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The first step I take when starting to put together the next issue of Swiss Review, is to make a list of all the articles. And this time it is obvious that several were written after the summer vacation. "Nailed at the Bodensee," relates the adventure with a flat tire, and the Zweiacher family went in search of their roots. My husband and I were part of the wonderful "Singing Tour de Suisse" of the mixed Los Angeles choir "Harmonie". All have the same thing in common: It's the beauty of our homeland and the fact that we are – rightly so – proud to be Swiss or of Swiss descent. But some things still haven't changed. When I ordered an ice-coffee and asked for a large glass of water, I was – politely but firmly – informed, that a small glass was included, but if I wanted more, I would have to buy a bottle! On the other hand, the taxi driver who took us up to the Munot tower in Schaffhausen said we wouldn't find a taxi up there for the return trip and suggested he just hang around for half an hour and would then drive us back – at no extra charge. It also appeared to me that the Swiss seemed to be happier. Or was it just the gorgeous weather that made everybody smile?

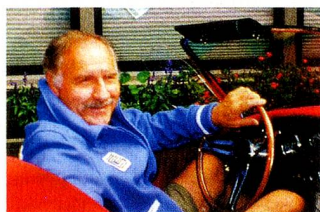
Anyway, I hope you'll enjoy reading this issue. I am still waiting for your 1<sup>st</sup> of August pictures, which I would like to publish in Swiss Review # 3.

WAL BAUR, EDITOR, REGIONAL NEWS USA

## Book and CD Reviews

### Just call me Carroll...!

By Phil Henny



I guess you have to be a racing car fan to fully appreciate the book written by Phil Henny. Born in 1943 in Motagny près d'Yverdon, the French speaking part of Switzerland, Phil was trained as a precision mechanic at Paillard-Bolex, the wellknown Swiss movie camera company. From an early age his interest in automobile racing and his determination to be associated with the best teams, lead him to be part of the Shelby American crew who built the famous Ford MKIV which won the "24 Hours of Le Mans" in 1967. In the seventies, Phil contributed to the manufacturing and introduction of the dry-sump oiling system

for NASCAR.

The title of the book relates to Phil meeting Carroll Shelby who put him at ease right away by telling him "Just call me Carroll...!" Leafing through the book, and just looking at all the gorgeous pictures, you relive a large part of racing history and its greatest actors, be it car racers or builders.

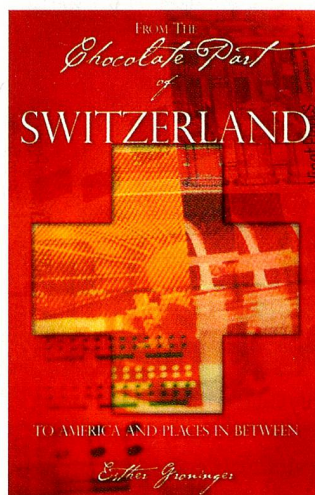
The book is available through most Auto book stores, at Amazon.com and at Phil's web-site: [www.justcallmecarroll.com](http://www.justcallmecarroll.com)

WAL BAUR

### From the Chocolate Part of Switzerland

By Esther Groninger

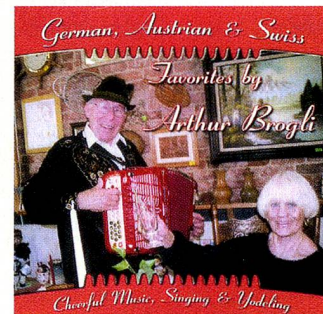
Not the first book that compares life in Switzerland with life in the US. Never the less it is the story of an interesting childhood. Esther grew up during World War II as the oldest of five children. Many readers will recognize and relive with the author the tribulations they also experienced. However, American life, first in Canada, then in the United States, can show it's ugly side. You know that her life hasn't been that easy when Esther admits that only God could have engineered circumstances the way they occurred, but she is thankful for his hand of protection over her. Esther met her husband in the US. They now



live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. All in all, the book is easy to read and for some events even spellbinding. It is available at Amazon.com for \$ 14.95

J.BAUR

### Arthur Brogli - The Edelweiss Yodeler



Arthur Brogli sent me a copy of his CD, which contains a collection of songs he had previously taped. His friends made him aware that "nobody" listened to tapes anymore so he was motivated to present a CD. Arthur and his wife Barbara own the "Edelweiss Antique & Collectibles Store" in Tekonsha, MI. Songs on the CD include German, Austrian and Swiss favorites like "Oh Susanna", "Lilli Marlen", "Kuckucks Walzer", "Barbara Yodeler" and "Enten Tanz".

The CD can be ordered directly from Arthur by calling him at 517 767 3787

WAL BAUR

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### Next Regional News

Swiss Review 2/08  
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Swiss Review 3/08  
Deadline USA May 15, 2008  
Mailing Date June 25, 2008  
Approx. Arrival USA End of July 08



## Arizona

### *"Changing of the Guard" in Arizona - From Honorary Consul Max Haechler to Honorary Consul Alisa Jost*

In June, Switzerland's Ambassador to the U.S., Urs Ziswiler, and the Consul General in Los Angeles, Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler, visited Phoenix to express Switzerland's appreciation for Max Haechler's almost 30 years of service to his country as Honor-

try. Now a successful businessman, Mr. Haechler and his wife Elsbeth have lived in Arizona since the 60's when they came here after their marriage. They raised four children, altogether a Swiss-American dream! Besides being very involved with his consular duties, Mr. Haechler founded the Arizona Swiss Foundation to support young people studying in Switzerland. Young at heart, Max continues to be very active in the Swiss community and expects to do so for many years to come. Ambas-



