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## News for the Swiss abroad

The Council for the Swiss abroad met for its Spring Session in the historic Bernese City Hall. Here a summary of the news.

President Georg Stucky opened the proceedings by presenting his presidential report which inter alia highlighted the following:

- At December 2006 Swiss abroad numbered 645,000 (Increase of 11,000)
- Of these 111,000 have registered to exercise their political rights
- The parliamentary Commission "Swiss abroad" is becoming more and more proactive
- The findings of Professor Linder re: "grouping" of political rights of Swiss abroad
- The Swiss Government's "E-Government" strategy
- Introduction of biometric Swiss passports
- Support from Swiss abroad for army reform
- Co-ordinating and rationalising the promotion of Switzerland abroad

- A revision of seat allocation in the Auslandschweizerrat will be ready by 2009

Colonel Elmar Mäder, the Head of the Vatican City Swiss Guard, gave a presentation on the "workings" of this "smallest Swiss security service in the world". Mr. J-J Didisheim and Ambassador Börlin informed extensively on the status quo of the Swiss government's E-Government strategy. Important for Swiss abroad is the future concept and creation of a "virtual consulate" in the internet, as well as E-Voting.

### E-Voting for 2011 elections

Regarding the parliamentary elections that will take place on 21 October 2007, the Council adopted a resolution in which it expressed the importance of the vote for the Swiss abroad, as well as that it will be possible to have E-Voting for the elections in 2011. The Council's Executive Director Dr. R. Wyder informed that as from July 2007, the Council's internet sites, would

be "refreshed" to make information for the elections readily available.

The Solidarity Fund (Soliswiss) informed of new products for Swiss abroad. Please check with your nearest consulate for the latest literature in this regard, as well as regarding the availability of preparation courses for university studies in Switzerland by Swiss abroad.

The annual report, financial accounts for 2006 as well as the budget 2007, were presented and accepted unanimously by the Council. The Swiss government subsidy remains at Fr. 920'000 per annum.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 17 August followed by congress on 18 and 19 August in Geneva with the theme "Swiss Solidarity in Humanitarian Involvement".

Peter Müller,  
sargro@bluewin.ch

### Brand new website

[www.eda.admin.ch/capetown](http://www.eda.admin.ch/capetown) is the address of a brand new web page for the Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town. Have a look and enjoy the innumerable information at your service. Including information for Swiss living in South Africa, marriage in South Africa or Namibia for non South African or Namibian residents, culture and many other links.

### Cultural events

#### May - June Intercultural Dialogue KIN: BE: JOZI

In this the last of three workshops, the artists come together finally in Johannesburg to explore a range of social/political codes, habits and language, and communication structures found in the hosting city. The project aims to create a working process in three different chapters (Kinshasa, Bern and Johannesburg) by physically bringing together a core-group of artists from completely different urban contexts. Each chapter of the project culminates in a public performance. Contact Dorothee Kreutzfeld for specifics of the programme in Johannesburg:  
dk1970@mweb.co.za

#### 16 - 19 June Cape Town International Book Fair with Swiss Books

Pro Helvetia and Swiss Books will represent Switzerland at the Cape Town International Book Fair. Two Swiss authors, Nadine Hostettler and Daniel de Roulet, will offer readings from their works to the public in English (dates TBC by CTIBF).

Nadine Hostettler lives as an author in Paris and Zürich. She has published two books "Fräulein Matter verliebt sich" and "Die letzte Hemmung". Daniel de Roulet was born in Geneva, where he worked in the field of information science. Writing in both French and German, he represents two major neighbouring Swiss cultures. His recent novels are published in Paris and carry the genes of running and the colour blue: "The Blue Line", "The Blue Century" and "Grey-Blue". His autobiography "Double" (1998), proved that "life is mistaken identity". He will read from "The Blue Line" (2000) and "L'Homme qui tombe" (2005) at the CTIBF.

Helene Schär from the publishing house Kinderbuchfonds Baobab will participate in a workshop "Selling and buying translation rights: how to promote African fiction and non-fiction abroad?" organised by Frankfurter Buchmesse, covering topics like: foreign rights and contracts. The workshop is scheduled for the 18 and 19 June at CTICC from 09h-12h30. Since 1989, Helene Schär has been editor of the newly founded books series Baobab; children's book and books for young people from African, Asian and Latin American authors translated into German.

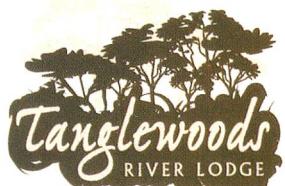
Register to attend workshop with Marion Boltman, Publishers' Association of South Africa.  
marion@publishsa.co.za or Tel: 021 425 2721

### Added Reading Programme

**14 June, 19h30:**  
Nadine Hostettler and Inka Parei will read in German at the Goethe Institute in Johannesburg

**15 June, 10h:**  
Helen Schär will offer a presentation for children at Delft Library in Cape Town

CONTINUED OVERLEAF/...



