, 85 years; and the United Swiss Lodge of California, Sacramento, celebrated their 26th anniversary. USLOC is the umbrella organization for the Sacramento Helvetia Verein and the Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society. There was a historical photo display of previous banquets and events, including the Sacramento Helvetia Vereins' 20th Anniversary Banquet photo and a copy of the program, both from 1912.

The Sacramento Helvetia Verein and Sacramento Swiss Ladies



Anita Kassel, Swiss Ladies Society; Gary Burch, President, Sierra Swiss Club, Truckee, CA; Kathryn Omlin, President, Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society.

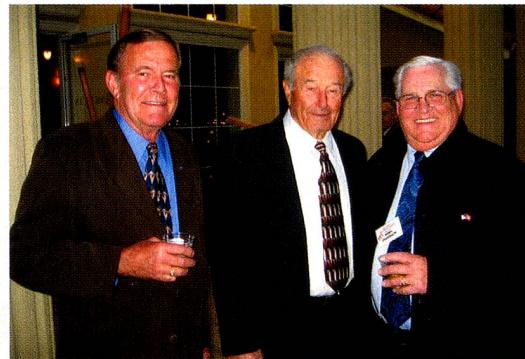
Society were originally formed by the early Swiss arrivals to socialize and help each other; and to help newcomers arriving from Switzerland become established in their new country and environment. Disability and death benefits were available for active members. Emphasis is now

mainly social to keep and pass on to younger members and their families an appreciation of being SWISS, sharing Swiss history, traditions, and Swiss food enjoyed at monthly meetings and events such as the May Spring Picnic and Augustfeier Picnic held at a rural park in Woodland, California. Other events are the Metzgete held the first Saturday in November at the Turnverein Hall in Sacramento, a Christmas Party in

audience pleaser. Tony Raymann's Edelweiss Band participated with music for the Flag Parade, which included the American, and Swiss National Anthems and later

played dance music enjoyed by all. Lisa Ward Dillier performed her favorite Swiss Yodels, and there was a Fahnenschwingen tribute by Martin Gisler with back up from the Alphorn Trio. A special touch to the evening was the dinner hour entertainment provided by Swiss friends from the Carmel area: Richard and

Larry Denier, accordions, Dave Dally, Violin, and Margie Dally, cello. They perform on occasion at the Lugano Swiss Bistro in Carmel. The 50-year and honorary members were present.



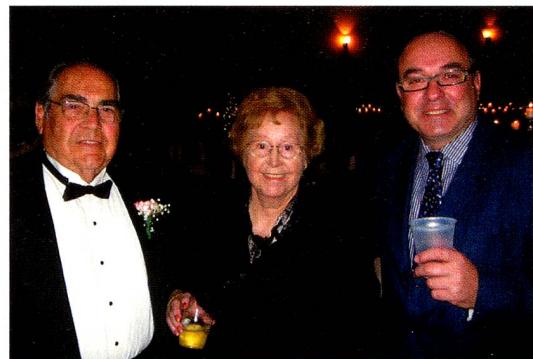
Robert Immoos, Helvetia Verein; Louie Beeler, San Joaquin Valley Swiss Club; Noel Flecklin, President, Sacramento Helvetia Verein

December with accordion music, a supervised crafts table to occupy the children in creating items to take home, a luncheon of specialty cold cuts with salad, and a visit from Santa Claus. The Guests of Honor for the March 10th Anniversary Banquet were Consul General of Switzerland, San Francisco, Jean-François Lichtenstern and his wife, Marylène. Members were welcomed to the park-like setting by the Alphorn Trio René Sommer, Steven & Susan Fox. Walter Grob entertained with his accordion during cocktail hour. The Parade of American, Swiss and Cantonal Flags was an au-

ted corsages and boutonnieres. Katherine Omlin, President of the Sacramento Swiss Ladies



Dave Dally, part of dinner hour entertainment, from Carmel, CA.



Ferdinand Morant, Helvetia Verein; Marianne Richardson, President, United Swiss Lodge of California, Sacramento and US West Coast Representative for the Swiss Abroad; Jean-François Lichtenstern, Consulate General of Switzerland, San Francisco.