Former Honorary Consul Max Haechler, his wife Elsbeth, new Honorary Consul Alisa Jost, Ambassador Urs Ziswiler and Consul General Brigitta Schoch Dettweiler

ary Consul in Arizona. At a reception at the Paradise Valley Country Club, the Ambassador recognized Mr. Haechler's, now Consul Emeritus, extraordinary service and tenure. He explained that Mr. Haechler retired upon completion of his 70th birthday in accordance with the Swiss regulations. Known and appreciated throughout the state as "Max of Switzerland", he served with distinction and promoted the interests of his coun-

sador Ziswiler then warmly welcomed the successor, Alisa Jost, recently appointed Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Arizona. Alisa was born in Canada and married Charles Jost of Geneva. They have lived in Arizona since 2001 and have four children (Zachary 16, Samuel 11, Aaron 9 and Isabella 5). Alisa holds a degree as a Materials Science Engineer from the University of Western Ontario, is very much involved in commu-



The Jost's in Zermatt: Alisa and Charles, Zachary, Samuel, Aaron, Isabella, family dog, Charles' mother, Alisa's parents

nity work and an experienced international businesswoman having established a solid and continuous relationship with "all things Swiss". Her energy and determination are contagious and she approaches people with warm intelligence and savoir-faire.

"Location Switzerland" presented the advantages of investing in Switzerland at Thunderbird University. Afterward, Ambassador Ziswiler, Consul General Schoch Dettweiler and Consul Alisa Jost met with Angel Cabrera, President of Thunderbird University, and the distinguished Professor of International Marketing and native Swiss, Stefan Michel, and other faculty members. During their trip the Ambassador and the Consul General, joined by the new Honorary Consul, Alisa Jost, also met with the Governor, Janet Napolitano, to discuss areas of mutual interest and to present credentials for the new Honorary Consul for the state.

They also met with Phoenix' Mayor Phil Gordon. Mayor Gordon related his cities very fast paced growth including light rail and plans for a rapid train be-

tween Tucson and Phoenix. The Ambassador discussed Switzerland's tremendous experience with rail and the resources Switzerland has for future cooperation on such a project.

One of the highlights was the evening organized by the Arizona Swiss Society, attended by many local members, with a much appreciated musical presentation of the "Swiss Misses", touring the United States. Switzerland is very happy to be so well served in Arizona! We warmly thank Max and Elsbeth Haechler once again for so many years of dedication and hard work and welcome Alisa Jost, supported by her husband Charles and the four lovely children, as our new Honorary Consul!

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Consulate of Switzerland  
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ALISA JOST AND  
BRIGITTA SCHOCH DETTWEILER

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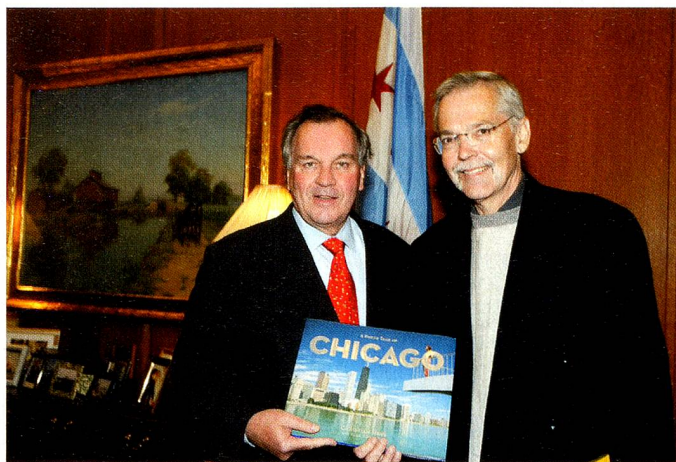


## Illinois

### New Consul General in Chicago

Mr. Giambattista Mondada arrived in Chicago on August 9, 2007, to begin his term of office as Consul General of Switzerland responsible for the Chicago Consular District (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI). Mr. Mondada came from Sao Paulo, Brazil. He succeeded Mr. Hermann Buff who retired at the end of May 2007.

Mr. Mondada grew up in Minusio, Canton Ticino, where his family had moved shortly after he was born in Küsnacht am Rigi. In the nearly 150-year history of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago, Mr. Mondada is the first Consul General from the Canton Ticino. He joined the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in 1969 and has since served in different capacities in many countries. Between 1969 and 1989, he was assigned to the Embassies of Switzerland in Argentina, Kuwait, and Mexico as well as to the Swiss Mis-



Mayor Richard M. Daley (left) welcomes the new Consul General Giambattista Mondada (Photo by: Brooke Collins, City of Chicago)

sion to the United Nations in New York. He was also stationed at the Consulates General of Switzerland in Rotterdam, New Orleans, and Munich, where in 1972 he served as the liaison officer for the Swiss Olympic team. As part of his official responsibilities during these years, Mr. Mondada was entrusted with special tasks that took him to Baghdad and Montevideo. From 1989 to 2002, Mr. Mondada was in charge of the Swiss Embassies in Angola, Sudan and Bangladesh. In 2002, Mr. Mondada was

appointed as Consul General of Switzerland for Sao Paulo, Brazil. During his short time in Chicago, Mr. Mondada has introduced himself to the community on various occasions: he undertook business trips to Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Many members of the Swiss commu-

nity also got to know him personally at the Holiday Dinner of the Swiss-American Business Council (SABC), where he was the Guest of Honour. The Mayor of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, officially received him on November 8, 2007. Mr. Mondada is looking forward to meeting many more of his fellow Swiss citizens and to working with all of the different communities in his Consular District.

