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## Editorial. Dear Readers in the United States

Middle of July, my husband and I flew to Portland, Oregon, as members of the Swiss Singing Society Harmonie. The Harmonie was one of 11 choirs participating in the Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival. It was a great festival, which explains the many pictures in this Swiss Review.

It also seems that you liked the idea of all the 1<sup>st</sup> of August pictures. I got literally inundated with photos for next year. So, unless some unforeseen change happens, we will again have a nice sample on how the Swiss in the US celebrate our National Day.

Since July 29, I am a member of the Titanium Club: I had total knee replacement. 5 weeks after the surgery, I got rid of the walker and hobbled around with the aid of a cane. When I saw the x-rays of my new knee, I got goose bumps! But isn't modern surgery amazing? By now I know people with titanium plates in their face – close encounter while skiing – several new hips, a thigh bone and somebody with a screw in his head to attach a contraption for better hearing! (I wouldn't dare mentioning something about a loose screw!)

That's all the news from Southern California.

I wish all of you a happy and "unstressed" Holiday Season.

WAL BAUR, EDITOR, REGIONAL NEWS USA



The editor, Wal Baur, at the Festival, in the Harmonie Tracht, which is actually the Zürcher Werkstags-Tracht (typical every-day tracht from Zürich)

Picture: John Palm

## New Jersey

### If You Build It They Will Come:

#### New German Language School Opens in Central New Jersey.

In the hit movie Field of Dreams, a farmer hears "if you build it, they will come," and builds a baseball field for the replay of famous baseball games from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the same belief that dreams do come true with hard work and a belief in success despite obstacles, a group of Swiss, German and Austrian in central New Jersey envisioned building a new German language school and cultural community to foster the language and nurture their heritage with their children. German School of Monmouth County officially opened in September 2007 with a grand

opening celebration picnic attended by more than 150 people. Although the group believed enrollment would start at 25 students, more than 70 students, 2 to 62 years old, joined the school in its first year. From parent-child MusikGarten classes to age-appropriate native and non-native speaker classes for young children, teens and adults, the school is a definite hit. Local community groups, libraries and other educational institutions have requested GSMC offer a trial class to introduce the German language back into the community.

This year, the IRS granted the school its request as a non-profit organization, offering even more people in the region an opportunity to learn German for business and pleasure, as well as

celebrate St. Martins, St. Nicholas, Weihnachten and traditions like Fasnacht (Fasching) and Ostern with songs, performances and activities in German.

More information about the school including class schedules, school calendar and events

are all posted on the school's web site:

[www.germanschoolmc.org](http://www.germanschoolmc.org)

JUDY MUSA

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### Next Regional News

Swiss Review 1/2009  
Deadline USA: Dec. 23, 2009  
Approx. Arrival USA: Beginning of  
March, 2009

Swiss Review 3/09  
Deadline USA: May 6, 2009  
Approx. Arrival USA: Middle of  
July 2009



The Grand Concert with all singers, soloists and musicians. Picture compliments of Larry Michel. A large copy of the Grand Concert photo can be ordered from him at [www.Riverside-Images.com](http://www.Riverside-Images.com)

## Oregon 26<sup>th</sup> Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival a Grand Success

More than 1,000 people with Swiss backgrounds or a love of Swiss folklore took over Oregon's Rose City, Portland, July 17 through 20 for four days of singing, yodeling and celebration of Swiss culture.

The festival was kicked off Thursday evening by Festival Director Bob Ulrich along with his wayward "cow", Lucy. The audience was treated to a performance by the host choir, Jodelklub Edelwys of Portland, followed by entertainment from our special guest from Switzerland, Heinz della Torre, Willi Valotti and the Chörli, from Beinwil/LU and the Edmonton Swiss Mens Choir from Alberta, Canada.