Society and Noel Flecklin, President of the Sacramento Helvetia Verein remembered the deceased members. Consul General Jean-François Lichtenstern addressed the audience with good news



Lisa Ward Dillier, Yodel-Soloist, a member of the Sacramento Swiss Ladies Society and well known on the Pacific West Coast and Switzerland for her Swiss entertainment.

from Switzerland and expressed appreciation for the long history of the Sacramento Swiss Clubs. It was a poignant and joyful evening of celebration, the elder and younger members sharing their Swiss heritage and all vowing to be at the next 5-year celebration in 2012.

Members came away from the party with a small red and white floral arrangement topped with a Swiss Flag as a remembrance of

(Continued on bottom of next page)

The Honorable Swiss Ambassador Urs Ziswiler – surprise guest at annual "Fondue Fête" of the Cercle Romand in San Francisco

The Circle Romand organizes this fun event on a yearly basis in March. But the guests of the Swiss colony of the Greater San Francisco Bay area include Swiss-Americans hailing from all parts of Switzerland. We'll thank right here the following active Romands: Jean-Pierre Mercanton, President and Chef of the evening – nowhere a better Fondue than this one! His wife Renée, then former President, reservations taking and always hard working Germaine Decker, Linda Maillard set-up and Raffle tickets! And each of these lively personalities does count on a good number of more helpers.

Our American neighbors Mike

n'Mary used to Raclette at our home – looked forward to this Fondue invite. And couldn't stop raving about it. We spotted Consul General of Switzerland Jean-Francois Lichtenstern and his wife Marylène. The tall, very charming and smiling gentleman they introduced to me was no other than the Ambassador of Switzerland in Washington, DC - Urs Ziswiler. The Representative of Switzerland in the USA – visiting not only with



f.l.t.r.: Urs Ziswiler, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United States of America, Renée Mercanton, wife of President and Chef of the Fondue evening Jean-Pierre Mercanton, Marylène Lichtenstern, Germaine Decker, former President of Circle Romand and soul of this event, and Consul General of Switzerland in San Francisco Jean-François Lichtenstern.

the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce members and Government Officials, but also took

Sacramento Swiss... continued from previous page



Close-up of banquet table setting

a special Swiss evening. Committee Chair of the event was Elena Scheiber Fippin. Anita Kassel, Vice Chair, Anton Peter, Treasurer, Pietra Peter, Secretary, and committee members Leo Fassler, Edward Lambert and



March 10, 2007

Sonia Susac assisted her.

TEXT: ELENA SCHEIBER FIPPIN

CHAIR, SACRAMENTO SWISS

BANQUET COMMITTEE

E-MAIL: E.FIPPIN@EARTHLINK.NET

PHOTOS: ANTON PETER

time out from his busy schedule to meet and truly engage in conversations with practically all the guests at this Cercle Romand 2007 event. Listening to Ambassador Ziswiler was easy. A truly down-to-earth politician. He told me later that he grew up in the Canton of Aargau in a landscape builder family. "My shoes were used to soil and outdoor environment then – and I still don't shy away from soil and practical life style today".

A joyful event it was, indeed.

Made even more enjoyable by Tony Raymann and his Edelweiss Band. Less Polkas – more Muettes and Swings! The dance floor was packed at all times. The raffle was fantastic – we went home with won wine bottles, even with "Bräzelis" baked by Germaine and she won the Sherry Cake, my Ruedi personally baked for this Tombola ... And how about that for Good Luck?

TEXT AND PHOTO: GABY H BURKERT

GRUEZIWOHL@AOL.COM

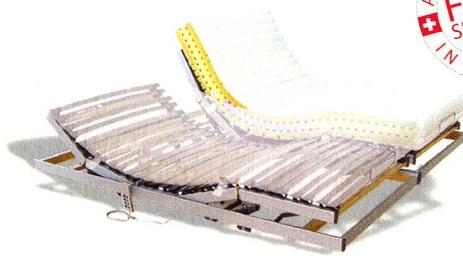
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Georgia

What has been happening in Atlanta?

A lot! We had our annual Fondue evening with over 80 members. There was no cheese left over. It is wonderful to meet everybody again after the Holiday Season and share stories.

We also had our first experience with a table just for the youth and it seemed that they enjoyed



After the Fondue: Our youth table playing cards and making new friends

making new friends.

Later that month the ladies met for a Fasnachts-Lunch with some fun.

On March 24th we held our General Assembly at the Carter Center. We wanted to do something different and this location was perfect. Our President Helen Freiermuth did a powerpoint presentation to see what we did during the past 12 months. She also served for the last time here

at the SAS in Atlanta due to her relocation to Canada. We would like to say "Herzliche Dank für Alles und ganz viel Glück!"