Mr. Mondada is married to Dr. Joke Mondada, Professor of Spanish and Linguistics at the University of New Orleans. In his free time, he likes to go on bike rides and spend time in nature.

MARGRETH TRÜMPI MARTIN  
CULTURAL ATTACHÉE  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
SWITZERLAND

MARGRETH.TRUMPI@EDA.ADMIN.CH  
WWW.EDA.ADMIN.CH/CHICAGO

### South Carolina Mr. Hans Balmer passed away

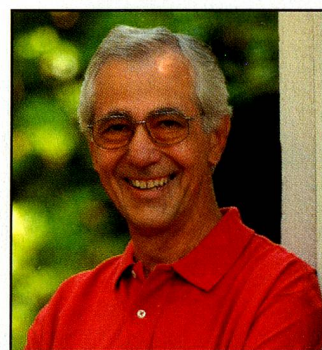
It is with great sadness that I have to inform you, especially the Swiss citizens living in South Carolina, of the passing away of Mr. Hans Balmer, Swiss Honorary Consul for South Carolina.

He passed away on September 3, 2007 in Spartanburg after having served as Honorary Consul of Switzerland for 13 years. Mr. Balmer - lovingly supported by his wife Lucia - did an excellent job in representing Switzerland and the Swiss community with much pride, enthusiasm and professionalism in this part of the US. Although we knew about his illness, his passing came so unexpected and is very difficult to accept for all of us.

Besides having been the owner, President and CEO of SYMTECH INC., he still had time to serve on many local boards and committees, including the Spartanburg Humane Society, the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System Foundation, the Spar-

tanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the USC's International Advisory Board and many others. As initiator and a volunteer coordinator of the Spot of PRIDE Beautification Program, Consul Balmer also had a special interest in promoting a green and healthy environment. He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him and were close to him.

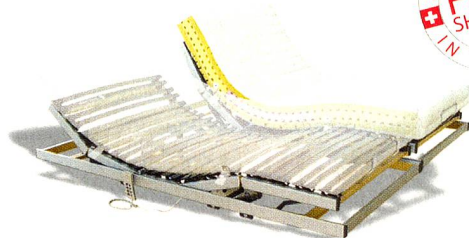
For the time being the Consulate



Former Hon. Consul Hans Balmer

of Switzerland in Spartanburg SC will remain vacant. All inquiries and consular matters will be treated by the Swiss Consulate General in Atlanta, GA.

ULRICH HUNN  
CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND,  
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## Oklahoma

### "Icy" reception for Consul General

Consul General Ulrich Hunn and his spouse Marie Claire honored the Swiss Club of Oklahoma with their first ever visit to Tulsa on the occasion of the traditional annual Christmas Brunch event. Over 40 participants dared to leave home to meet our guests despite the upcoming ice storm, which made national and international news due to the extended power loss and significant nature

damages we suffered during the same weekend.

The Christmas Brunch took place at Inverness Village ([www.invernessvillage.com](http://www.invernessvillage.com)), the first and only Life Care



Swiss Club members having a good time at the traditional annual Christmas Brunch

Community in Tulsa providing extensive benefits in a gated

community environment and health professionals on staff. Our long year members Bob and Dorothy Lengacher, who live at Inverness Village with other Swiss Club members, are the original founders and drivers of this unique place. They will leave a memorable legacy for many future residents. The Chef of the Inverness Village Restaurant and his staff did an outstanding job to serve us a wonderful brunch which satisfied our culinary desires and Consul Ulrich Hunn offered a Champagne toast to the Swiss Club attendants. There were lively discussions going on at the various tables mixing Swiss of all ages and backgrounds. Many took the opportunity to inform both Ulrich and Marie Claire about their life and experiences in the USA and particularly in Oklahoma. When leaving we all were faced with icy roads but fortunately everyone got home safe without accidents.

Ulrich and Marie Claire will have a memorable souvenir of their stay in Tulsa that famous weekend. Half of the official program foreseen on Monday as well as their planned trip to Oklahoma City were ultimately cancelled due to the ice crisis developing in Tulsa and surroundings. To top up their experience, they ended up spending Monday night in the unheated house of the writer without electricity dining on

wine and cheese, playing Swiss Jass in a cozy candle light environment.....Fortu-



The ice storm, which made national and international news, starts to cover Inverness Village

nately they were successful in escaping our miseries by flying out Tuesday afternoon, home to a warm Atlanta climate.

Ulrich and Marie Claire, we



Christmas at Inverness Village: One of the beautifully decorated halls

thank you for your visit and your patience, we promise next time you will see sunshine and experience the nicer parts of the four seasons in Tulsa, hopefully....