On Friday evening, a Grand Concert unlike any other took place. Swiss Ambassador to the United States, Urs Ziswiler, welcomed the guests. Then Principal Music Director, Father Frank Knusel, and Grand Concert Director, Cliff Fairley led the nearly 300 strong Grand Choir on

a magical tour through Switzerland. Two "tourists", masterfully played by Greg and Barbara Vessey, wandered about "Switzerland" and experienced the music and songs of various regions and valleys. Through their travels, the audience was able to enjoy songs and yodels in all four of Switzerland's official languages. In addition to the Grand Choir, which was made up of singers from all 11 member and guest singing societies, soloists such as Lisa Ward-Dillier, Fred Burri, Toni Studer, Lyle Schaefer, Shirley Abbott-Clark, Rebecca and Peter Rosenast highlighted the evening. And who could forget the rousing numbers played by a 16-piece Alp-

horn group! Saturday, guests and singers were bussed to Cedarville Park in Gresham, Oregon. The day was filled with presentations from each choir and many soloists. We even had an authentic "Alp aufzug", enacting the yearly ritual when the cows are moved from the valleys to the alps for the summer. The parade featured Brown Swiss cows in traditional cow bells, plenty of Swiss flags, goats, horses, and representatives from each choir. The festival sadly closed on Sunday when the beautiful flag of the United Swiss Singing Societies of the Pacific Coast was passed along to the hosts of the next Sängerkonvent, the Vancouver

Swiss Choir from British Columbia in Canada. The organizing committee is already hard at work planning what is sure to be a fantastic festival in June of 2011. We hope to see you all there!!

TED ZURCHER  
[ted.zurcher@intel.com](mailto:ted.zurcher@intel.com)



Ted Zurcher and the wayward cow Lucy, presenting a sketch the first evening



On Saturday, guests and singers mingled under the tent or in the nearby meadow at Cedarville Park in Gresham, Oregon.

*The Choirs, the Soloists, the Musicians and the Guests:*



The Vancouver Swiss Choir who, together with the Vancouver Swiss Club will organize the next Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival



Mary Frances and Margo Reichlin



The multi-talented Heinz della Torre from Switzerland. He plays the Alphorn (laying on the ground, Büchel (leaning against his leg) and the Cow-Horn



The "Enzian" Swiss Ladies Choir from Tacoma, Wash, presenting a funny sketch



Shirley Abbott Clark, remembering her mother with her signature song: "Vo myne Bärge mues i scheid"



Soloists Annelies Caprez (left) and Lisa Pozzi from the "Enzian" Swiss Ladies Choir .



The Männerchor "Edelweiss" from Tacoma, Washington



Cow-Bells, this time on strong men's neck (Willi Boni Sr., Willi Boni Jr. and Markus Spitzli)! Their sound gives goose-bumps to any true Swiss.



The flag-bearers and delegations of all choirs get ready for the parade



Peter Rosenast, who keeps telling everybody that he learned to yodel while singing to his cows, was not only a soloist at the grand Concert, but also a participant in the parade, showing off one of his fine red Holstein cows!



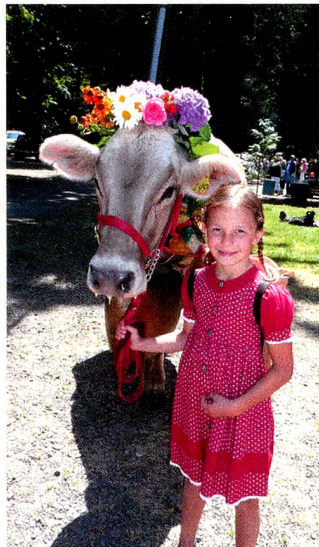
Flag-Twirlers at the parade



The "Kinder Chörli" from Portland, Oregon - the next generation!



Would you believe that the goat's name is "Edelweiss"?



The prettiest cow and the prettiest cow-girl!



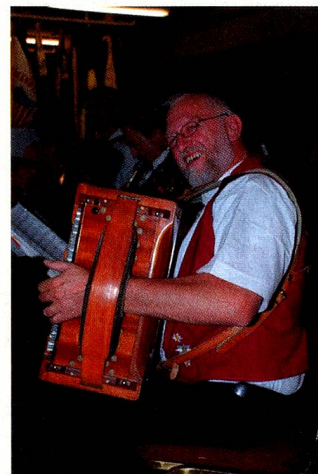
Fred Burri, who is still known as the "Matterhorn Yodeler" from the time he did so at Disneyland in LA



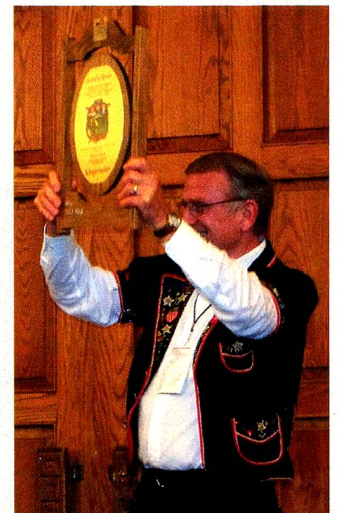
And who hasn't heard of Lisa Ward-Dillier and her Echo Yodel?