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Phone +27 46 6482632, [gisela@tanglewoods-lodge.com](mailto:gisela@tanglewoods-lodge.com)

## CULTURAL EVENTS CONTINUED/...

### 15 June, 12h:

Nadine Hostettler will read in English at Delft Library in Cape Town

### 17 June, 17h:

Nadine Hostettler and Daniel de Roulet will read at Glen Carlou Wine Estate in Paarl

### 27 June - 7 July

National Arts Festival: Roman Schwaller

Swiss tenor saxophonist, Roman Schwaller, has been playing music since the age of 10. He has received prizes from the City of Munich, the Canton of Thurgau and the town of Frauenfeld in honour of his work. He is the initiator and musical director of the "generations International Jazz meeting Frauenfeld". Now the Grahamstown Festival has invited him to the Jazz Stage, as a performer with the Swiss-South African Quintet featuring Feya Faku, the Awesome Big Band, and in a sextet with South African and Swedish musicians. While at the festival he will conduct workshops within the Jazz programme. See festival programme. [www.nafest.co.za](http://www.nafest.co.za)

**Dates TBC:** Swiss-South African Jazz Quintet

South African jazz musician, Feya Faku was resident at the Bird's Eye Club in Basel where he formed a quintet with local musicians. The five (Feya Faku, Domenic Landolf, Colin Vallon, Stephan Kurmann, Makaya Ntshoko) played so well together that a tour of South Africa is planned in order to fulfil both the Swiss musicians curiosity about South African Jazz. The quintet will play in Johannesburg, PE, Grahamstown and Cape Town, venues still to be confirmed. □



## IMPRESSIONUM

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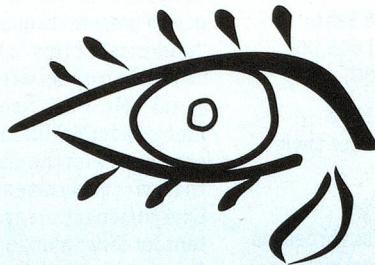
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**Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events**

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Swiss Society Helvetia,  
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Midrand, T/F 011 805 3039,  
Restaurant T 011 805 3040,  
swissclubjh@whoswho.co.za  
Senior Swiss Circle meets every  
second Saturday of the month for  
lunch; Andy Tischhauser  
011 672 1753 / 082 719 3389.

**PRETORIA**

Swiss Embassy 012 452 0660  
Swiss Society Alpina,  
Hans-Georg Bosch, President,  
T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222,  
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,  
Diana Lüthi, Secretary,  
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com  
1. August Feier on 28 July at the  
Fountains resort. Annual Christmas  
function in late November.

**CAPE TOWN**

Swiss Consulate General  
T 021 418 3665  
Swiss Social and Sports Club,  
Nick Eppenberger  
eppen@mweb.co.za,  
Nicky Rodrigues  
T 072 218 5759,  
nicky.rodrigues@  
za.sabmiller.com

**SWISS CLUB NATAL**

Hanspeter Graber,  
T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107,  
hansg@saol.com  
Family and Friends Social Program  
2007: 16 June Cheese Fondue at  
Bowling Club House, Westville; 15  
July Ten Pin Bowling at Pavilion  
Shopping Centre, Westville; 1 August  
Dinner in Durban and Pieter-  
maritzburg at venue to be  
announced; 5 August Swiss National  
Day gathering at Hammersdale; 16  
September Game Reserve visit near  
Durban, location to be announced;  
21 October Green Bowling at West-  
ville Bowling Club; 25 November  
Steam Train Ride Kloof - Inchanga  
and return and picnic; 14 Decem-  
ber Dinner and Price Jassen in  
Westville. Everybody is welcome to  
all the aforesaid social gatherings.  
083 301 4563 or 083 262 6107 for  
more details. Jass Meetings: The Jass  
friends meet regularly on every  
second Friday of each month at  
18h00 in Westville Bowling Club  
House near the Westville Civic  
Centre. Everybody is welcome to join!  
Target shooting Practices: The target  
shooting section meets every first  
Saturday of each month at 12h00 on  
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Durban and Pietermaritzburg.  
073 433 9940 for more details.

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C +264 81 124 6890,  
phess@iafrica.com  
Der Präsident Peter Hess und der  
Vorstand wurden wiedergewählt.  
Fondue Chinoise am 16.6. in der  
Fäschthütte. Die Bundesfeier am  
29.7. am gleichen Ort.

**LESOTHO**

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send their details (cell/phone no.)  
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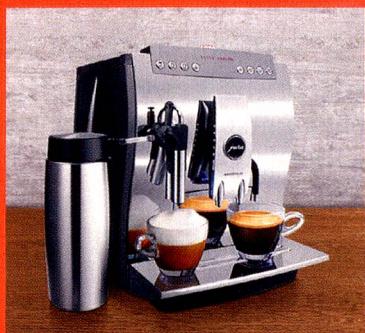
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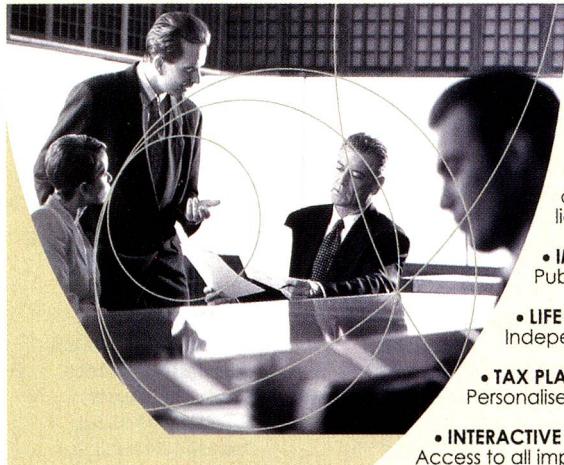
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