ANDRE SIEGENTHALER  
PRESIDENT SWISS CLUB OF  
OKLAHOMA  
[SIGI21@COX.NET](mailto:SIGI21@COX.NET)



The Swiss Club of Oklahoma in Tulsa received their first ever visit from a Consul General. Left to right: Swiss Club President Andre Siegentaler, Consul General Ulrich Hunn and spouse Marie Claire, Club Vice-President Rene Imark

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## *"Nailed" at the Bodensee... A real Suisse experience!*

It was a family afternoon with my older sister Doris and her husband Markus, a day with a steady downpour, known to Swiss people only too well and feared by those of us that come to visit! A time where a Swiss restaurant "Seelust" am Bodensee, filled with countless people for lunch, "showed off" Swiss-cuisine at it's finest! After a memorable meal, we

a nail in a tire always meant a new tire. Markus Inauen, the owner of the cleanest garage we had ever seen - "Switzerland-clean" the world has come to expect, told us it would take until about a quarter to eight - 'something' had to dry for a certain time. Markus, my brother-in-law, drove us to the garage at eight P.M. When my sister Beate asked, "How much"? He said: "40 Franken"! My ears and eyes showed disbelief! And they say Switzerland is expensive? I had reached for "50 Stutz", a tip for this after-hours-working ga-

sin. His dad owned a Shell-garage where Lew's after school-hours were filled with work until all kinds of hours. No "Fyrabig" at 5.30 in America, for a garage on the main road of a small town, the only highway between Chicago and Minneapo-



A happy memory of a wonderful Swiss Journey

lis. I would catch Lew looking at that back tire for days, with watchful eyes. As for me? I didn't worry; I knew when Markus In-

auen said "forever" that meant for a long time...

TRUDY WELLS-MEYER  
TRUDY.WELLS@COX.NET



The author with her family at the Bodensee. From left to right: Doris Rüst-Meyer, Trudy Wells-Meyer, Lewis Wells, Beate Meyer and Markus Rüst

stopped at my sister's beautiful house and got spoiled by all her "Gastfreundschaft". At 6PM, when it was time to say goodbye, my brother-in-law saw it first: a back-tire that was going flat! Our drive home to Tann/ZH, where my other sister lives in the old house where we all grew up, was in jeopardy! Markus and Doris knew whom to call - the owner of a BP garage down at the main street of Kesswil. The worried look in my sister's face said: "It's too late!". "Fyrabig" in Switzerland is early! What luck, he was still there! What I remember most is the owner's unexpected smiling face, from the minute we got there, his confidence and knowledge of what to do was instant! His cool, unhurried voice as he pulled out a huge nail did not suggest the easy-way-out of patching it in fifteen minutes, to be drivable until we got home and deal with the tire the next morning - no! His idea was to fix it to last forever. His words! To me,

rage-owner, long before he said 40 Franken.

On the way out, when I handed him that Swiss-bill, his eyes got huge - and a grin to remember forever with many "danke viel-mals" waving goodbye until we could not see him anymore.

High above, the clouds parted and a watery gleam of sunshine broke through. I turned up my face to this momentary brilliance: it had stopped raining! As we got closer to the Zürich-Oberland, we drove into a spectacular sunset, where the golden sun looked like it was gliding out of the sky, streaked with pink of its afterglow indelibly imprinted in my mind; it had turned into a beautiful evening. Looking at the beauty of this country I have called my own for many years, church bells ringing... cowbells in the distance, the sounds of Switzerland... what a great country to be from! My husband grew up in Wiscon-

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## California Harmonie's "Tour de Suisse"

Wem Gott will rechte Gunst  
erweisen,  
dem drückt er hundert  
Schtei I'd Hand,  
Und schickt'ne  
vierzäh Tag uf Reisen,  
Is liebe, schöne  
Schwyzerland.

(When God wants to favor some-  
one, he puts 100 bucks in his  
hand and sends him on a four-  
nights trip through Switzer-  
land.)

This was our opening song for  
every concert. If you ask me –  
God should have taken inflation  
into consideration!



"Harmonie" at Swiss Park, Los Angeles, before leaving for Switzerland. All members are wearing their individual original Swiss costumes, which represent many different regions.

SHOW TIME for the Swiss Singing  
Society "Harmonie" from Los  
Angeles.

The singers, some spouses and  
friends had arrived individually  
in Switzerland and met two days

our first hotel in Stein am Rhein  
where we would spend four  
nights and have ample time to  
discover the lovely medieval  
town center with its restaurants  
and shops and enjoy the view of

the Rhine  
river, still  
very wide as  
it emptied  
out of lake  
Constance.  
From our  
"base camp"  
we traveled  
the first day  
to the is-  
land of Mai-  
nau, Meers-  
burg and

husband kept saying "I hope  
that we have at least 3-4 days of  
sunshine because the first im-  
pression is very important." The  
next day saw us in Schaffhau-  
sen. In the evening we gave  
another concert in Stetten, a  
small town near by.

And then it was time to pack the  
bags, load the trailer and drive  
on to our hotel for the next five  
nights in Interlaken in the Ber-  
nese Oberland. That same eve-  
ning we performed in the village  
church of Frutigen. On Monday  
we visited Berne, the Swiss capi-  
tal. As Swiss abroad we ob-  
viously made a short stop at the  
Association of the Swiss Abroad,  
whose director, Dr. Wyder, hap-  
pened to celebrate his birthday  
that same day. For a few songs,  
including "Happy Birthday", we  
were treated to a fine aperitif  
with Swiss white wine and  
snacks.

During the next night it started  
to rain and it poured down all  
morning. Never mind, the "Har-



The first part of each concert was dedicated to songs in all four Swiss languages which "Harmonie" would sing wearing a Tracht from the Zuerich Region. At the piano Rodger Whitten, our Director.