Many choir members of the Helvetia-Alpenglühn from Portland helped with the Festival and their director, Cliff Fairley, directed most of Friday's Grand Concert



Willi Valotti, the all-round musician from Switzerland who composed the beautiful song "s Schwyzerhuus" for the Grand Concert



And last, but certainly not least, Bob Ulrich, the Festival President, at the closing ceremony. He is holding up the plaque recognizing him as "Sängervater" title bestowed upon him in recognition of his hard work and the successful organization of the Sännergfest.



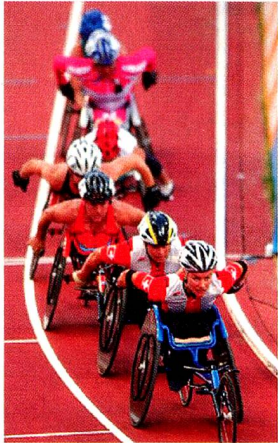
The guest choir «Chörli» from Beinwil/Freiamt, Canton of Aargau

Note from the editor: I tried very hard to insert a picture of every choir and all the soloists, but that got me to over four pages. So due to lack of space I had to cut out several pictures. I apologize and hope you are not too disappointed if your picture is missing!

The pictures on this and the preceding pages were taken by Theresa Lehman, John Palm and Wal Baur

*Georgia*  
**Swiss Wheelchair**  
**Athletes in Atlanta**

A small group of four Swiss Wheelchair athletes visited the training camp in Cedartown GA. Together with other international teams they participated in the 5K race on July 2nd and had very good results.



Edith Hunkeler in action

During the Independence Day weekend, the four Swiss wheelchair athletes plus an additional five coming straight from Switzerland, participated in the annual Peachtree Road

Race in Atlanta. The Swiss athletes were very successful in this challenging 10K race with its many hills that lead through the streets of Atlanta. Edith Hunkeler won the Peachtree Road Race 2008 for the women and

Sandra Graf finished in 5th place. Marcel Hug also made an excellent fifth place finish for the men.

In the evening of July 4th, the Consul General of Switzerland Ulrich Hunn and his wife Marie-Claire invited the Swiss delegation and others, to a southern BBQ at their residence. Every-



The Swiss Wheelchair Athletes together with Consul General Hunn and Coach Paul Odermatt

body enjoyed a pleasant reunion with interesting discussions in a relaxed atmosphere.

On Saturday July 5th, the Swiss athletes participated in the "Meet in the Heat" event for which they definitely raced in the heat at different distances: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and 5000m. Once more

the Swiss athletes competed successfully.

For the exact results please go to <http://www.paralympians.com>. Congratulations to all the athletes for the excellent performances at the different races in the South-East.

WALTER ROHRBACH  
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2009 Swiss Calendars



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### SWISS MISS CD "Heimweb"

Funky folklore – for (mostly) young people who do not appreciate their parents taste for Swiss Music



What are Heidi's Granddaughters their field to reggae sounds and

up to? 12 renowned female Swiss singers representing different generations, music styles and ethnic backgrounds spice up traditional folk music from all over Switzerland with its four official languages and countless dialects. Arranged and produced

by the New York based Swiss singer and guitarist Eliane, SWISS MISS is a whole new Swiss experience celebrating both - tradition and innovation.

Alphorn loops dueling with human beat box grooves, Swiss hackbrett meets hot NYC rhythm section, a grumpy farmer family works

their field to reggae sounds and

did you know that the Swiss had the blues as early as in the 18th century?

What started out with some big ideas scribbled on a napkin in a New Yorker bar, had soon developed into a major project. Andra Borlo and Eliane have orga-

nized several tours in the US, Argentina and Switzerland, concerts in Canada etc.

The CD is available for \$ 14.95 directly from the group's website [www.swissmissmusic.com](http://www.swissmissmusic.com) which contains also a lot more info in German and English.

## CHRISTMAS-SALE

2-CD-Set from the Singing and Yodeling Festival 2005

This is as traditional as it gets – A must for every Swiss Music collection!

