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# REGIONAL NEWS UNITED STATES

## Editorial

### Dear Readers in the United States

Sometimes, a picture is all it takes to send you back years and years to your childhood. That's what happened to me when my sister in law sent me the photos of the typical Valais black nosed sheep (Schwarznasenschaf) from the yearly marked of rams in



Photo: Erika Stadler

Visp where I grew up. I can smell the wet wool and hear the animals! Reminiscing with my husband, we diverted and talked about the milkman who brought the milk with a cart drawn by a large dog to his house in the city of Zurich. My grandmother's milkman came with a horse-drawn carriage. The milk-containers were lined up on the first landing of the staircase. At the end of the month, everybody was there with the Milchbüechli (milk book) to pay what was owed. And how was coffee made in your family way back when? I see my grandmother with the coffee mill between her knees, grinding the beans and I hear the percolator bubbling. In my husband's family, it was a coffee-pot on the stovetop. While we are at it: Winter was the time for sleigh rides. We had several mountain roads that were only partially sanded for the postauto - not many other cars then in the wintertime. So we would walk up for at least an hour, pulling our five-seater Davoser sled, for which my mother had sown a bright blue sledge-long pillow. It was the pride of our family. I would always sit in the back and - to my brothers dismay - break as much as I could because I was afraid of going downhill so fast! And you don't even want to know how often we ended up in a huge pile of snow because we had missed a sharp turn in the road. But what a life!

Hope you enjoy this Swiss Review and keep the good stuff coming!

WAL BAUR, [wbaur@roadrunner.com](mailto:wbaur@roadrunner.com)

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## North Carolina Swiss Society of Charlotte

At the last annual meeting in November 2012, three longtime board members resigned after having served many years: Walter Hess (President), Erika Boss (Treasurer) and Lorena Riedener (At Large). The membership elected unanimously the following replacements: Roger Boschung (President), Astrid Peterson (Treasurer) and Thomas Koch (At Large). A thank you goes to the outgoing and congratulations go to the new joining board members.



Honorary Consul Heinz Roth presenting outgoing President Walter Hess with a plaque



Newly elected president Roger Boschung greeting the Club members

### Santa Claus

afternoon was on Sunday, December 2nd, where the kids had a great time making lanterns, reciting poems for Santa and singing songs. Over 100 people attended this years Raclette evening at the Sardis Swim & Racquet Club on February 23rd. The event and the volunteers were very busy from working the raclette stoves to making sure that the salad bar and cold cut plates were always replenished. Our Honorary Consul, Heinz Roth, took the opportunity to present the outgoing president, Walter Hess, with a plaque thanking him for the work over the past few years. The evening ended around midnight after all the prizes of the traditional raffle were given out.



Full house at the raclette party - the evening was a big success and only ended around midnight!

We are proud to present you with a newly designed website which is more informative, user friendly and has an interactive design, check it out at:

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We are all looking forward to seeing you at one of our activities and would like to hear from you.

On behalf of the Board and with Best Regards,

SWISS SOCIETY OF CHARLOTTE

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PHOTOS: MYRIAM BREEDLOVE AND THOMAS HUBER

## Swiss Center of North America

More than 400 of you played the Canton Contest from the Swiss Center to see where you all hail from in Switzerland. Here are the results:

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Canton Glarus

With 11 more votes than the canton of St. Gallen, Glarus found itself in the top three cantons with 49 votes. Eric Streiff of Virginia was the winner of a book from our Tritt Library written by Susan Bosshard-Kälin entitled "Westward - Encounters with Swiss American Women".

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Canton Zurich

As the results came in, Glarus and the eventual 2nd place winner Zurich, were in a tight race. Zurich held out with 51 votes cast. John and Maxine Johnson of Illinois won the cheese knife set.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Canton Bern

Yes, our most populated canton was the big winner with 150

votes. Winning the book: "Swiss Miniatur - Switzerland recreated in miniature" were Nick Schori, Ontario, Canada; Leonard Tritt, Pennsylvania; Sandy Kirnerk, Nevada; Richard Rinehart, Washington; Sandy Streit, Oregon; Nancy Doyle, Washington, Le Honeycutt, Oklahoma; David Morker, Minnesota and Doris Waldmann, Wisconsin.