It was when the church bells  
suddenly started ringing in all  
their glory that it really hit me!  
They called the inhabitants of  
Berneck, a lovely small town in a  
wine-growing region of the  
Rhine Valley, to come and listen  
to our concert. The months of  
rehearsals were over, it was

earlier at Zurich airport. There it  
was, a double decker bus from  
Marti Travel with a hooked up  
trailer and tons of luggage. 56  
persons, 30 of them singers car-  
rying trachts, warm clothes and  
umbrellas, because in Switzer-  
land – you never know!  
A short hour later we arrived at

the shores of lake Constance and  
the next day to Appenzell with  
more time to admire the Lands-  
gemeindeplatz and the brightly  
painted houses. From here we  
continued to the above mentio-  
ned Berneck.

Did I mention that we had bright  
sunshine? People were hot! My



Short stop at the Association of the Swiss Abroad, whose director, Dr. Wyder, happened to celebrate his birthday that same day.



Excursion to the island of Mainau, Lake Constance, with its beautiful parks





"Harmonie" member Martin Iseli, at right, helps the cheese-maker in Moléson. And we could hardly wait to get a taste of Fondue!

monie" members had an intensive rehearsal and the non-singers could finally sleep in. In the afternoon a boat trip on lake Thun was on the program. Just when we got on the boat, the clouds parted and we saw the mountains, freshly powdered with new snow. A downpour met us when we left the boat in Thun. Finally an occasion to use the umbrellas we had brought from so far! In the evening we

choir Kirchberg. If by now you are wondering, how we got all those contacts – it's easy! All the choirs and bands that received us so generously had previously been in California, some of them several times. So it was no wonder that each time our bus drove up to an event, lots of people were already waiting. And all of us had obviously inundated friends and family members with the details

the elderly, to greet an old friend, sing a few songs for the residents and admire the breathtaking view of lake Geneva at our feet, vineyards sloping down towards the lake and on the opposite shore the Dents du Midi massive rising majestically into the sky. For the last three nights we would sleep in La Tour-de-Peilz, in a hotel directly on the lake, awakening in the morning to the quacks of swans and ducks.

Before singing our last concerts we were treated to another boat ride. This time from Lausanne-Ouchy to Chillon castle. Funny, this castle is one of the best known in Switzerland, as it is directly situated on a rocky outcropping on Lake Geneva. But



We are all in awe of the beautiful flowers everywhere

most of us had always just driven by. So we welcomed the guided tour, peeked down the holes of the latrines to the water and felt the cold of the dungeons. That evening we

It was way past midnight when we arrived back at the hotel and had to pack our bags one more time. The last stop was Lucerne. Sightseeing for most of us and for some good-bye. The tour ended in Zurich where it had started. And who would have believed it: two weeks in September, and only one night and one morning of rain. For the rest: sunshine and happy memories! Juhui!!!

WAL BAUR

WBAUR@ROADRUNNER.COM

Pictures:  
Siegfried Heger, Theresa Lehmann,  
Max Bachmann and Wal Baur



The second part of each concert was dedicated exclusively to American songs. Here the choir from Gland celebrates their 25th anniversary and, like most other choirs, sings at least one song together with "Harmonie", wearing their "American Outfit".

gave another Concert in the lovely church of Oberdiessbach. On Wednesday we drove leisurely through the Emmental, admiring the farmhouses, some of them literally loaded down with flowers on every windowsill, porch and garden. Cows where everywhere, their bells ringing with rhythmic movements while they were grazing. The largest town so far, Kirchberg, was expecting us. We shared the public's attention with the Village Street Band and the Yodel

of our tour, so every concert was also "hugging time"! But that was not the end. Once again we packed our bags, some of them getting heavier and heavier with souvenir gifts for children and grand children. Our drive took us to Gruyère and Moléson, cheese country, where we visited an alpine cheese factory and were treated to – you guessed it – a cheese fondue. In a very happy mood we drove on towards lake Geneva. We stopped at Mont-Pélerin, a home for



The moment had come to board the Marti double decker bus (Ida Baker) a last time and say good bye to our homeland, carrying with us lots of wonderful memories.



## California

### Artist Monica Schmid silver, gold, platinum – any metal

I met Monica, who hails from Frauenfeld, in the 70s – a fashion designer for the young and daring. I remember well, when Monica painted – a student of Sam Provenzano in San Francisco. A bit later she also exhibited ceramics. If one can combine art and its creativity – one has to think immediately of this strong, energetic Swiss artist somewhere hidden away in the East Bay of the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Hidden away? Not so. This individualist operates on all her fronts. Her home (re-designed a dozen years ago by Swiss architect Reiner Keller) is an extreme joyful place to visit. Of her modern jewelry in steel or silver, gold or platinum, plain or displaying rare or semi-rare stones, each in itself is a masterpiece. Her studio is organized. Since she works with a variety of me-

tals she explains that it is almost a ritual to her to absolutely clean her place of work after each 'episode' or should we rather say 'contact' with any given metal.

Monica is definitely an artist to

be contacted – if something special asks for a one of a kind piece of remembrance as she works directly with her clients. At the very moment I caught Schmid's expressions of her art – another Swiss designer entered her stu-

dio: Regula Weill-Allenspach – and who doesn't know her flower designs and her large sculpturist designs at the De Young Museum in San Francisco and many other events? While I concentrated to study a fine collection of tremendous silver pieces, I heard Allenspach go wild about some metal earrings. When the studio went quiet I knew that Dave (Regula's husband) would have to send a check later. But knowing that Regula is a wise shopper, I suddenly realized that Schmid's art must be somehow affordable – and it is. What made me aware once again of Monica Schmid? A sudden meeting, totally unexpected, in the Glacier Express from Chur to Zermatt. Speaking of a small world!