I cannot say it enough, she did a wonderful job over the past 3 years as our President and prior also as a Board Member! I know I have big shoes to fill, but since everybody else from the Board was re-elected we sure will be fine. As you read these lines we will have had a wonderful Hike/Picnic event behind us and are looking forward to our 1st of August celebration (August 5th at Martha Hope Cabin in Gainesville).

For more up to date info about us check out our website <http://www.sasatlanta.org/> www.sasatlanta.org . We look forward to hearing from you or meeting you at one of our



Tanja and Helen: New and the old presidents



Can you guess who is who?

upcoming events!

TEXT: TANJA ALEMANY, PRESIDENT

FOTOS: ASTRID WILKENS

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Oregon

New Swiss Group

Bend, Oregon has formed a Swiss/American (and German) group and it is growing. We meet once a month for lunch or dinner. Lunch usually

just the women meet. This time we all were invited to the lovely home of Petra and Gregg Kaiser. We enjoyed food, drink and many good stories. Anyone in

this part of the woods is invited to join. Just call Claudine at (541) 317-1236, we would love to meet you.

CLAUDINE ZWARTVERWER,

MASSAGE@
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The group met at the lovely home of Petra and Gregg Kaiser (2nd and 6th, standing, from right to left)

Nevada / California

Looking for Swiss in the Reno/Lake Tahoe Area

- Are you Swiss and living in the Reno/Lake Tahoe Region, Nevada- or California-Side?
- Would you like to meet socially from time to time?
- Do you miss talking Schwyzertütsch?
- How about an informal get together to celebrate First of August?
- How about a Jass?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions, please contact

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Swiss Carnival Band in Chicago

Last November, for the third time in five years, the 15th Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in Chicago featured the Noggeler Carnival Band (Noggeler Guugemusig) from Lucerne, Switzerland. The Noggeler were again the only foreign attraction in the festival. In 2002 and 2004, the Rebbiboele Carnival Band from Payerne (Canton Vaud) participated in the festi-

erland also supported their stay in Chicago. The lead organizer of the Noggeler Chicago visit was the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago International Sister Cities Program. Since the Noggeler hail from Lucerne, and Chicago and Lucerne being sister cities since 1998, it seemed a natural fit and a special occasion to work together.

In addition to their enthralling music-making and their gorgeously colourful costumes representing the four seasons of the year, the Noggeler brought four



The Noggeler "Guggemusig" also performed under the popular Cloud Gate Sculpture at Millennium Park

val, also as the only foreign group. The Noggeler were a very special sight in the immensely popular Festival, traditionally held the weekend before Thanksgiving. It kicks off the Holiday Season with a fantastic parade with many Disney characters along Chicago's North Michigan Avenue, one of the great shopping avenues of the world.

The Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA) had invited the Noggeler to the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival. Many local Swiss associations and some organizations in Swit-

zerne Carnival Guild Masters (Zunftmeister) as special ambassadors from Lucerne to the Festival Parade. The Guild Masters marched in the parade as the "opener" to the Noggeler double-decker bus. The vehicle was beautifully decorated and proudly displayed many Swiss flags. It was enthusiastically greeted by nearly one million spectators along the parade route. Across the United States, millions of TV viewers followed the Parade on the WGN live broadcast and watched as the holiday lights were being lit by Mickey Mouse, cheered on by



The Noggeler Carnival Band from Lucerne at the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade last November in Chicago

opportunities for the Chicago delegation to enjoy the Lucerne Carnival from an insider's point of view. Perhaps the biggest surprise in store for the Chicago guests were the Noggeler in their new

the many floats in the parade and particularly by the Noggeler Carnival Band and their catchy tunes.

The Band also visited Walter Payton College Preparatory High School, Chicago's Sister City School to Lucerne. In addition to bringing the students an authentic flavour of the Lucerne Carnival, the Noggeler also answered the many questions the students had regarding carnival and other traditions in Switzerland. Later they performed under the popular Cloud Gate Sculpture at Millennium Park and at Pioneer Court. The Swiss community in Chicago and their friends were invited to the Noggeler Good Bye Party at Mother Hubbard's in Chicago. Their music surely brought back many treasured memories of carnival in Switzerland to the many Swiss in attendance.