### Interesting Discoveries

Of the 444 Canton Contest entries, most of you have Swiss roots in one canton. 47 have roots in two cantons while 17, including yours truly, have our roots in 3 cantons. Fribourg and Obwalden each received 1 vote. Neuchâtel received 2 votes with Uri and Valais at 3. Basel-Landschaft, Vaud and Zug had 7 each. Basel-Stadt, 8; Ticino, 9; Appenzell-Ausserrhoden, 10; Thurgau, 14; Graubünden, 16; Schwyz, 19; Lucerne, 20; Aargau, 31; St Gallen, 38.

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BETH ZURBUCHEN

PRESIDENT



## Search for heirs

In an estate matter field with the Court in Vallemaggia, the Swiss authorities are looking for information of following persons hailed from Canton Ticino, district of Maggia, who emigrated to the U.S.A.:

**Virgilio CHEDA** (son of Giacomo Prospero and Maria Dina Elena née Quanchi), born February 2, 1904, died in San Francisco (CA) on 1988. Married with Carla Cheda.

Their descendants, or anyone who can give information on them, is herewith requested to contact the undersigned office by 10.04.2014.

Pretura del Distretto di Vallemaggia  
Switzerland - 6675 Cevio  
E-mail: prece@ti.ch

## Search for heirs

In an estate matter field with the Court in Vallemaggia about:

**Agnese Lucia PALLI**, born October 9, 1925, died in Lugano on November 17, 2011 (daughter of Pietro Antonio Benvenuto Eliseo Palli and Maria Olimpia Palli née Bolla), originally from Linescio and formerly resident therein;

the Swiss authorities are looking for information of following persons hailed from Canton Ticino, district of Linescio, who emigrated to U.S.A. around the year 1900:

**Attilio Marco Clemente PALLI**, born on November 12, 1886, died in California on August 26, 1910, son of **Cesare Bonifacio**, born on May 14, 1853, died on November 8, 1919, and Giovanna (née Moretti), born on October 4, 1848, died on September 4, 1935.

**Maria Savina Adele FILIPPINI** (née Bolla), born on January 29, 1883 (date of death unknown), daughter of **Giacomo Maria Tranquillino BOLLA**, born on July 11, 1840, died on December 9, 1917 and **Giovanna Maria Assunta** (née Sartori), born on May 18, 1850, died on December 22, 1932. Married in San Francisco on April 6, 1910 with **Ampelio FILIPPINI** from Cevio.

Especially, the existence of any descendants of these people must be verified.

All those who claim to be the legal heirs of the deceased Agnese Lucia Palli are herewith request to contact the undersigned office by 10.04.2014, with documentation providing evidence of the family relationship. After that time, the inheritance shall be distributed among the only verified heirs.

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## New York

### PlanetSolar in New York City

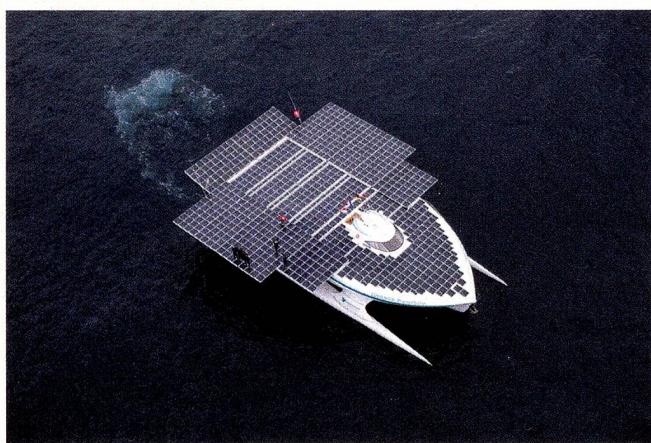
In June this year, the world's largest solar boat will be docking in New York City. Swiss-based initiative PlanetSolar SA, whose vessel accomplished the first around the world tour powered exclusively by solar energy in May 2012, will stop over in New York on the occasion of its newest project, the PlanetSolar DeepWater expedition. The catamaran MS Tûranor PlanetSolar, whereby the first part of the name means "power of the sun" in J.R.R Tolkien mythology, runs solely on solar power. Engineers

a total of 516 m<sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic surface to the sun.

#### The Guinness World Records of PlanetSolar:

- The fastest transatlantic crossing made completely under solar power;
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- First circumnavigation by a solar-powered boat;
- The longest journey by solar-powered boat.

