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Before I forget: this is your last chance to send me 1<sup>st</sup> of August pictures! Instead of individual articles I would like to publish in Swiss Review # 3 a centerfold with the nicest photographs. I expect there will be a lot of red and white and a lot of children!

By now you probably know that I am very fond of my garden. Springtime is so lovely with everything starting to green and bloom. Well, in Southern California gardens are nearly always green. Last year we potted a tomato plant. And now, beginning of March, it continues to bear fruit and to bloom. My husband said he should probably show it a calendar to let it know that winter was here! We also planted six strawberries. They have fruit but it's a fight between the birds, the slugs and us to see who gets to them first!

Maybe you were aware that the most successful Swiss movie of all times "Herbstzeitlosen" (Late Bloomers) was Switzerland's official entry at the Oscars for best foreign language film. Well - we didn't even get close to winning! But the Swiss Consulate General in Los Angeles arranged for a showing at Swiss Park. My brother had brought me the DVD, but the Swiss system didn't work on our DVD-Player. So we were very happy to see the film at last. You will find Doris Ritzi's article about it in this Swiss Review. And as always, I hope you enjoy all the articles and don't forget to have a look at the ads. You never know when something that is advertised might come in handy for you!

WAL BAUR, EDITOR, REGIONAL PAGES USA



## New York Area Swiss Club looking for new members

The Hudson-Mohawk Swiss Society, based in the Albany, Troy

and Schenectady, New York area is looking for new members and individuals interested in our activities. If you are of Swiss descent or simply interested in Switzerland, we would like to

hear from you. Our society meets 4 times a year. Our main event is the celebration of our National Holiday around August 1st. This year we are meeting on the 3rd of Au-

gust. We organize dinners and excursions and greatly enjoy the camaraderie and fun of our gath-

erings. Anyone interested in Upstate New York, Western Massachusetts, Vermont, Catskills or the Adirondacks, please contact us by mail:



Enjoying each others company at the 1st of August Picnic: r. to l. Monique Grosjean, Gottfried Jenzer, Doris Jenzer and guests.



Members and their guests on a Summer cruise through the locks of Champlain Canal, North of Albany, NY

gust in the Troy, NY area. The goals of our society are to - Inform members about business, economical and political developments in Switzerland. - Expose them to Swiss culture:

erings. Anyone interested in Upstate New York, Western Massachusetts, Vermont, Catskills or the Adirondacks, please contact us by mail:

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### Next Regional News

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

Swiss Review 5/08  
Deadline USA Sept. 5, 2008  
Mailing Date Oct. 15, 2008  
Approx. Arrival USA Mid Nov. 2008



## California Los Angeles Swiss Park

Every Monday evening, my husband and I drive to Swiss Park. It's the weekly rehearsal of the

but admire the landscaping. There is always something blooming, be it some trees or the flowers and bushes all along the chalet. And in the back there is



The main entrance - guests arrive for the First of August celebration

Swiss Singing Society Harmonie. It's our home away from home. When you turn into Workman Mill Road, there it is. A large chalet-type house in front - that's the restaurant. The even

a fountain carved out of a tree trunk. A steady stream keeps a waterwheel in motion. And all around green grass and more plants. A rose-arch and a gazebo are also favored places for out-



Treasure hunt at the "Second Time Around" Booth

larger part in the back is the Matterhorn Room. It has a stage, a balcony inside and seats 450 people for theater style seating or 350 at round tables. Upstairs is a bridal suite, which serves very often as dressing rooms for the numerous weddings that are celebrated at Swiss Park.

But let's go back outside. Even from the street you cannot help

door weddings. Throughout the year, numerous events take place at Swiss Park. The largest one is obviously the Swiss Fair - that's what we call our Swiss National Day celebration

since 1992. Doors open

at 11 AM and close around 10 PM. Once past the entrance, people can browse a variety of booths, from information and tourism to Swiss souvenirs, T-shirts, baked goods from the Swiss ladies, jams, honey and the large "Second Time Around" booth that sometimes looks like a flea market. On the grass in one corner you can find an art exhibition, and along the back-



