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Dear Readers in the United States

Swiss Choirs from all over the Western United States and Canada met from June 23 - 26 in Vancouver, Canada, for the 27th Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival. Guests and soloists: Jodelklub Niederurnen, Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir, Montagna Singers Ottawa, Wildrose Yodel Club Central Alberta, Lisa Ward-Dillier, Swiss Alpiners, Portland, Lucia and Peter Rosenast and Kim's Korean Modi Kapelle, with Kim and three young girls playing the Schwyzerörgeli and one bass. Yes, you read it correctly! I was going to publish an article about that. And then you sent me so many 1<sup>st</sup> of August pictures, articles, etc., etc. that I had absolutely no space left! So all you get to see is my husband and myself in our Swiss costumes! I think there is not a single article that didn't get shortened or a picture that wasn't reduced in size. But of course I had to include something about Ted Mueller's 107<sup>th</sup> birthday. He is the oldest Swiss living abroad. Other articles had been on ice for too long, so sorry for all that.

There is just enough space to wish you all a very happy, not too hectic Holiday season and a Happy New Year!

WAL BAUR



Florida

Sarasota Edelweiss Swiss Club

"ALMOST 40 .....

and still going strong!!

The Swiss American Club of Sarasota had its founding in the Fall of 1971 as the Sarasota Edelweiss Club. Miss Marie Meier had talked to several local Swiss about forming our own club as up until that time several of the group were travelling to St. Petersburg to attend meetings at the club in that city. The idea took off, and what started out as a small group of about 40 people presently has well over 100 members!

Membership is open to people of Swiss descent or friends of Switzerland. In fact, Article 1 of our By-laws states "The purpose of the Society shall be to encourage contact between members of Swiss descent or friends of Switzerland,



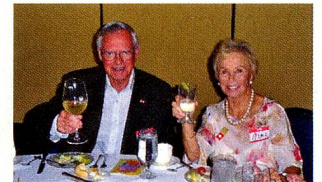
Enjoying the view are, from left to right: Sarasota Edelweiss Club President, Primo Bader and his wife Ruth and Franco and Tatjana Pellegrini, representing the Swiss Consulate General in Atlanta

through organized formal or informal social activities and entertainment within the West Coast of Florida, and in addition to encourage visitors of Swiss ancestry to become members of our Society, or welcome visitors who only temporarily visit this area".



Everybody is joining in the Polonaise

Our club has become very active with monthly picnics on the first Sunday of the months October through May. We also enjoy cultural films as well as member get-togethers for an occasional "Jass" game. As a community endeavor we have sponsored a Seeing Eye dog, which we appropriately named "Tell", from the Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc.. On Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 1971 we held our first Christmas party, and on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 we will not only be cel-



Stan and Alma Abshier wishing everybody a happy 1st of August

celebrating Christmas, but our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Enclosed are fotos of our recent Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> celebration. As you can see, we are still going strong!"

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Beginning of May 2012



## First of August Celebrations all over the United States

### California Eastern Sierras

We celebrated up at Minaret View Point, 3100 Meter high. All members came from all over the Eastern Sierras as far as 80 miles away. There were Ueli, Anita, Monika, Peter, Barbara, Beat and Urs and of course all the spouses and kids. We got to know each other or enjoyed seeing others again. We listened to Ländler music and danced. And we made plans to meet for a fondue once winter sets in.

URS WILLIMANN

uwillmann@yahoo.com



### California Corona Del Mar

This happy Swiss group in Southern California enjoys the get-together underlined by Ernie Kneubuehler's Alphorn - as the sun sets golden over the Pacific.

FRED R. WAECHTER  
frw@cox.net



### Nevada

#### Swiss Club of Northern Nevada

We have found a lovely place at Washoe Valley State Park where we can accommodate everyone comfortably and celebrate with the Swiss National Anthem. We enjoyed wonderful Bratwurst, Cervelat and Wienerli with Bûrli and diverse salads, desserts and coffee. This was followed by some happy hours with singing and playing "urchigi Schwyzermusig" Happy First!