The Swiss Singing Society of Los Angeles still has a limited stock of this CD-Set. Listen to over two hours of Swiss folklore – a 250-singers-choir, Alphorns, solo yodelers, accordionists and the "Swiss Ländler Gamblers", presented in a beautiful cassette. A unique Christmas gift for any Swiss Folklore Lover.

Sales price, including shipping and handling is only \$ 12.00 (first come, first served!).

Send check or money order, made out to "Harmonie" to Jacob Baur, 2364 Sunset Curve, Upland, CA 91784-1069

## Snow Party

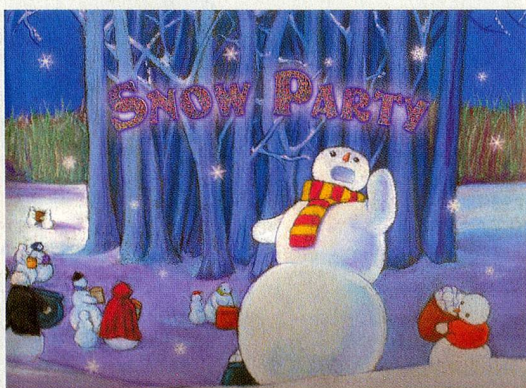
Illustration by Mark Jones,  
Text by Harriet Ziefert

A picture book for children ages 4 – 8. Absolutely delightful and ever so charming illustrations.

This is what Mark Jones says about

himself: "I was born in Basel to an American father and a Swiss mother. We lived in an apartment in Liestal and eventually moved to the United States by the time I was two. I held on to my Swiss citizenship and to this day I have both a Swiss and a

United States passport. Being Swiss was a huge part of



my identity while growing up. I was the only child in my class who had pictures from his infancy dressed up as a Waggis for Fasnacht. I distinctly remember knowing the name Betty Bossi before I knew the name Betty Crocker, and I still get odd looks

from Americans when I use words like 'Maschinli' and 'Pfläschterli' instead of 'remote control' and 'band-aid'.

The Swiss influences on Snow Party are due to the fact that I spent my summers in Switzerland and, ironically, all my memories of snow come from the months of July and August. I would take trips to high peaks like Titlis, or to the Gornergrat at Zermatt, and get a taste of the white winters I never had in Florida. However, snow just involves the setting in Snow Party, the real appeal of the book is the charming community spirit of the snow people. While it may seem a stretch to others to connect this book to Switzerland, I, on the other hand, see Snow

Party as a mirror image of my experiences with the first of August festivities in my grandparent's village of Bubendorf. Granted, the snow people aren't setting bonfires or blowing alphorns, but looking at my illustrations brings back crystal clear memories of the village gathered up on a forested hill with rows of tables, a band of musicians, children and adults laughing, eating and singing some lovely songs, not to mention all the speeches and toasts. Quite frankly, the gathering depicted in Snow Party got it's soul from those memories. The book can be purchased for \$ 16.95 at [www.blueapplebooks.com](http://www.blueapplebooks.com)

## New Year Celebration With "The Ländler Gamblers" from Switzerland At the Swiss Park in Los Angeles



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## Vermont

### North Pole anybody....?

Swiss Nationals Heinz Fischer and his wife Lyndy Burdet have no time for a sedentary life style. At ages 79, respectively 76 the Fischers have little interest in golfing as they prefer more demanding sports like deep sea diving, climbing high mountains, hot air ballooning, sailing, skiing and flying their own plane. They seek their challenges all over the world including – for obvious reasons: Switzerland. When not on expedition, the couple stations in their permanent home in Lyndon, Vermont.



The Fischers, after reaching the North Pole on skis, proudly displayed the Swiss flag.