Monica Schmid is rightfully proud of her website, [www.monicaschmid.com](http://www.monicaschmid.com), where a large part of her designs can be seen. She can be contacted by phone 510 538-8253 or e-mail: [metalschmid@comcast.net](mailto:metalschmid@comcast.net)

GABY H. BURKERT

[GRUEZIWOHL@AOL.COM](mailto:GRUEZIWOHL@AOL.COM)



Monica Schmid metal designer is not only known for designing jewelry. Here she shows a beautiful silver dish she created.



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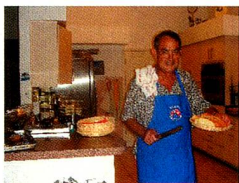




## Florida

### Swiss American Club of SW Florida

On Saturday, October 6, members and guests met for a Trolley tour through the lovely historic town of Punta Gorda. Everybody was astonished to see the perfect restoration work after the damage caused by hurricane Charley in 2005. After the one-hour tour, our hosts, Maria and Franz von Atzigen, welcomed us in order to celebrate the one-year anniversary of their new business, the "Swiss Connections". Tables were set up in the



**Schlachtfest/Metzgete: Host and Chef Adolf Schandroch**

art gallery, and a delicious homemade dinner consisting of ham, potato-salad and lasagna was served. The food, including an authentic "Crème-Schnitte"

for dessert, was outstanding. On November 1, members were treated to a "Schlachtfest" at the Schandroch's in Bonita Springs. Adi, a retired chef, had prepared a typical meal including blood and liver sausages, smoked pork chops, boiled beef, vegetables, potatoes, and a few mousses for desert. The wine was flowing freely and everybody had a good time.

The traditional "Chlaushock" took place on the first Saturday in December at the President's House. As usual, the members of the Board of Directors were in charge of setting up the tables and chairs in front of the house; helping guests park their cars in the back, and serving the meal. For the children the main attrac-



**Chlaushock 2007 at the house of the Club president, Rosmarie Strother: An "aerial view" of the party participants.**

tion was the piñata, which they managed to demolish in a few tries.

The beginning of 2008 was celebrated with class on a luxurious yacht, provided by the Sanibel Harbor Resort. Smaller and larger tables were ready, so the 58 members and guests enjoyed a generous buffet brunch with numerous hot and cold dishes. Dessert consisted of delicious

cakes and cookies and whoever had made a New Year's resolution to lose weight, just about blew it then! Faces lit up when the Club offered a glass of champagne, so everybody could cheer and wish each other all the best and good health for the upcoming New Year.

ROSMARIE STROTHER  
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Regional news 9



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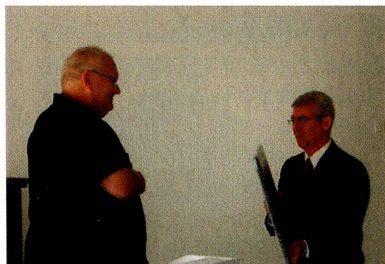
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## Oklahoma Zweiacher's check out their roots

Our history begins with our great-grandfather Benedikt Zweiacker (that is how the name is spelled in Switzerland), born October 20, 1833 in Jegenstorf, Switzerland. Because of religious and economic reasons, young Benedikt and his brothers left Switzerland and arrived at the port of New York Jan. 29, 1900. They all were listed as farmers and able to read and write. "Young" Benedikt was 66 years old. His wife Maria had passed away in 1887. Soon six of his nine children were to follow. They settled in Indian Territory, north of El Reno, now Oklahoma, where an established Mennonite community existed. This explains the concentration of Zweiachers and Zwiacher (as the name is spelled here) in that area. Farm families in those days were large. No need to guess why the Zweiacher family is the size it is today.

Fast forward to the 1950's and 1960's: Some Zweiacher folks began a family reunion every two years in El Reno. It seems like each reunion has a "special" something. In 2006, cousin Alexander Soland, whom none of the family knew and who knew



Tom Zweiacher presenting Jean-Claude Mäder an Oklahoma photograph.

none of us, showed up, thinking he was one of the very few Zweiacher's left. Did he ever get a surprise! He suggested the Zweiacher family meet in the off year of 2007 in Switzerland where he had contacts. So, between Alex, Ed and Tom, whose father was the driving force to start our reunion, and a lot of hard work, the trip became a re-

ality. From June 24 to July 7, 2007, twenty people traveled to Switzerland.

After a fairly easy first day we arrived at the hotel right on the Vierwaldstättersee in Hergiswil. The quaint and unique beauty of the Swiss landscape had already engaged our group. After a good nights rest we began our first full day with adrenalin high and great expectations. After the short drive to Alpnachstad we rode up to Mt. Pilatus in the steepest cogwheel train in the world. What a magnificent view



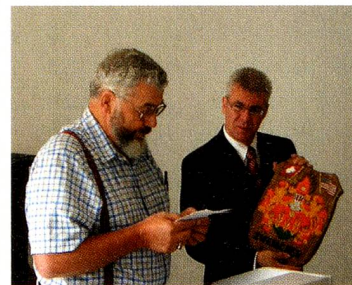
The Zweiacher Family trip to Switzerland. The group in front of the "Grüter Reisen" Bus. At the wheel the great driver Markus Berger. Ed Zweiacher took the photo.

from the top! The thought could creep into your mind that we had just witnessed the best Switzerland had to offer and that the trip would be "down-hill" from here. Nothing could have been farther from the truth. Each day we witnessed and enjoyed a different facet of the beautiful and intriguing Swiss landscape.