OSWALD BRAGGER, PRESIDENT  
mo2golfers@aol.com  
swissclubofnnv.com



### North Carolina, Swiss Society of Charlotte

Our 1<sup>st</sup> of August National Holiday celebration was held at the Red Fez Club on Lake Wylie. Torrential rains and a big thunderstorm around 5:00pm could not dampen the spirits of the participants, as the sun came out a few minutes later and the kids enjoyed a swim in the lake under the watchful eyes of our lifeguard Miranda Broyles; thank you again for all your help. The usual fare of grilled Veal Brats, Cervelats and Fleischkäse (with a fried egg on request) together with potato salad and other side dishes were gobbled up by young and old. Dessert was ice cream from the Mooresville Ice Cream Factory. Despite the sweltering heat in the mid nineties during the afternoon and early evening, there was some beer left over by the time we had to clear out!

Further information on upcoming and past events:  
www.swisscharlotte.com

WALTER HESS, PRESIDENT, mail2wally@juno.com  
Swiss Society of Charlotte, P.O. Box 5152, Mooresville, NC 28117





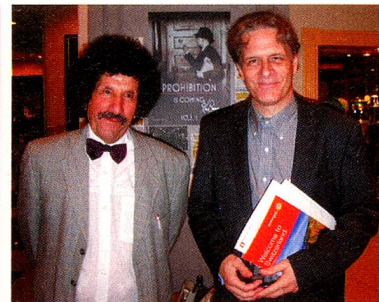
## Louisiana New Orleans

Mrs. Alexandra Mora, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in New Orleans, hosted a party on August 1<sup>st</sup>. It was held in the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, located in the Riverwalk building on the banks of the Mississippi River. Guests included Swiss citizens, members of the Swiss-American Society, honorary consuls from other countries, and various lawyers, doctors and business persons. They milled around and chatted together while enjoying finger sandwiches, fruit rays, Basler Leckerli and Swiss chocolates provided by the ladies from the Swiss-American Society. Mrs. Mora gave a short speech and played the recorded message from the president of the Swiss Confederation.

TEXT: PAUL MUEHLEMANN, PHOTOS: PATRICIA MUEHLEMANN  
muehlemann@bellsouth.net



Mrs. Alexandra Mora, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, and her daughter, Giselle



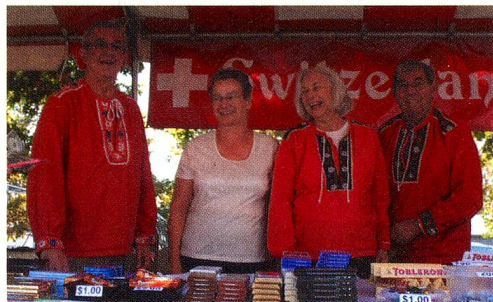
Professor Dr. Gabriele Sabbioni and Richard Witzig, MD, MPH



Robert G. Romero, Honorary Consul of the Philippines, Patricia Muehlemann, Louise Post Ritter and her sister

## Central Indiana Columbus Indiana Ethnic Expo

On Friday and Saturday October 07 & 08 the Swiss Club of Central Indiana participated with a "Schoggi" booth at the Columbus Indiana "Ethnic Expo." With weather in the mid eighties it became necessary to keep the extra schoggi on ice and to inform the purchasers to be careful when eating some of the candy with liquid or soft centers as they might dribble or spray.



Enjoying their chocolate sale are, from L to R Jim Weinmann VP, Marceline Hammer, Joy Gonser, and Heinz Gonser, President

It was a beautiful sunny event with the evenings cooling and the crowds seeming to have increased over the past few years. Some of the clientele were interested or had been to Switzerland and had many questions about our country. Even the schools participated by giving the younger children "passports" to visit all the participating countries exhibits and ask questions pertaining to that particular country.



This is one of only two festivities that the Swiss Club uses as an income generating event to fund the other various meetings and dinners for the club members.