A Chicago delegation of the Lucerne Sister Cities Committee visited Lucerne during this year's Carnival in February. Besides strengthening the ties between the two Sister Cities and discussing ideas for future projects, there were many

carnival costumes: Benny the Bull. What a great vista to see more than 60 Noggeler in Chicago Bulls costumes in the Carnival parades! Not only was this a most heart-warming welcome



60 Noggeler in Chicago Bulls costumes at the Lucerne Carnival

to the Chicagoans but also a great sign of friendship from the Lucerne Noggeler to Chicago.

TEXT: MARGRETH TRÜMPI MARTIN
LUCERNE COMMITTEE
CHICAGO SISTER CITIES
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM
PHOTOS: MATTHIAS LIPS



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Minnesota

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Americans currently comprise 5% of the world's population yet produce 25% of global CO₂ emissions. And when it comes to buildings in the United States, buildings and building-related activities contribute a whopping 38% to all CO₂ emissions – even more if you add industrial and transportation-related activities.



View of BioHaus from the treehouse.

Call for heirs

Maria **Däster-Stähli**, born on July 3, 1918, citizen of Aarau and Murgenthal, residing in 5000 Aarau but also living at one time in Suhr, died on October 7, 2006.

According to art. 555, Al. 1 of Swiss Civil Law, a call for heirs is ordered.

The authorities are looking for the legal heiress with unknown address

Suzanne Jacqueline Stähli, born on August 5, 1954, civil status unknown, citizen from Netstal, GL, and unknown residence but believed to be living in the United States.

This heiress is requested to contact the authorities Gerichtspräsidium Aarau, Kasinostrasse 5, Postfach, CH 5001 Aarau, Switzerland not later than by **March 11, 2008**, providing written proof of identity and residence. After this date, the inheritance can be distributed, except in case of legal complaint.

Aarau, March 1, 2007

As an architect with over 30 years experience in the Swiss, German and U.S. marketplace, I'm committed to doing my part to impact these alarming facts.

I believe that American leadership in designing and building better buildings would not only be welcomed by the global community, it's now become a necessity.

We need to build new models of sustainable, comfortable buildings that the rest of the build-



Main exterior view of first certified Passivhaus in North America: Waldsee BioHaus.

ing industry can learn from and replicate in their own designs. We at Intep have specialized in this field of integrated planning, building performance and sustainable design and primarily serve educational institutions in the U.S. – an important focus area for this effort.

For example, let me introduce you to the most energy efficient building ever built in the U.S. – "Das BioHaus" at Concordia Language Villages, part of Concordia College, in Bemidji, Minnesota. It's the first-ever certified PassivHaus building that uses 85% less energy than the Minnesota energy code allows – the equivalent of a 150-mile/gallon car!

Designing and constructing a building like this for the first

mental improvement was a calling. Our team followed the trail of extreme-energy efficiency blazed in Europe by the PassivHaus standard in Germany and the Minergie-P standard in Switzerland. We worked with local contractors and most of the technology and building materials used were available in the U.S. with the exception of the windows, the heat recovery system for ventilation and a new insulation material called vacuum insulation panels, which we used for the first time in construction here in the U.S. The cost of the building was limited to the available fundraising abilities of Concordia Language Villages and exceeded a normal budget for a building of

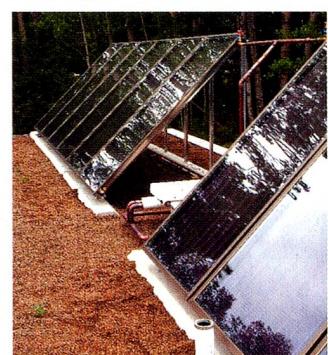


Extensive green roof of Waldsee BioHaus that serves to retain rainwater, reduce the risk of erosion and act as a heat buffer during the summer.

this type by less than 30% – unheard of in the realm of demonstration or pilot projects. And to top this off – "das BioHaus" also set a new standard for occupant comfort: that translates into a pleasant indoor environment with fresh air, no noise or draft at minus 40°C in the depth of winter here in Minnesota!

Living more comfortably and sustainable at the same time is a reality not a contradiction and it is possible today! I believe it's time to leverage more of these benefits in the U.S.

I hope you'll visit "das BioHaus" online at waldseebiohaus.com and my own site at theperfect-building.com where I write about the educational projects I'm working on, including a new non-profit organization I'm creating called The Green Bridge.