The PlanetSolar DeepWater expedition will use these exclusive features of the boat to carry out unique scientific measurements



The catamaran MS Tûranor PlanetSolar, with all solar panels deployed

optimized the energy collection and stocking as well as the aerodynamics, the ship's propulsion and the choice of materials, enabling a navigation time that is unmatched to date. With its 35m length and 23m width, the MS Tûranor is also the largest solar ship in the world and can host up to 60 people on board when she is docked. Additional removable parts allow it to expose

along the Gulf Stream. Starting in Miami in spring 2013 and reaching Bergen a couple of months later, PlanetSolar will seek to identify and document subtle changes in the behavior of the ocean-atmosphere interface along the course of the Gulf Stream. The measurements of atmospheric and oceanic chemical and biological components, which have never been collected

at such scales before, allow for a better understanding of climate-relevant processes along the trajectory of the Gulf Stream. The MS Tûranor PlanetSolar is an ideal platform for this scientific experiment, in particular because of the absence of fuel pollution which would contaminate the measurements, and thanks to its slow speed compared to fuel-powered vessels. Moreover, the exploration by the solar-powered ship is likely to attract a great deal of media attention. Through this and an explicit education and outreach program during and after the expedition, PlanetSolar also raises awareness about the reality and complexity of climate change.

The Consulate General of Switzerland in New York is thrilled to collaborate with PlanetSolar while they are in town and support this ambitious project. It will be a priority to highlight both the technical sophistication of the boat and the mission's high relevance for current sustainability debates. Moreover, the Consulate will support the awareness-raising and educational goals of PlanetSolar's mission through press, VIP and educational events.

Analogously, the swissnex Boston team will host PlanetSolar at

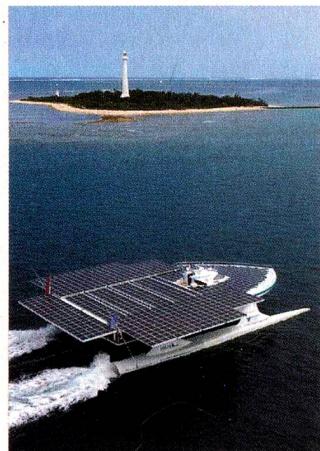
the subsequent stopover in Boston, using the opportunity to again showcase Switzerland as an innovative country at the forefront of sustainable development in collaboration with local partners for a scientific and education outreach.

We are looking forward to welcoming them!

LAURA KOCH

ACADEMIC INTERN

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE, NEW YORK  
nyc.vertretung@eda.admin.ch



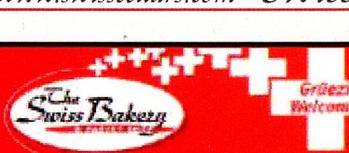
Full Speed ahead!

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## Oregon

### This Is How They Hijacked My Country

You may have seen it - an email circulates and tells you Switzerland ranks No. 3 in the world when it comes to gun ownership. It goes on to tell everyone that gun ownership is the reason Switzerland remains safe and stable. The email implies that without its guns, Switzerland might well be a failed state... just like Somalia. Nonsense! As a dual citizen of the United States and Switzerland, and as someone who has lived for more than 20 years in each country, I feel not only qualified to set the record straight on this absurd gun comparison between both countries - but entitled.

Yes, I admit it: we have a lot of guns in Switzerland. They are mainly military guns. Assault weapons if you want. This comes from a very old tradition, which states that this small neutral country located in the heart of Europe shall be protected by its civilians. And because our terri-

tory is so small and previous attackers have been so powerful, the country needed to have a way to quickly mobilize its civilian soldiers. This is why, after they passed their yearly training, soldiers started taking their guns home, with their helmets, their ammunition and their combat boots. I clearly remember seeing the heavy padlocks on the closets of just about any Swiss home I visited in my youth. I also remember hearing guns shot while swimming at our local public pool, as the shooting range was right there, tucked into the edge of the forest. I remember seeing soldiers on the train hauling their guns and heavy backpacks as they reported to their barracks for their yearly training. Yes, growing up in Switzerland, I saw a lot of assault weapons on soldiers. I clearly felt they were there to protect us in case of an invasion. Seeing them and their guns never scared me.