REGIS HAMMER, rehammer@sbcglobal.net

## Vermont



Consul General of Switzerland in New York, Ambassador François Barras visits the Swiss Club of Vermont at Asta's Swiss Inn & Restaurant organized by Chef and Owner Michel de Preux.

## New York A<sup>3</sup> EPFL NY Branch

The A<sup>3</sup> EPFL NY Branch was launched in May, 2011 by two EPFL Alumni, Allan Estivalet and Emmanuelle Bays, both living in New York City. The association started from the observation that no interaction platform existed on the East Coast of the United States despite the presence of 400 EPFL Alumni. The A<sup>3</sup> EPFL NY Branch provides a network to facilitate communication among members, maintains strong connections between Alumni and EPFL and provides advice and support to EPFL students and Alumni interested in moving to the U.S. If you are an EPFL Alumni and feel like joining us, please find more information at <http://epflalumni.ch>

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## Pennsylvania News of Gallatin: The US-Swiss Dialogue continues

On September 27, the Bundesbrief Society was a sponsor for a high level panel discussion on the nature of public debt management and fiscal responsibility organized by the Consulate



Tamala Edwards, Anchor 6abc Action News Mornings with Ron Duquette as Albert Gallatin

General of Switzerland in New York and the Fels Institute of Government at UPenn in Philadelphia.

The Kirby Hall of the National Constitution Center was filled with those wanting to learn

more about this topic. They were introduced to the "Swiss Debt Brake Rule" which is a "balance the budget" mechanism. Participants were interested in this rule and how to apply it in the USA.

As you know, our mission is to foster discussions of democracy, constitutional liberty and scholarship and this event comple-

ments our mission. Especially noteworthy was the attendance by Albert Gallatin, the most famous Swiss American, who served as Secretary of the Treasury under both

Jefferson and Madison.

The society worked on the process of identifying an "historic performer" who could play this role at this event and had the good fortune to find Ron Duquette of Virginia. He accepted

the task and is now one of the leading figures in the Gallatin 250 anniversary celebration after having also been at the opening of the

Gallatin Room at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, DC. Ron became so interested in the good deeds of our Society that he has joined as our newest member!



(left to right) Fritz Zurbrugg/Director-General Swiss Federal Finance Administration + Joseph J. Minarik/Senior Vice President & Director of Research The Committee for Economic Development + Rob McCord/Pennsylvania State Treasurer

The Society also created an historic walking tour of Philadelphia, with an emphasis on the activities of Albert Gallatin and

his seating in Congress as the US Representative to Pennsylvania.

Text: JIM SCHERRER

PRESIDENT  
INTERNATIONAL  
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jscherrer@WebAlly.

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Ambassador François Barras, Consul General of Switzerland in New York with "Albert Gallatin"

Photos: CONRAD  
LOUIS-CHARLES

## Georgia Atlanta Showcase event

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta had many reasons to celebrate:

For Ambassador Manuel Sager's visit and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Consulate organized a Showcase event, which was held at the World Trade Center on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The event drew a lot of attention from the public. Among many city and state officials as well as the international and business community, the Mayor of Atlanta Kasim Reed was present to congratulate the Swiss Consulate on its anniversary. Two former Consuls General, Paul Studer and Fred Jenny flew in from Switzerland for the special occasion. Also, the current Consul General Claudio Leoncavallo had a special affiliation as he helped move the offices from

New Orleans to Atlanta when the former was closed.

The first part of the event was a seminar. Alex Herrmann, Director of North America from Switzerland Tourism in New York, introduced Switzerland as a tourist destination.

Dan Bangser, Director North America and Trade Commissioner in New York promoted Switzerland as a place to invest, Switzerland being the 6<sup>th</sup> largest investor in the US.



Guests mingling at the Seminar

Markus Walther, Representative from Cleantech Switzerland at the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington D.C., presented Switzerland's Cleantech industry and its role in the areas of green building, solar power and sustainable transportation. Last but not least Pascal Marmier, Director and Consul of Switzerland at the Swissnex Office in Boston elaborated about the collaboration in all fields related to science, technology and innovation.