Of course we had to visit Jegenstorf, the small town where we all hailed from.

It was very interesting and worthwhile. We met with officials and were treated so well. We presented them a hand carved wooden Zweiacher family crest and a typical Oklahoma native Indian scene picture. The crest was carved by one of the Zweiacher family members in attendance. Then we were taken on a tour, which included a cheese factory, the village castle

and other interesting sights followed by a banquet at the senior residence Rotonda where a number of our native Swiss Zweiacker relatives met us. It was certainly a memorable day. The tour was designed so we would circumnavigate the whole of Switzerland. We visited all four of the language areas. In doing so we saw a chocolate factory, another cheese factory, an "alphorn" shop, where we were treated to some beautiful "alphorn" duets, a winery, rode the train to the Jungfrauoch,



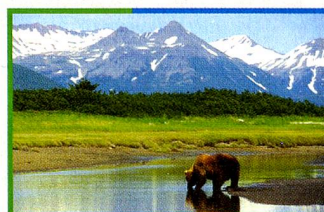
Ernie Loganbill presenting a handcarved plaque from the Zweiacher Family to the city of Jegenstorf, CH. Jean-Claude Mäder, vice-president of Jegenstorf, accepting.

know what this story is about. Steep, narrow hairpin turns... that road had them all. They were so sharp the bus could not make them in one hitch. So, Markus our great driver, would turn, stop, back up, stop and turn again to make the curve. While sitting in the front seat of the bus, in front of the wheels, I could look down and see nothing but precipice. What a view! I only looked down once and decided the view across the valley was more scenic and a whole lot less nerve racking. The scenery I mentioned was just a part of the ever changing, ever beautiful and always intriguing landscape we all enjoyed so much. God blessed Switzerland with natural beauty unequalled and the Swiss citizens have done a wonderful job of enhancing it. Those of us who are of Swiss origin have reason to be proud of it and a responsibility to maintain our heritage. I can certainly say when the twenty people in our group, ranging in age from early twenties to middle seventies, returned home, we could say in unison, "A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!" I just wish more of our family could have experienced it.

ERNEST LOGANBILL

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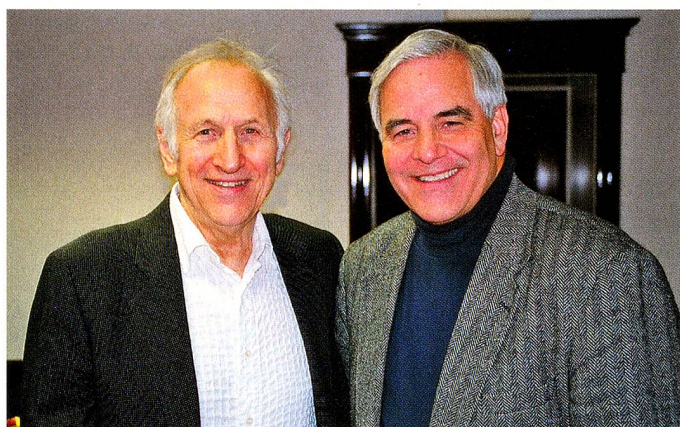


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*Michigan  
SwissBizUSA  
- Ann Arbor, MI -  
Continuing to Energize  
America's Midwest*

The SwissBizUSA Stammtisch on December 3, 2007 -- the second event of its kind -- attracted local business and arts leaders. Participants networked, and also were inspired by guest speaker Gustav Meier, the international "guru of conductors." Meier serves as master teacher at the Orchestral Conducting Program at the Johns Hopkins University



Gustav Meier (l.), the international "guru of conductors" and Ken Fischer, who leads the renowned University Musical Society (UMS) of the University of Michigan

Peabody Institute. He talked about how much society has benefited from cooperation between the arts and business communities.

Meier immigrated from Switzerland to America in the late 1950s. He works worldwide, but his home for the last 31 years has been Ann Arbor. Meier, who



A captive audience at the SwissBizUSA Stammtisch on December 3, 2007 in Ann Arbor/MI, the second event of its kind

marked 35 years as music director for the Greater Bridgeport (Connecticut) Symphony in 2006, is completing a book on

or growth in the USA. It also serves as a "one-stop-shop" for American entities expanding to Switzerland and Europe, and as liaison for diverse Swiss regions. Participants from Deloitte, ECO PHYSICS, INC., Holcim, University of Michigan, Philips Medical Systems and Speedshape, Inc. profiled their organizations and cultural integration issues.

Ken Fischer, who leads the renowned University Musical Society (UMS) of the University of Michigan, and Gustav Meier were reunited at the event. Fischer, UMS president for 20 years, worked together with Meier when he led the conducting program at the University of Michigan until 1995.

James Macsray, a Swiss-American expert in leadership,

relationship building and communication, created the SwissBizUSA group in 2006. His efforts have been supported by Karl Pfister, honorary consul of Switzerland, Detroit, event host Dan Denison of the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, and Ron Pruette of UBS Financial Services (Bloomfield Hills, MI).