In recent years, new preventive measures were taken: while mili-



tary guns are still stored at home, the ammunition is now stored at the arsenal. The weapon must be disassembled and stored in two separate closets. This way, if anyone steals the gun, they will be left with a useless piece of steel instead of an agent of death. For the past 20 years, I have lived on the West Coast, first in California and now in Oregon. The United States is my adopted country. In suburban Portland there are three gun shops within walking distance of my house. Nobody I hang out with is a soldier, but many appear wanting to be by owning guns that they

feel they must carry with them at all times. And that is the biggest cultural difference between Swiss and U.S. nationals: Americans are at war with one another. Or, they imagine themselves heroes; patriots who will tackle offenders and restore law and order, thanks to the guns they own. In contrast, in Switzerland, people have guns because it is part of their civic duty.

Interestingly, in my 20 years in the U.S., I have never felt the need to protect myself from my government or my neighbors. I have found Americans to be respectful, law-abiding citizens with whom one can easily reason. My house has never been broken into, and my neighbors always volunteer to keep an eye on it when I travel for an extended period of time. In general, people are fundamentally good in America, and I am quite certain that our government will not turn on us.

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## California

### A Week with Marthe Keller

February 26 to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

"Today there are a lot of people who just want to be celebrities, not actors, and that's wrong. You should really work from the



Christophe Vauthey, Deputy Consul General of Switzerland, moderating the Q&A session with Marthe Keller at the Theatre Raymond Kabbaz

Photo: Silvia Spross

ground up, put down roots. Without roots, the first storm will take you down," said Marthe Keller while talking about the TV, film and theatre business at the Q&A session at the Theatre Raymond Kabbaz in Los Angeles. "In our business it is not important to work, but to last – that's the secret."

Marthe Keller, the internationally recognized Swiss actress does know how to last for sure, having been successful as actress and also as director for four decades.

"A week with Marthe Keller," organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Los Angeles in cooperation with Presence Switzerland, caught the attention of many Marthe Keller fans

and offered just as much variety for all cinephiles. The program was launched at the Theatre Raymond Kabbaz on Tuesday 26 with the screening of *LE LIEN*, a drama by Denis Mallevial. The movie was introduced by a Q&A session with Marthe Keller, moderated by Christophe Vauthey,

Deputy Swiss Consul General. Being asked about her career and if she has always wanted to become an actress, Marthe Keller expressed that her life has been formed and coined by accidents, happy

ones as she states. Animated by the interview, the audience took the opportunity to inquire about Marthe Keller's career, her habits and rituals while shooting a movie and her passion for languages. With a large attendance and in a familiar atmosphere the first event at the Theatre Raymond Kabbaz was a successful kick-off for the week.

A culinary part followed on Wednesday 27 at Chalet Edelweiss. Swiss specialties were served in a genuinely Swiss surrounding and, in dedication to Marthe Keller's work, *FRAGILE*, a movie by Laurent Negre was screened.

The week continued with a gala dinner at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Thursday 28, organized in co-



Marthe Keller and Academy Award shortlist director Ursula Meier

Photo: Silvia Spross

operation with the Swiss Chamber of Commerce for Marthe Keller and former United States Ambassador Glen Holden.

The same day, one of the highlights was Marthe Keller's visit to USC where she held two lectures, one in front of a Master Class, the other in front of professors. Since she enjoys work-

family drama by Louis-Do de Lencquesaing. The event, organized in cooperation with the American Cinematheque, took place at the charming Aero Theatre and was enriched by a further Q&A session in between, moderated by writer and filmmaker F. X. Feeney. The audience was active during the



From left: Pierre Leloup (Directeur Theatre Raymond Kabbaz), Marthe Keller, Christophe Vauthey and Nicole Montgomery (President of the Alliance Francaise L.A.)

Photo: Christophe Vauthey

ing with and talking to people who aspire a career in film and theatre, all the participants spent an animated and productive afternoon.

Last, but certainly not least, the week ended in the same manner it began – with a screening of two more movies, *MARATHON MAN*, a thriller by John Schlesinger and *AU GALOP*, a

whole night, applauding Marthe Keller's appearance in the movies, laughing and asking questions during the Q&A. It made for a special finale for Marthe Keller, the organizers and all the participants.