Solar panels which are part of a sophisticated solar hot-water system that meets the high volume hot-water needs of Waldsee BioHaus.

time in an extreme cold climate like in northern Minnesota was challenging, to say the least.

But for me, this challenge of making a leap and not an incre-

The Presidency of the Court, Aarau

STEPHAN TANNER

STANNER@INTEP-10.COM

Oregon

Portland Sängerfest, July 17-20, 2008

The Portland Jodelklub Edelwyss singers are busy preparing to roll out the welcome mat for the 26th Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival to be held in Portland, Oregon, July 17 – 20, 2008. In addition to the participation of the 10 member societies, special talent has been recruited from Switzerland.

Heinz della Torre lives in Sachseln, Kanton Obwalden. He plays the trumpet, alphorn, büchel, flügelhorn, and cow-horn. He is a member of the Orchestra of the Tonhalle Zurich, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and the Musikkollegium Winterthur. Heinz also enjoys teaching at a number of music schools. He will lead a workshop on Thursday, July 17 for alphorn players wishing to improve their skills. Those interested in participating should apply to Swissfest 2008, P.O. Box 1955, Corvallis, OR, 97339. You must provide your own alphorn. Each day of the Sängerfest Heinz will give performances that will delight you, and he will sit in with our local Swiss dance bands.

Willi Valotti lives in Nesslau, Kanton St Gallen. He is well known in Switzerland for his lifetime involvement with Swiss folk music. He began his music education when a young boy studying the accordion, then moving on to the piano, contrabass, cello, and schwyzerörgeli. Also, he studied arrangement

and composition at the Schaffhausen Conservatory of Music. Over the years he has played with many folk music bands (Ländlerkapelle) the most famous of which was the Heirassa. At present he is a member of three bands: Willi's Wyberkapelle, Kapelle Alderbeue and Trio Item and is the director of the Jodelklub Männertreu Nesslau-Neu St. Johann. The **Jodelklub Innertkirchen**, from Kanton Bern, will be sending several of its members. They have consistently scored in the first tier at adjudicated yodel festivals in Switzerland. They are well known for their beautiful harmony and crisp, clear yodeling.

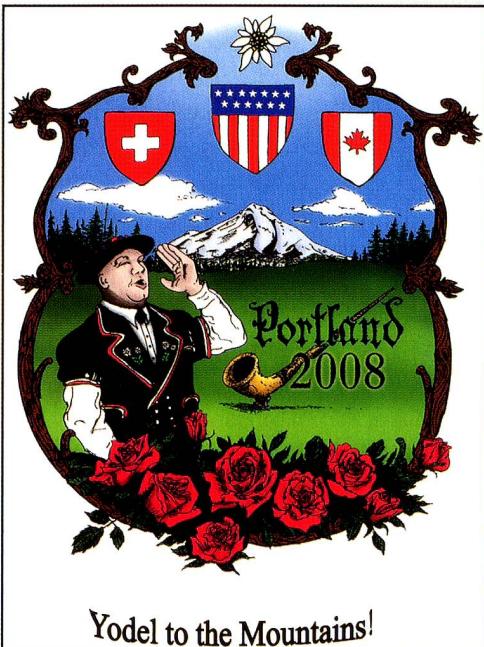
Get ready to laugh!

The Sängerfest will open Thursday evening, July 17, with a no host cocktail followed by a scrumptious dinner. After dinner our own Jodelklub Edelwyss and the Jodelklub Innertkirchen will perform followed by the musical brilliance of Heinz della Torre and Willi Valotti. Then the fun begins with an uproariously hilarious skit performed by the Jodelklub Edelwyss players. The remainder of the evening will be

danced away to the music of the Swiss Alpiners accompanied by Heinz and Willi.

Grand Concert with Theater!

The Grand Concert will be held Friday, July 18. In Switzerland there is a format for concerts that is used often, called "Konzert mit Theater". In this format,



Yodel to the Mountains!

songs are presented within a skit, or series of skits, and often involve humorous situations.

The Jodelklub Edelwyss has decided to present a Grand Concert "mit Theater". In a "Concert with Theater" there are many more opportunities for individual participation. There will be solo, duet, and small group parts that involve all voices.

The theme of the concert is that of two tourists wandering through Switzerland listening to the folk music of the many regions with their special languages and dialects. The adventures of the tourists include an Alp Chilbi, where there is dancing, singing, büchel and cow-horn music, a Kinderchorli and a solemn Alpsäge. The tourists also travel to Appenzell to watch a

parade of huge cowbells and to Muotathal to hear a wild yodeling battle-of-the-sexes. Their last day in Switzerland is spent in Berne at the National Folk Music Festival, where they hear a grand finale of yodeling and singing accompanied by alphorns and accordions.