Last April Heinz and Lyndy Fischer requested to be dropped from a helicopter several miles from the most northern point of the earth. They were accompanied by their Australian guide. Together they embarked upon the arduous ordeal, heading for the North Pole on skis. This is easier said than done for nature will trick you. Take into account that your exactly calculated destination sits on a floating ice cap and consistently drifts: "You may journey north but simultaneously you drift south." Temperatures can drop as low as minus 75 degrees F. You are relentlessly on watch for polar bears and hope not to encounter any. Wind, fog and ice storms could obstruct your view. Worse, explorers could get trapped in the weather and become only too vulnerable to the extreme elements with only a slim chance for rescue from disastrous conditions. "It was

tough" the Fischers say; "We were at the weather's mercy". But luck was at their side. The Fischers describe their weather conditions as ideal. Gratefully there were no fierce ice storms. At night the team bunked in their tents they hauled along on their sleds. They kept warm in their sleeping bags by the means of chemical heating packs. Regardless, the temperatures inside their lofty residence reached a cozy minus 21 degrees F. During the day the Fischers pulled, dragged, pushed and hurdled their supply sleds over the rough and buckled ice surface. At times they were able to

travel on skis. Other times they had to climb over the ice tectonics carved by wind and sculptured by overlaps during high and low tides. Picks and ice tools became their indispensable tools.

Finally the coordinates of the couple's GPS indicated that they indeed had arrived at the exact North Pole. The awe and serenity around them caused them to stop and observe the curvature of the earth they describe as clearly visible in every which direction they turned. That very instant engraved a deep and unforgettable impression into their souls. The Fischers experienced paradise. They never forget the peace and appreciation for the beauty of the rugged earth knowing they were really at the North Pole. Unfolding their Swiss flag, they celebrated having reached the Top of the World, literally. The Guinness Book of

Records documents our Swiss friends as the oldest couple who skied to the North Pole. This has minor significance for the Super Seniors Heinz and Lyndy. The couple prefers hoping to inspire other seniors. They want to set an example, encouraging us to enjoy the beauty of this world every which way we can: "Take

good care of yourselves, remain active and sustain your interest in life. Every day is a gift!" Wondering if the Fischers have further plans for a new expedition they indicated that indeed they do, however they decline to reveal any details: Lyndy quickly adds: "It might fail".

HILDA BIRCHMEIER, PSY.D.  
hzb\_psyd@yahoo.com

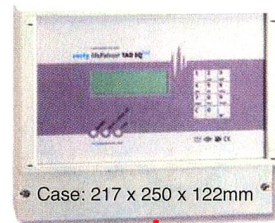
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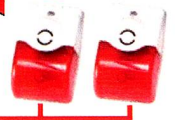
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## News from various Swiss Clubs

### Missouri / Kansas

#### Kansas City Swiss Society

The Kansas City Swiss Society, founded in 1865, is still going strong. The membership is approximately 150 members, with about 50 Swiss-born and the remainder of Swiss descent. The Society owns Chalet Kupfer, situated on 10 acres of beautiful timbered hills with an "alp" reminiscent of the Ruetli meadow. The Society meets six to eight times a year mostly at the Chalet with occasions at Andre's restaurant, or the farm of Franz and Annelies Leuthardt. We always celebrate Bundesfeier on the first Saturday in August at the Chalet with the real Bratwurst from Continental in Denver. We welcome Swiss nationals and those with a definable Swiss ancestry to join us.

Contact John Kupfer,

816-941-0860 or e-mail [johnkupfer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnkupfer@sbcglobal.net)

Sorry, English only



The obviously experienced chef is Dan Bonderer, President of the Kansas City Swiss Society.

## HEIMWEH-BASLER

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### North Carolina

#### Swiss Club of Asheville

The Swiss Club of Asheville, NC met at the home of Catherine and John Showalter on Saturday, July 26th to celebrate the Swiss National Holiday with a "raclette" dinner. There were tractor rides and Amish wagon rides for the children, frisbee games and badminton.

The club was started in January 2008 and meets every two months. It is made up of 22 families from 13 different Swiss cantons. Members range from families with young children to retirees and they come from the Asheville/Black Mountain area, but also from Old Fort, Hendersonville, Weaverville and Highlands.

We welcome new members! Please contact Catherine Showalter at [cwshowalter@juno.com](mailto:cwshowalter@juno.com) or call (828) 298-1325 if interested.

### Massachusetts

#### European Soccer Championship

In collaboration with SwissLinkBoston, a networking platform for Swiss students, researchers and young professionals living in the Boston area, swissnex Boston invited to the opening game of the European Soccer Championship taking place in Switzerland and Austria. Although our team was unfortunately defeated by the Czech Republic's team, more than 100 Swiss supporters and guests from other nations (even two Czech fans found their way!) celebrated the beginning of the third biggest sport event worldwide, attracting more than a million people to Switzerland and Austria.