To top it off a video, specially prepared for this event, showed the 25 reasons to choose Switzerland. The video was sponsored by Presence Switzerland. Afterwards, exquisite Swiss food and wine was offered at

the reception in the World Trade Center restaurant.

Informative panels of the 2000 Watt-Smarter Living Exhibition were on display throughout the reception area.

In a raffle, all guests had the opportunity to win Victorinox pocket knives, two Mondaine watches and two flight tickets to Switzerland from Delta Airlines combined with a 2-week railway voucher from Switzerland Tourism. When leaving, each guest received a goody bag with Swiss brochures, a memory stick and a box of Swiss Classic Confections truffles.

With an attendance of 134 persons, the showcase event was a great success! Best wishes for the next 25 years, Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta!

NDIYA ONUOHA

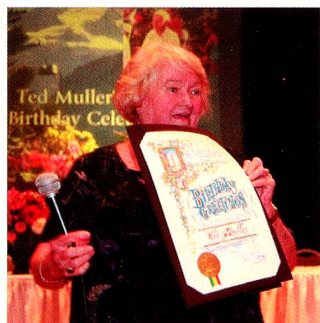
Intern at Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta



## California Ted Mueller's 107<sup>th</sup> Birthday

On August 15 there was excitement at Swiss Park. We would all celebrate Ted's birthday. As a longtime member of the Swiss Singing Society Harmonie, it was our pleasure and honor to receive Ted, who, accompanied by his son John and one of his grand-sons, arrived punctually as always at 8 pm.

Harmonie started out by singing "Grindelwald", which is a song Ted knows very well. Out of the corner of my eyes I could see



Verena Temple, President of United Swiss Societies of Southern California, with the congratulatory letter from Los Angeles County

him singing along. Everybody was welcomed. Then Consul General Bruno Ryf told us that the Consulate made a search and found out that Ted was the oldest Swiss living abroad. He proudly read a congratulation letter from Mrs. Micheline Calmy Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation. He mentioned that he too hailed from Burgdorf and that Ted's father had been a Minister there. He was sure he baptized his father and also Rösli Anderegg. Then he handed the mike over to Roland Rietman, Deputy Consul General, who, with equal pleasure, read a letter from Mrs. Elisabeth Zäch, President of the town of Burgdorf, canton of Berne (Ted's place of origin) and Mrs. Sarah Mastantuoni, from the Organization of the Swiss Abroad in Berne. When Verena Temple got to the mike, she held an impressive document in her hands: a congratulatory letter from Los Angeles County. All these documents, flowers, a bottle of wine



John Mueller holds the cake while his father blows out the candles - all in one go I might add!

and honey soon filled Ted's table. To everybody's delight, Max Bachmann had prepared a DVD presentation with slides from Ted's life. Everything was there: his wife, his family, his singing, a Swiss trip and much, much more. It was the real highlight of the evening. The Harmonie ended the official part of the celebration with "Alphornklänge", soloist Ernie Kneubuhler, and then "D'Alpepracht" and "D'r Trueber-

bueb", the last two songs again with Ted still knowing all verses by heart. It took two young ladies to carry the impressive birthday cake into

the room. Once Ted blew out the candles, everybody headed over to the buffet for some serious snacking! Regularly, people came back to Ted's table to chat with him and congratulate him personally and relate things they remember from years past. It was way after 9 pm when the Mueller family left with a happy smiling Ted. And we all hope we can repeat the party next year and wish Ted all the best.