Fun at the Park!

On Saturday, July 19, the festival moves to the Club Paesano Cedarville Park in Gresham where each singing society will present a short program of songs and yodels. There will be a typical Swiss parade (Umzug) with national and singing society flags, flower and bell festooned brown Swiss cows, marchers ringing huge cow-bells, singers in their traditional Swiss costumes, alphorns, traditional whip cracking. A concert of alphorns playing in 8 part harmony and performances by Heinz della Torre and Willi Valotti will punctuate the festivities.

Throughout the day there will be food venues featuring traditional Swiss delicacies. In the evening, Swiss bands from the West Coast, with Heinz and Willi, will provide music for dancing.

A Sad Goodbye.

A grand banquet on Sunday, July 20, and the passing of the flag of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast to the next host society will signal the close of the 2008 Portland Sängerfest.

Watch for ticket and hotel details in the Swiss Review - issue #5, 2007, The New Swiss Journal, Swiss on the West Coast and in the festival programs of your local club.

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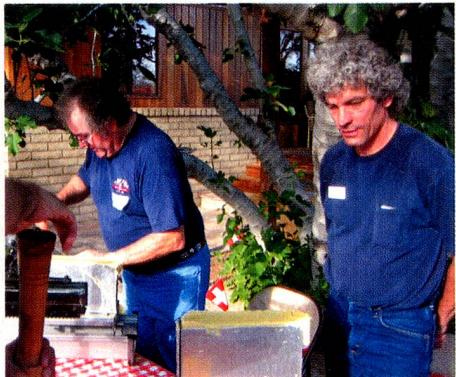
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Arizona

Student Exchange between Scottsdale and Interlaken, Switzerland

On Sunday, April 22, 2007 Swiss Consul Emeritus Max Haechler



Jean-Pierre Dupuis (left) and Kurt Schitlli, both from the Arizona Swiss Society, preparing Raclette for the guests

and his wife, Elsbeth were hosting at their Paradise Valley home the Farewell Garden Party

of the 15 visiting Students from the Gymnasium Interlaken and their Arizona host families. A total of 60 guests enjoyed Swiss Folklore music, Veal Bratwurst and Raclette Cheese. Scottsdale Mayor Mary Manross honored the foreign visitors by her attendance and expressed her thanks to them for helping to connect Scottsdale with communities around the world and to exchange both social and economic ideas or concepts.

This annual student exchange was initiated by Max Haechler in 1999 with the establishing of the official Sister Cities Relationship between Scottsdale and Interlaken, Swit-

erland. While those exchange students and the host families build everlasting friendships, they also become true Ambassadors for their respective countries. Many long term reciprocal visits by the host families have been generated through the initial student visits. Max Haechler organizes annual fundraisers to support in part those international student exchanges.



Farewell photo of entire Interlaken and Scottsdale Student Exchange group: Max Haechler on the left next to Anne Pickhard, Interlaken Teacher and Kelly Harris, Scottsdale Teacher. On the extreme right, Scottsdale Teacher and Group Leader, Lisa White.



Anthony Haechler jr. and Doris Torres from the Arizona Swiss Society grilling Bratwurst and Servelats



Welcome with cowbells for the Swiss Students at the Phoenix Airport

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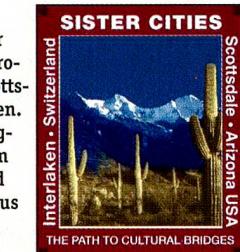
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Call for heirs

Relatives in Switzerland are looking urgently for the following persons:

- Johann Zimmermann-Farland, born December 16, 1899, last known address in the year 1957: Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key, Sarasota, Florida, USA, presumed deceased and
- Daughter Elisabeth Jean Zimmermann, born September 16, 1926 in USA, address unknown.

Native place: Vitznau / Switzerland

Johann Zimmermann-Farland used to live at Stollbergrain 9, Lucerne.

If you have any information, please contact the address below, not later than by July 1, 2008:

Edith Laurent-Zimmermann

Vergers-les-Gottaz 9, 1110 Morges / Switzerland

Phone/Fax (011 41) 21 801 10 15, e-mail: edith.laurent@bluewin.ch