Swiss Park - with the snow covered San Bernardino Mountains in the background

side the Bernese "Sennehund" dogs are always an attraction for animal lovers young and old. A little further down on the lawn the penalty kick competition is in full swing. All the way in the

Entertainment under the large tent is non-stop and often features groups from Switzerland, like "D'Holmikers" a group of gymnasts and clowns from the Turnverein Mels, the Swiss Har-



In the Alpine room, lots of raffle prizes are waiting for customers

back there is crossbow shooting. Lets not forget the food. Starting with Fritz Ambüehl's delicatessen for sale: All kinds of sausages, ham, cheeses and Hero Konfitüre. Further down is the Raclette stand and at the end of the parking lot - just follow your nose - Bratwurst and Schübli are sizzling on a large grill.

monie Marching Band, the Musikgesellschaft Pratteln and Oesch's die Dritten, a singing and yodeling family whose daughter Melanie is becoming more and more famous. But that is not all. Practically every Swiss Club holds at least once a year an event at Swiss Park: mostly the General



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After having presented a few songs, the Swiss Singing Society Harmonie makes room for a trio from the Ländler Gamblers, on the occasion of one of their visits from Switzerland





The Matterhorn room looks quite different, all decked out for a wedding

Meeting together with a fine dinner. The Harmonie choir presents a full concert, also with dinner. But there are other guests. Last December 30 the Police Band from the city of Zurich drummed and played itself

ral other groups and communities who patronize Swiss Park. Latinos arrange "Quinceañeras" for their daughters turning 15, the Dutch celebrated New Years Eve and the Peruvians gave a farewell party for their Consul Ge-



It's always a joy for Tony Hartenstein to lead the children's lampion parade

into our hearts. We were quite proud of the group because on January 1<sup>st</sup> they were marching in the Pasadena Rose Parade. The Swiss Ländler Gamblers are

neral. And the hallways inside Swiss Park are literally plastered with framed pictures from all the couples that got married here. If you have never been at Swiss



The many Swiss Fair guests appreciate shade and entertainment under the tent

also frequent guests. We have already been informed that they will be here again for the 2008 New Years Eve celebration. Besides the Swiss there are seve-

Park, and live in the Los Angeles area or are just passing through, please come and visit us. You can also check out the site by going to [www.swisspark.com](http://www.swisspark.com)

WAL BAUR

## Die Herbstzeitlosen – The Late Bloomers

This wonderful film was up for Oscar consideration but did not quite make the nomination. However, in the opinion of the Swiss and their American friends who saw it in theaters across the United States, or at special Swiss events, it certainly deserved this honor. It was one of the most successful Swiss films ever

seamstress in a lingerie store. This nurtures a little fire in Martha's head. With Lisi's encouragement she prepares to open "Petit Paris", a lingerie shop in Trub! This does not sit well with the villagers. Martha's son, the village priest, distinctly proclaims this would be sinful and she should rather devote the shop's space for the Bible courses.



Martha's friends discuss her problems and how to help her. Heidi Maria Glössner (on the left) and Monika Niggeler

produced and had Europeans roll with heartfelt laughter.

The tale is about four elderly women in a remote village in the Emmental. Martha, (Stephanie Glaser), central figure, has not only lost her husband but also all interest in her small general store. A customer reminds her a food item is already expired. So Martha cleans out her store with the help of Lisi (Heidi Marie Glossner). They come upon a box with fine lace lingerie, samples of Martha's work before her marriage as a respected corsetiere/

Hanni's (Monika Gubser), son, a business man and politician hopeful, wants to put his father in a retirement home so that he no longer has to drive him to therapy. This angers Hanni and she secretly takes driving lessons that have the villager's instructor in stitches. After her caring driving, she lands the automobile in a meadow; the dazed instructor needs a cigarette and Hanni calmly lights one herself.