JAMES MACSAY

MACSAY@COMCAST.NET

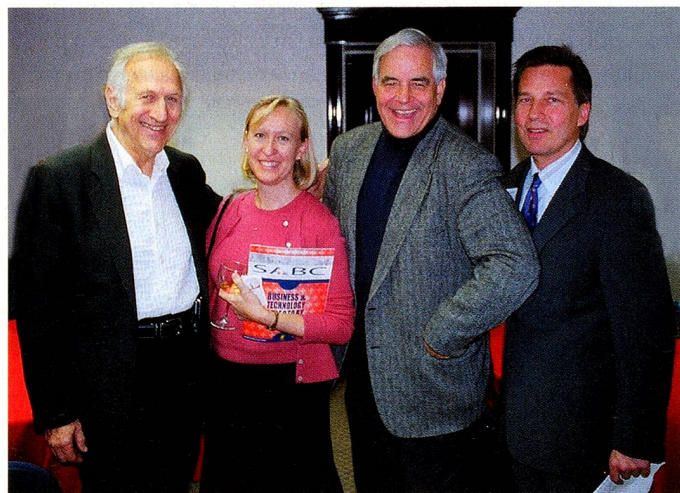
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Karl Pfister, Honorary Swiss Consul



Gustav Meier (r.) talking to Lisa Welch, Denison Consulting and Marcel Neff, Capitol Bancorp



(left to right) Gustav Meier, Susan Bozell and Ken Fischer / University Musical Society (of the University of Michigan) and James Macsray



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*New York*  
**Ambassador Christoph Bubb,**  
*Consul General of Switzerland in New York, closes NASDAQ Stock Market*

On Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, NASDAQ CEO Bob Greifeld presided over the opening bell, live from the World Economic Forum in Davos. In the evening, Ambassador Christoph Bubb, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, introduced by Jeff Singer, Senior Vice President NASDAQ, officially rang the closing bell in



Introduced by Jeff Singer, Senior Vice President NASDAQ (left), Ambassador Christoph Bubb, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, officially rang the NASDAQ closing bell in Times Square, New York City.

Photo: Marco Grob for the Consulate General of Switzerland

Times Square, New York City. In his speech, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of the sharing of ideas and consul-

tation among key political and business leaders from all over the world, especially in these challenging times of very vola-

tile stock markets. Concerning the growing fear of an imminent recession in the United States, he suggested tackling the macroeconomic imbalances on national and global levels to avoid further disturbances: "We have to keep in mind that the fundamentals of the global economy are good." By referring to growth centers on several continents and scientific and technological breakthroughs, which could lead companies to NASDAQ, he reminded not to let a shortsighted bear hide the many bulls on the horizon.

SIMONE EYMANN  
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*California*  
**Fine watch making freelancer**

Born in 1961, Urs Ryser comes from Bienne. A watch making capital where he spent all his school years, including four years at the Technicum, in the micro technical section. It was there that he discovered the art of watch making, a bit by accident.

With his diploma under his belt and just turned 20, Urs Ryser entered the job market. Rado, in Langnau, hired him as a repairer but he was dying to be elsewhere. So, at the age of 23 the young man risked all and settled California. That was in 1984. He's still in the region more than twenty years later. In 1993 he decided to start his own little company situated in Kentfield, still in the same region, barely an hour from San Francisco.

There were many difficulties. Urs Ryser was aware of the growing competition from service centers for major brands. "It was hard" he says, "because it became increasingly difficult to obtain spare parts."

This is why Urs Ryser chose to create his own watches, a way of get-

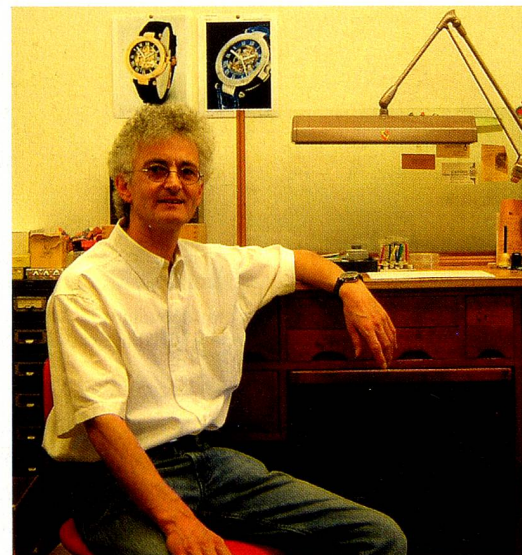
ting by while keeping his independence. "And also to have fun because I like creating my own complications." He specializes in gold and silver models, the crafting of which doesn't require sophisticated machines. Pieces traditionally bear the name of the person that makes them and the place where they are manufactured. That's why his watches are called Ryser Kentfield. Put-

ting the name of a small California town on products made by a Swiss professional pleases him. However the aim of Urs Ryser's watches, which sell for between 1,200 and 12,000 dollars for a diamond

model, isn't to rival the prestige of the big names. Furthermore, the watchmaker still works on top name models like Rolex, Audemars Piguet, Patek Philippe or Cartier, which are part of his everyday life. "My pieces are a way of ensuring a basic income by doing what I love. And they allow me to remain independent, although the situation of small watchmakers has become a challenge."

Urs Ryser can be reached at:  
 Swiss Timepieces  
 929 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. # 204  
 Kentfield CA 94904 USA  
 Tel: 415-381-1081  
 Fax 415 381-1081  
 e-mail: info@ryserwatches.com  
 Check out his very nice web-site:  
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EXTRACTS FROM AN  
 ARTICLE BY KATJA SCHAEER



Urs Ryser in his atelier. Here he creates new watches and repairs models like Rolex, Audemars Piguet, Patek Philippe or Cartier



Beautiful example of a Ryser Kentfield watch by Urs Ryser

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