Swissnex Boston acts as a physical and virtual environment fostering closer ties between Switzerland, New England and Eastern Canada in academia, industry and society. It places particular emphasis on the next generation of creative thinkers and leaders, through a network that promotes the exchange of knowledge and generates cooperation in an innovative, inspiring, and rewarding atmosphere.

MORE INFO: [WWW.SWISSLINKBOSTON.COM](http://WWW.SWISSLINKBOSTON.COM)

THOMAS BUEHLER



The attentive audience following the opening game Switzerland-Chzech Republic

Regional news 9

Appeal for heirs

The following person died on September 7, 2006 at Zurich:

**Nelli Ruth Schmid**, unmarried, born on January 20, 1922 at Zurich, citizen of Zurich and Affoltern im Emmental/BE, daughter of Jakob Walter Schmid, born on March 8, 1885 and deceased on January 19, 1957, and of Rosina née Steiner, born on February 2, 1880 and deceased on January 17, 1969, with her last residence at Witikonstr. 100, 8032 Zurich.

The following persons from the grandparental kinship are called upon to register for succession:

**on the father's side:**

1. any descendants born out of wedlock of the father's sister Anna Ottilia Marie née Schmid, born on March 31, 1857, and deceased on June 3, 1937,

**on the mother's side:**

2. Martha Becker née Steiner, born on May 13, 1926 at Berne, citizen of the United States of America, or her descendants, should she already be deceased;
3. any descendants of the mother's sister Maria née Steiner, born in 1874 and evidently deceased.

All named persons are herewith requested to register, within a period of one year from the publication of this appeal for heirs, at the below named public office and presenting the necessary documents to prove their rights of inheritance, otherwise they will be disregarded as heirs.

Zurich, June 2, 2008

DISTRICT COURT OF ZURICH  
Office of the Sole Judge in  
the Inheritance Matters  
PO Box  
CH-8026 Zurich

The Estate of Raoul A. Ducrocq is trying to locate

**Ruth Y. Mydegger (possibly Nydegger)**

who married Mr. Ducrocq on June 22, 1957 in New York, NY.

After separating they had no contact for over 40 years. If you have any information regarding this person, contact:

Rosemary Ruggiero, Executor OR  
33-43, 74th Street  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Gary W. Weeks  
Attorney at Law  
33-04 30th Avenue  
2nd Floor, Suite #5  
Astoria, NY 11103

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**South and North Carolina New Honorary Consul**

Mr. Heinz Roth has now been appointed as the Swiss Honorary Consul for both, North and South Carolina. After the passing away of Mr.

Hans Balmer, Swiss Honorary Consul for South Carolina, the Swiss Foreign Ministry has decided to appoint Mr. Heinz Roth as a Swiss Honorary Consul for North and South Carolina. Swiss citizens living in these states as well as Swiss tourists needing

assistance can reach Mr. Roth for emergencies at the following address:

Mr. Heinz Roth  
Honorary Consul of Switzerland  
2208 Houston Branch Road  
Charlotte, NC 28270

Phone: (704) 292 1237  
E-mail: [hroth1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:hroth1@carolina.rr.com).

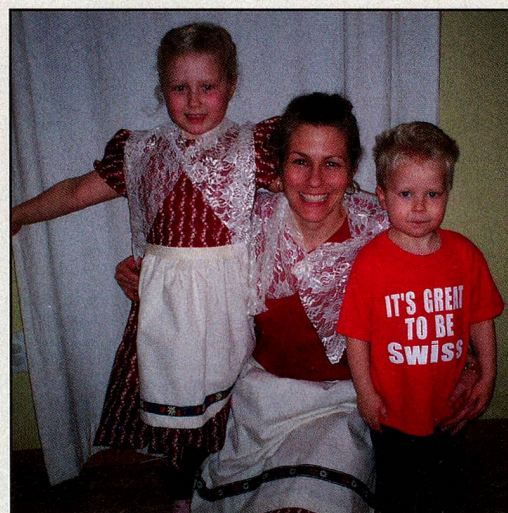
The Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta still handles regular consular matters.