(Continued on next page)



Waiting for the Bus to take them to Berne. From left to right: Heidi Maria Glössner, Stephanie Glaser, Annemarie Düringer and Monica Gubser



Continued from previous page:

## Die Herbstzeitlosen – The Late Bloomers

The future does not look good for "Petit Paris" and the women hold council. It is suggested that they should embroider "Trachte"-Motiv, (motives on Swiss National dresses) on the lingerie. Frieda, (Annemarie Düringer), however, just learned that items are now sold through the Internet. Perhaps they should try this? They do and suddenly business starts boo-

stand behind the "Late Bloomers" dream. The film is simply wonderful and its dialogue in Swiss German (with English subtitles) is delightfully entertaining. Particular credit goes to its young director, Bettina Oberli. She and Stephanie Glaser (86 years old and refreshingly alive) were on a tour throughout the United States. They were enthusiastically



Martha's lingerie business starts to flourish. From left to right: Monika Niggeler and Stephanie Glaser

ming at the shop. Although some men still try to do dirty tricks to close the shop, the women finally prevail and the villagers, particularly young people,

received and applauded. The film was produced on a shoe-string budget and had to be shot within 25 days.

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## Swiss American Chamber of Commerce Los Angeles Chapter

This is an invitation to the readers of the greater Los Angeles area to join us for dinner events at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The Chamber features interesting speakers: from the Granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill, to diplomats, business people of importance, entertainers, Los Angeles Opera singers, persons who have made valuable contributions to mankind.

On the present agenda:

**March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Robert Anderson

"The History of Beverly Hills"  
Beverly Hills is a name known internationally. Mr. Anderson gives insight into the development of the city and its people.

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**

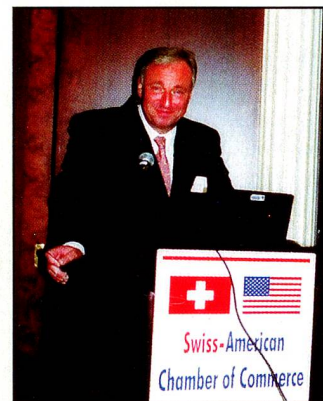
"The Eiger Obsession"

John Harlin III documents his climb of the treacherous Eiger North Wall that killed his father. Incredible photography by Swiss Helicopter Team.

**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

"Do We Need Sun for Solar Energy?"

A professor of a Swiss University invented the original solar cell, but pushes into new territory of discovery. Results now produced



Mr. Roger Wacker, Chairman of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles Chapter

by a company receiving international attention. Robert Hertzberg, former Speaker of the California State Assembly, spokesperson for the company, lets you in on the details.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>**

"Art-A-Fair, Laguna Beach"

Mr. Jeremy Strick, Director, MOCA (Museum of Contemporary Art), Los Angeles

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DORIS RITZI





# swissfest09

## Canada swissfest09

**The Jodlerklub Heimgattreu Calgary is the host for the 39th Sngerfest of the North American Swiss Singing Alliance (NASSA).**

The Calgary Yodlers have invited all the NASSA member societies to gather at The Banff Centre on June 25, 2009 for a 3-day celebration of Swiss Singing and Yodeling traditions.

Besides the Jodlerklub Heimgattreu, the Canadian NASSA member choirs are:

- Montagna Singers, Ottawa
- Edmonton Swiss Mens Choir, Edmonton
- Wildrose Yodel Club, Central Alberta
- Thames Valley Swiss Choir, South Western Ontario
- Schweizer Jodlerfreunde, Ontario

Visiting Banff National Park

also, will be the American NASSA member choirs:  
- Schweizer Mnnerchor Helvetia of Allegheny City,