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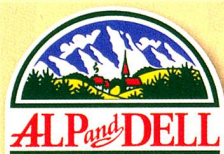
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2012 Swiss Calendars



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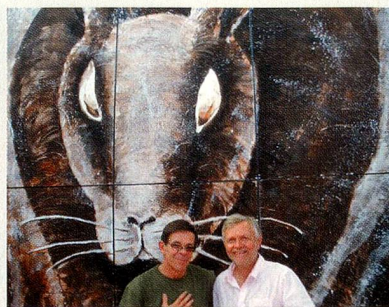
## Book Reviews

### Graphic Novel

By Pierre Alain Bertola

From August 4 to November 27, 2011, an exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA, displays over 40 original illustrations by Swiss artist Pierre Alain Bertola (1956). Bertola was given permission in 2009 by McIntosh & Otis, Inc. to create a hard cover, 119 page graphic novel, complete with speech balloons, all written in his native French language, based on John Steinbeck's 1937 book, "Of Mice and Men." An English version will be published soon.

Bertola is amongst the festival's book-signing authors and speakers. He will share his story about his life as an architect, set designer, his many museum exhibitions, and just being a Steinbeck enthusiast. More at: [www.steinbeck.org/pages/exhibitions](http://www.steinbeck.org/pages/exhibitions)



The artist Pierre Alain Bertola with Consul General Julius F. Anderegg from San Francisco in front of one of his illustrations

MARTIN SCHWARTZ, CULTURAL OFFICER

Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco

[sfr.vertretung@eda.admin.ch](mailto:sfr.vertretung@eda.admin.ch)

### Ghosts of Glorieta

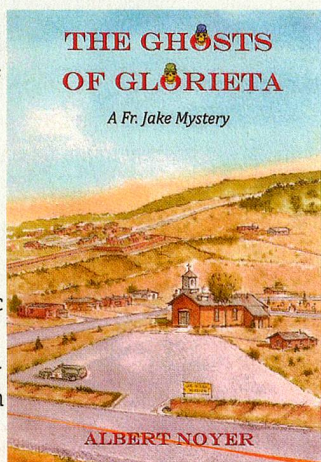
By Albert Noyer

When Rev. Casimir "Fr. Jake" Jakubowski reaches the retirement age of 70, his Archbishop sends the liberal priest to serve a "sabbatical year" at Providencia, a New Mexican village. The reclusive pastor, Fr. Mora, and villagers resent the outsider, but after Fr. Mora is murdered, evidence suggests his involvement in a satanic Black Mass. Detective Sonia Mora investigates her uncle's death. Schoolteacher Cynthia Plow uncovers Union and Confederate corpses at a nearby Civil War fort, also a recent female skeleton. Tex Houston's film company arrives with quitclaim deeds to the land; he will rebuild the village as a tourist's horror set for his B films. Violence erupts as residents fight the filmmaker's plan.

Fr. Mora's death sets off circumstances that will engulf Fr. Jake, a sadistic deacon, the parish finance officer, a curandera woman, the communes of "free range" Pentecostals and anti-government survivalists, and Civil War re-enactors of the 1862 Battle of Glorieta.

ALBERT NOYER

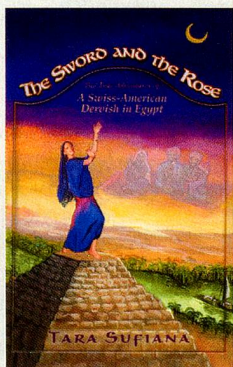
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### The Sword and the Rose

By Tara Sufiana

An unplanned adventure finds Tara Sufiana amidst the Sufis of Egypt for five years. Immersed in their mystical practices, she discovers the dervish within, expressing herself through sacred dance and music at religious festivals throughout Egypt. Within the dervish enclave, an unusual love story with a dervish sheikh unfolds. When not roaming with the Sufis, or off on her own wild escapades, Tara survives by singing and dancing for hotels, cruise ships, folkloric shows, TV and films, crowned by a dance on top of the Great Pyramid. The rich culture of a Middle Eastern society is revealed throughout this amazing odyssey. The book is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



TARA SUFIANA (BETTINA ROBBI)

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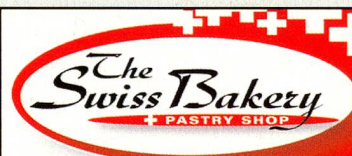
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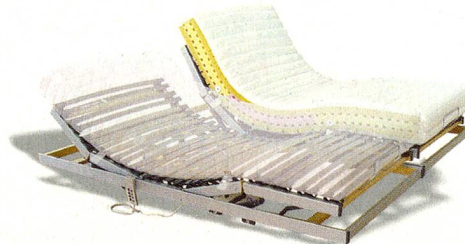
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## Oklahoma US Horses love Swiss Craftsmanship