**Iowa Promoting Switzerland in School**

This was the Switzerland table at International Night, Horace Mann School, Iowa City, Iowa. With my daughter Christine Wolfe and her children Lizzie and Jack Carrell presenting the Swiss table. Obviously homemade costumes by Grandma, originally from Lausanne. We gave away little Lindt

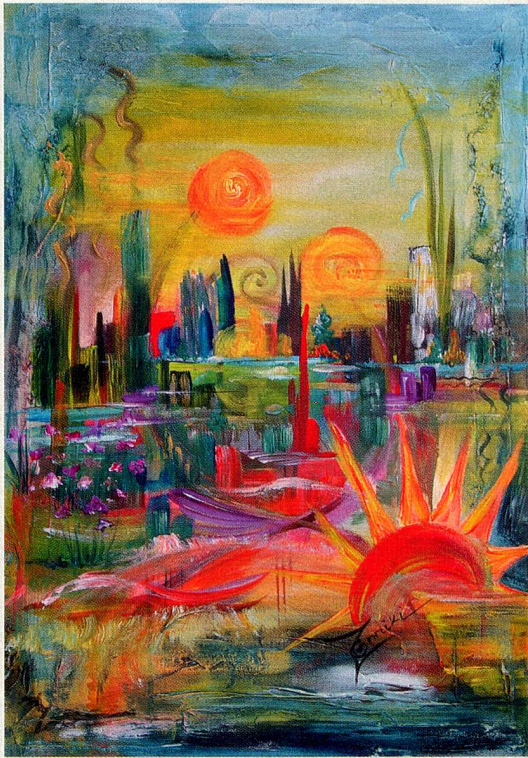
chocolate bars and crackers with Gruyere and Emmethal cheeses.

"GRANDMA" PIERRETTE DURIAUX  
WOLFE  
[pierrette.wolfe@gmail.com](mailto:pierrette.wolfe@gmail.com)



## California Visiting Yin/Yang...

An intensity of warmth and adventure embraces you as you enter the Nicolaisen home in Escondido, CA. Your stimulation motivates you to explore the etiology of your perception. Afri-



City of Hope - Painting by Zanniki, which is the artist name of Suzanne Nicolaisen

can born and Swiss national Suzanne and her Danish husband Bjarne welcomed me cordially. You soon notice that the Nicolaisens form a team of a free-flowing Yin artist and the analytical Yang brain of a scientist. You might wonder if such combination ever works? The interaction of this team creates a powerful dynamic, stimulated by compassionate curiosity for the other's

work, thoughts and feelings. Suzanne's art on canvas acrylics or water colors flows from her talented hand with great ease. Her art engraves an irrefutable impact of archetypal symbolism in your soul. Her South African roots transition to the Western world and vice versa, creating a global passion. Suzanne is a magnet for the local schools who want to engage her happy personality as well as her expertise. You will fall in love with Suzanne's spirit! She insisted that we paint together. My disadvantaged artistic talent quickly imploded as she

Painted next to me - in silence. Peace and healing powers transcended; I wanted to stay. Suzanne signs her art with Zanniki; her mother called her "Zanne" and the Afrikaans diminutive form of "tjie" was added. Zanniki - a tribute to Mom! As the lady of the house settled in the kitchen to fix a surprise meal, Bjarne deeply immersed me in scientific philosophies dis-

cussing the existence of our earth, its present state and future dangers of global warming. Bjarne's thinking drifted into dimensions of the universe that were new and exciting. His recent book is now available on Amazon: *EARTH - The Cure*; ISBN 0-7414-4855-6. Bjarne considers the earth as the patient and believes that we have the power to cure it. Thinking of the "Inconvenient Truth" I quickly realized that Bjarne's book embraces a plot with science fictional approach including extra terrestrial powers. His artist wife designed the attractive cover of the paperback. Explore this book - enjoy the reading! I watched the interaction between the spouses, wondering how two strong and different people would handle dissents. I smiled - disagreements were welcomed; they only lead to additional mutual affectionate curiosity and more excitement. I

believe it might be this immense tolerance that embraces you the minute you enter the Nicolaisen home. Suzanne and Bjarne welcome living under the same roof 24/7. They visit each other at work; discuss their progress and are each other's harshest critics. If only politicians could follow this interactive methodology! Each small detail in the house has its artistic touch. Glasses, towels, walls, even the Lazy-Susan on the table sports art. Switzerland, Africa and Denmark have united with flair. They enhance each other's character, radiating global harmony. The Yin/Yang fortitude is not only represented - it exemplifies that the world can be whole in its diversity. The Nicolaisen inspiration is a gift! You may reach the Nicolaisens through their websites: Suzanne: [www.zanniki.com](http://www.zanniki.com) Bjarne: [www.nicologics.com](http://www.nicologics.com)