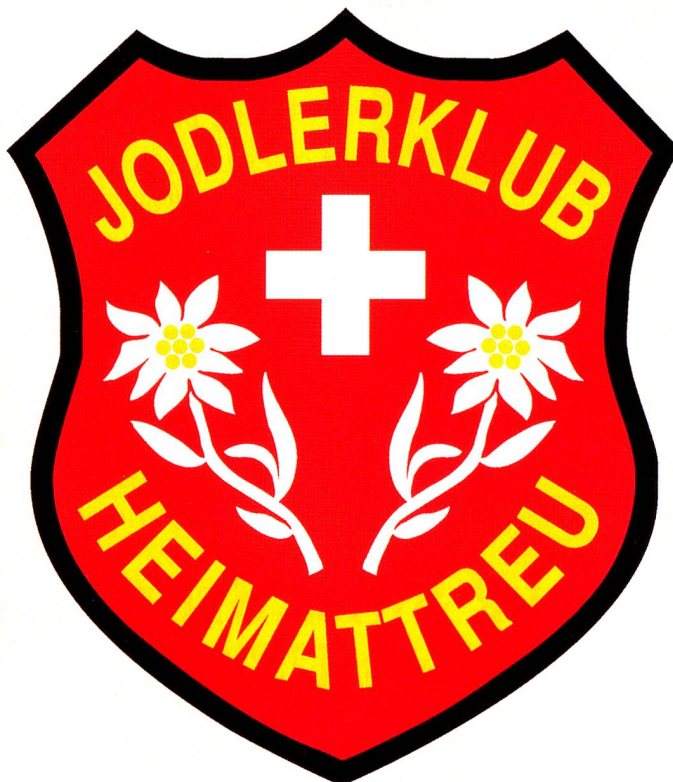
Pittsburgh, PA  
- Toledo Swiss Singers, Toledo, OH  
- Milwaukee Swiss Singers,

Milwaukee, WI  
- Monroe Swiss Singers, Monroe, WI  
- New Glarus Mnnerchor, New Glarus, WI  
- Jodelclub New Glarus, New Glarus, WI  
- Edelweiss Damenchor, Columbus, OH  
- Helvetia Mnnerchor, Columbus, OH

Two Swiss groups, the Obwaldner Trachtenhrli from Sarnen and the Jodlerklub Wattwil, have accepted the invitation to participate as featured guest-choirs at this tri-annual celebration of Swiss culture in North America.

For more information please visit the website:  
[www.swissfest09.com](http://www.swissfest09.com)  
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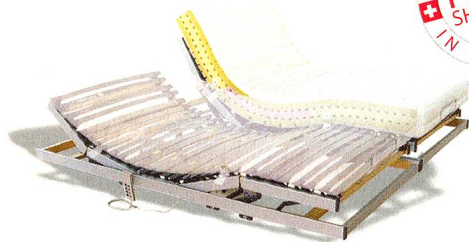
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## Louisiana

### Swiss American Society of New Orleans

The annual business meeting of the Swiss-American Society of New Orleans was held at the home of Consul John Geiser on January 13, 2008.

Pictured are Consul Jean-Pierre Huber, representative of the Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta, Consul John Geiser and Roger Brodmann, president of the society. The meeting was well attended, and after the reports, members enjoyed good refreshments and chatting together.



PAUL MUEHLEMAN

### Summer Camps in Switzerland

Are you between 15 and 25 years old? The Organization for the Swiss abroad (ASO) organizes holidays in Switzerland, which offers a wide variety of sports opportunities like trekking, alpine sports or mountain biking. Special attraction this year: European Football Championship will take place in June: tour the stadiums, visit the FIFA headquarters etc.

For more info on all camps, go to

[www.aso.ch](http://www.aso.ch)

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## Texas

### Beyond the Alps – 8 Swiss Artists

Marie-Therese Odermatt, the president of the Swiss American Houston Society, had been

in Texas" gives a glimpse of the Swiss diversity. Each artist expresses him/herself in a very different way and yet, their work side by side, reminds us of the cultural wealth of the small

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### Below samples of the artist's work



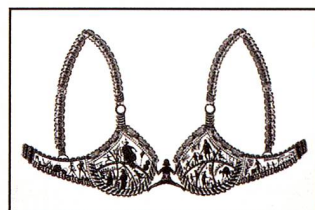
The artists, in front of the Gallery, from left to right: Anne-Joëlle Galley, Roger Washington (Art Consultant), Catherine Winkler Rayroud, Barbara Tennant, Rolf Laub, Bertrand Clerc, John Bernhard (missing on the photo are artists Grace Megnet and Willy Gunther).

Picture by Jean-Francois Meyrat

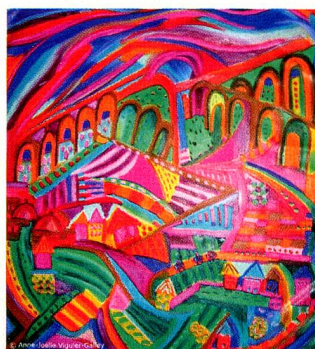
thinking for some time that it would be a fun project to organize an art exhibition with the Swiss Artists in Texas. Nine of them were known to the Society and when Marie-Therese shared her thoughts with them she had eight enthusiastic artists willing to be part of the exhibition, which was given the name "Beyond the Alps – 8 Swiss Artists in Texas".