The Swiss Club of Oklahoma is proud to have a unique Craftsman among its approx 100 members. Olaf Batt, born and raised in Rothrist (Switzerland) became a Physical Education Teacher and always loved the outdoors. In 1983 his adventurous spirit led him to undertake a journey to the USA where he

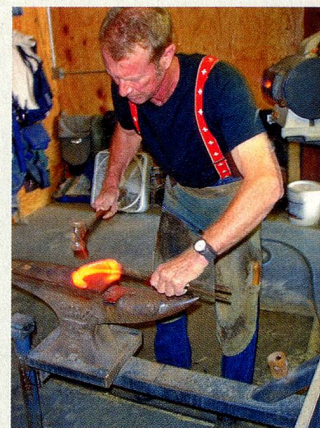


Olaf Batt with his truck/workplace visited a friend in Oklahoma. This was the start of his future life in USA. After a while he de-

cided to have a focus and went back to school and became a certified journeyman farrier, one of very few Europeans practicing this craft in the USA.

In 1987 he started his own horseshoeing business, covering most of the State of Oklahoma. He serves private horse owners and stables totaling today about 300 horses which need to be shod every 5 to 6 weeks. He has a mobile workshop, which holds all equipment and tools, including a gas driven forge. Needless to say that his special truck does lots of miles during a year...

Olaf grew up with horses and therefore enjoys being day in and day out with these great animals. He is driven by the typical Swiss desire of quality and precision work. Being conti-



Olaf working on a horse shoe

nuously outdoors in the cold winters, wet springs and extreme summer heat of Oklahoma and the physical nature of his work keeps him very fit. He says he could never survive in an office...

Olaf, the Swiss Club of Oklahoma is proud of you and your craftsmanship and appreciates your rendering of some Swiss culture to your Okie clients.

ANDRE SIEGENTHALER

President Swiss Club of Oklahoma  
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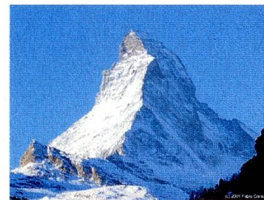
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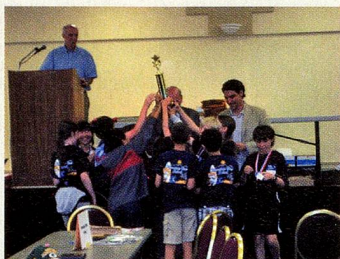
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## California

### Santa Barbara - County Math Superbowl

Students at Mountain View School had an exciting day at the County Math Superbowl held at Earl Warren Showgrounds. Their team won first place in all three grades' competitions and first overall of the 29 schools competing. Principal Ned Schoenwetter's school is in the Goleta Union School District. Both Ally & Ryan Mintzer placed 2nd in their grades. They are the



Students celebrating their win

children of Roy Mintzer, my son, and the great-grandchildren of Prof. Dr. Heinrich Grossmann of Zürich-Höngg who was also Oberforstmeister of the Kanton Zürich up to about 1960.

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## New York

### Nursery School

I grew up in Switzerland near Zurich and got transferred with my husband, who is also Swiss and my daughter to the US in 1982. We are living in Ridgewood, NJ. Almost ten years ago I founded a bilingual Kindergarten/Nursery School (German/English) in White Plains, NY near the German School. We are licensed by the State of NY. Our teachers are educated in Germany/Switzerland or Austria and/or the United States. Our families are from all over the world, at the moment they are from 14 different countries. We have two groups, 3-4 year old



Thanksgiving at the Nursery School

and 4-5 year old children. We also offer a Summer Camp. New this year we will also add German language instructions (immersion) for after school children from the area.

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