HILDA BIRCHMEIER, PSY.D.  
Hzb\_psyd@yahoo.com



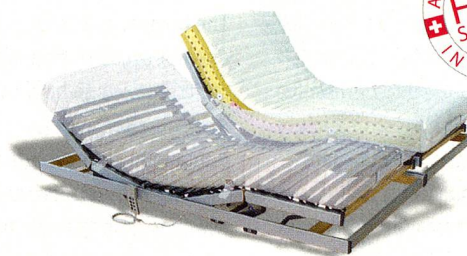
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## Washington, D.C. Swiss Benevolent Society

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington, D.C. (SBS) was founded in 1865. It is the oldest Swiss organization in Washington, and has the mission of helping Swiss in need that reside in the Metropolitan Area. Over the 143 years of its existence, direct help was provided to individuals who encountered financial difficulties. In the early years the SBS would also extend travel assistance for some to return to Switzerland. Frequently this was done through loans, expected to be repaid.

For years the Society membership remained constant around one hundred. An annual meeting was held, typically a dinner meeting. A small group of active members oversaw the general welfare of members. This included visiting the homebound, delivering flowers for special occasions, buying groceries or other necessities. The SBS has on occasion supported Swiss cultural and charitable events, such as hosting a group of young Swiss cancer patients for a visit to Washington. As direct service to members diminished, the membership voted in 1998 to dissolve the SBS as a Membership Society and converting it to an organization controlled by a small Board of Directors. Board members are drawn from the other local Swiss organizations. In 1980, with the ever-increa-

sing costs of college education, a Scholarship Program was initiated to help Swiss and descendants of Swiss with at least one Swiss grandparent. Eligibility to apply requires residency in the Washington Metropolitan Area, except for the residents of the tiny West Virginia community of Helvetia, which was settled by Swiss in the mid 1880s.

While the Scholarship Program is now the major focus, limited assistance to individuals in need, elderly and shut-ins have continued as cases are brought to the Society's attention. The assets currently stand at \$130,000. It has been a long-standing policy to maintain a strong assets base, allowed to grow with inflation, while dispersing annual income and donations for aid and grants. With the loss of dues-paying members the SBS funding of programs now depends exclusively on donations, gifts and the income from interest bearing assets. In good years as much as \$7,000 in scholarship grants are awarded. In the last three years considerable assistance in several critical cases was provided. The Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization allowing contributions to be fully tax-deductible. Board of Trustee members are volunteers and there are literally no overhead expenses, which means that all contributions flow directly to those we support. The Board members are: Wm. Campbell Graeub; Pre-


sident, Cassandra Wait, Secretary; Alfred Kessi, Treasurer; Stefano Ghielmetti, Regula Guess, Andrew Graeub, Elizabeth vonKaenel, Reto Weber, and the ex-officio member Swiss Consul Margrith Ledermann Prestofelippo.

To keep the SBS able to respond to the ever increasing demands for scholarships and the other special needs, the Board of Trustees asks for your gifts and donations and thanks you in advance for your generosity.

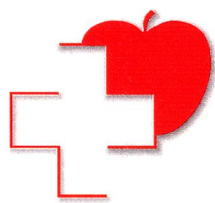
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Join us January 31st, for  
**The Annual Swiss Ball 2009**

A gala evening of dinner and dancing at The Pierre Hotel, under the patronage of Ambassador Christoph Bubb and Mrs. Regula Bubb. Special guests to be announced.



For more information, please visit [www.SwissSociety.com](http://www.SwissSociety.com) or call the Swiss Society of New York at (212) 755-1790



**Become a Swiss Society of NY Member and get a chance to win two free Swiss Ball 2009 tickets!**

A value of up to \$800! The raffle remains open until October 31, 2008. Eligible raffle prize entries include all new memberships or memberships that have lapsed more than three years. Details at [www.SwissSociety.com](http://www.SwissSociety.com).

I wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the 2008 Swiss Benevolent Society Fund Drive in support of the Scholarship Program and to aid Swiss compatriots who are in special need.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Checks, made out to the Swiss Benevolent Society, should be mailed to Alfred Kessi, Treasurer, 8 High Pond Drive, Newark, DE 19711

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