Artist Catherine Winkler Rayroud offered to curate the exhibition and on February 9<sup>th</sup> the opening took place at Rudolph Project Gallery in Houston with many guests, amongst them the Swiss Honorary Consul in Houston Margrit Young. "Beyond the Alps-8 Swiss Artists

country that is their homeland. To have under the same roof four Swiss German and four Swiss French, amongst them three painters (Barbara Tennant, Anne-Joëlle Galley and Grace Megnet), a photographer (John Bernhard), a graphic designer (Rolf Laub), a diamond setter (Bertrand Clerc), a sculptor (Willy Günther) and a ceramicist/papercutter (Catherine Winkler Rayroud) is just another proof that our differences, instead of dividing us, can also be a wonderful way to unite us. More of the work by some of the artists can be seen on their websites: [www.johnbernhard.com](http://www.johnbernhard.com), [www.annejoelle.com](http://www.annejoelle.com), [www.gracemegnet.com](http://www.gracemegnet.com),



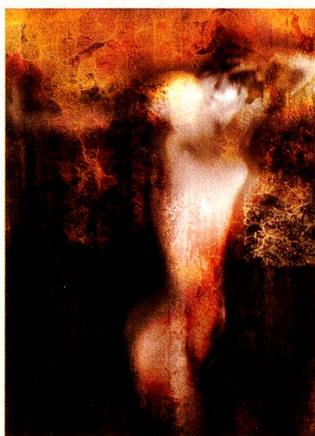
Catherine Winkler "Women's Liberation"



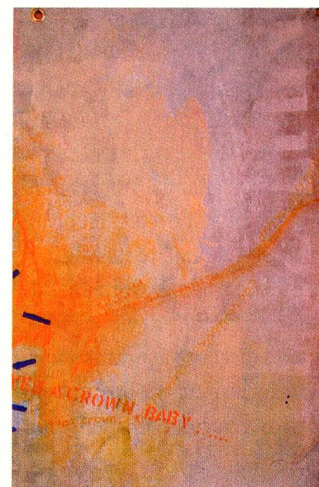
Anne-Joëlle Galley  
"Oaxaca al Anochecer"



Graphic Design by Rolf Lauf



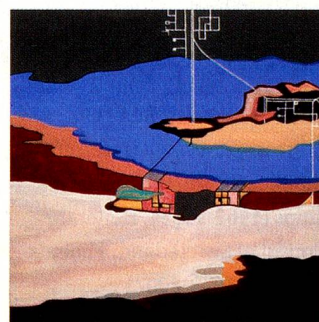
John Bernhard  
part of a serie called "Bodily Change"



Grace Megnet "Coniecturae Mysticae"



Cartoon by Rold Laub



Barbara Tennant, The Last Leaf, 2007,  
Acrylic-Oil on Wood Panel



Catherine Winkler "For Maria"



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## *The Council of the Swiss Abroad* *The recognized mouthpiece of the Fifth Switzerland*

The Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA) represents the interests of Swiss expatriates before the authorities and public opinion in Switzerland. This is why the media call it the «Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland». It has numerous major achievements for the Fifth Switzerland to its credit. The CSA gathers in Switzerland twice a year for a daylong meeting to discuss important matters concerning the Swiss abroad and to voice an opinion on

current affairs on behalf of the Fifth Switzerland. The Council meets regularly in the spring as well as in late summer within the framework of the Swiss Abroad Congress. Between sessions, the Executive Board and the administration team deal with routine business.

### **Quite a success story !**

There have been many achievements and the CSA has always played a decisive role in carrying these through : the inclusion of Swiss living abroad in the Federal Constitution (Art 40), maintaining optional old-age and disablement insurance (AVS/AI), livelihood protection thanks to the Solidarity Fund,

several civil rights revisions, information to Swiss abroad with the «Swiss Review», promotion of training young Swiss abroad or the introduction of the right to vote by mail - all these deserve to be highlighted as major achievements. It is also thanks to the activities of the Council of Swiss Abroad that the presence of the Fifth Switzerland back home over the years has increased significantly. Of the Swiss nationals living abroad over 110,000 are registered on the electoral roll, allowing them to exercise their democratic right to vote. This is the equivalent of the electorate of a Canton such as Neuchâtel - a very

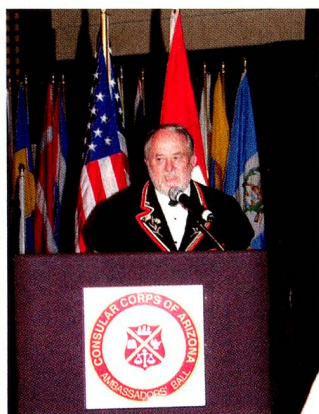
sizeable electorate then, and one that continues to grow. It is therefore a vital task to protect the interests of these citizens abroad.

## *Do you know who is representing YOU?*

Swiss citizens living in the United States are represented by five delegates and two substitute-Delegates. They live in Chicago, IL, Smyrna, GA, Scottsdale, AZ, Nutley, NJ, New Glarus, WI, Orangevale, CA and Cocoa Beach, FL. I sent them a questionnaire. In this and the next Swiss Review you will get to know them.

WAL BAUR

## *Meet the delegates who represent the Swiss of the United States:*



### *Max Haechler*

Born in Erlenbach/ZH  
Origin: Graenichen/AG and Erlenbach/ZH  
Lives in Paradise Valley, AZ  
Profession: Owner of various European Automobile Dealerships (1962-1995), Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Phoenix Arizona (1978-2007)  
Elected as delegate in 1988  
Represents the Southwest US  
CH-Sessions: always attends spring and summer sessions.  
Max's reason for volunteering:  
- Being able to gain firsthand information at the Council sessions and to participate in the discussions and the implementation of important issues affecting the Swiss Citizens living abroad.  
- Given the opportunity to inform the Swiss Citizens living in

my territory about the many benefits derived through the efforts of the Organization of the Swiss Abroad (Auslandsschweizer-Organisation)  
- Visiting with other representatives from throughout the world, gained as friends over the years through the participation at the semi-annual Council Meetings.



### *Suzanne J. Violet*

Born in Zürich  
Swiss Origin: Sottens, VD  
Lives in Cocoa Beach, Florida  
Profession: Business Broker.  
Owns a Business Brokerage Company.  
Elected as delegate in 1994  
Represents the US Swiss from the South East.  
Always travels to Switzerland for spring and summer sessions.

Suzanne's personal remarks: "I am also a Board member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad and as the only Boardmember living overseas I represent the Swiss living overseas. I enjoy my volunteer work, helping finding solutions, fighting for the cause, and meeting other Expatriates from all over the world."  
About the picture: "I am wearing this wonderful hat to our Rotary meetings in the hot Florida Summer"

### *Peter U. Jordi*

Born in Birrhard (Aargau)  
Swiss Origin: Parents are from the Canton of Berne  
Lives in Nutley, NJ  
Profession: Air/Ocean Freight Transport Exec.  
Elected as delegate in 1997  
Represents the US Swiss from New England to Maryland (East Coast States)  
How often are you able to travel to Switzerland for the Sessions? Two times p/a.  
Reasons why Peter volunteered for this position: "To pay back something to the Swiss Community in this part of the world. I enjoy the sessions and visits to Switzerland, which I can combine with my business trips (all

travel costs are covered by the delegates themselves). I also made nice friends from all over the world from delegates of about 65 countries.  
The sessions are a lot about local politics and now with over 110,000 Swiss abroad voting regularly in their home country, Swiss politics and the sessions have become very interesting. I live in the suburbs of New York (actually in the state of New Jersey) and commute daily to downtown New York City by train and ferry. I am involved in va-



rious Swiss Clubs in New York and still proudly play Soccer with the Swiss Soccer Club of NY (see pix: rear row, second from left) and enjoy many friends in the Swiss community.  
Contact:  
peterjordi@transcontainer.com

**The remaining delegates will be presented in Swiss Review # 3**