BILJANA MALESEVIC

ACADEMIC INTERN AT THE CONSULATE

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## California

### The Sacramento Helvetia Verein's Annual Historic Cemetery Beautification Day

Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration. - Lou Erickson

The Historic City Cemetery is the oldest existing cemetery in Sacramento. Traversed by pathways and grand avenues, the cemetery provides a park-like setting for exploring history. Today, volunteers with the Adopt A Plot program take over the gardening of plots - a task



Partial view of the old historic cemetery in Sacramento

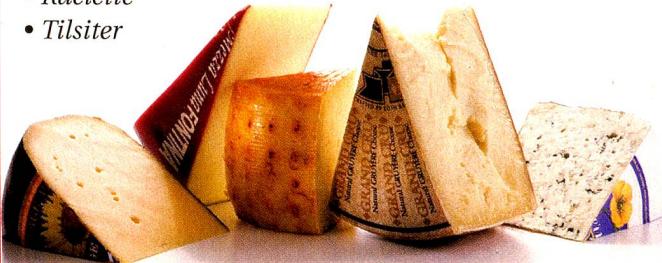
once performed by long since departed relatives. The Sacramento Helvetia Verein members are part of the volunteers who help maintain the Historic Cemetery with Swiss roots.

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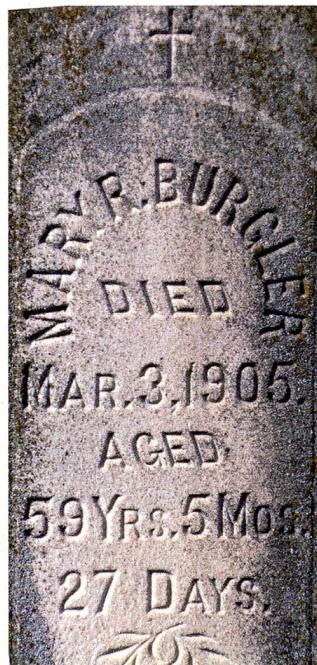
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The Cemetery was established in 1849 with the donation of 10 acres from Swiss native, John Augustus Sutter, Jr. who arrived in California from Switzerland, to help his father with his estate, which was being ruined by the gold rush. Junior was the son of John Augustus Sutter Sr., who originally started a settlement along the Sacramento River called New Helvetia, where he built Sutter's Fort in 1839. The Sutter Mill in Colma was also built by John Sutter, Sr. and this is where his employee, John Marshal discovered gold and the California Gold Rush was set in motion.

When John Sutter, Jr. arrived, he named his father's New Helvetia settlement, "Sacramento", after the Sacramento River. The town was flat and surrounded by two rivers. Much of the land would flood each year and for that reason, in 1849, John Sutter, Jr. dedicated 10 acres of "high land" to the City of Sacramento so they could establish a cemetery that would not be destroyed by floodwaters.

Since its establishment, the City Cemetery has become the resting place of many remarkable Californians, demonstrating the diversity of California history and culture. Visitors discover the burial sites of Sacramento mayors and California governors as well as memorials to Civil War Veterans, Volunteer Firemen and the victims of the 1850 Cholera



Tombstone of Swiss Mary Burgler

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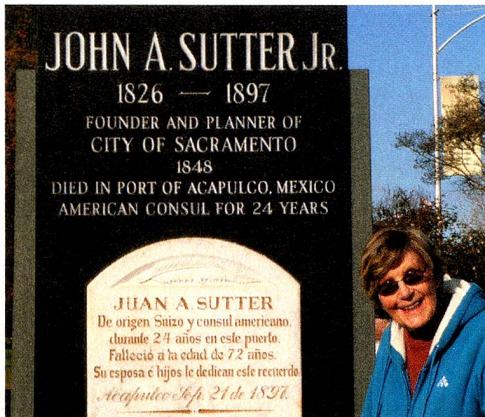
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Epidemic. The cemetery follows the Victorian Garden style, popular throughout the mid and late 1800's. Adorned with beautiful statues, dramatic markers and lush gardens, Sacramento Historic City Cemetery is an outdoor museum record-



Event chair Betty Morant in front of John A. Sutter Jr.'s grave. He donated 10 acres so the cemetery could be established on high ground that would not flood each year.



Betty Morant putting the finishing touches on a grave site



Volunteers group: Back row L to R is Joan Achermann and Pius Schuler, front row L to R is Ernie Gudel, Betty Morant, Ferdi Morant and Claire Weissman Hurni

ing California history from the Gold Rush Era through today. Betty and Ferdi Morant, both 60-year members of the Sacramento Helvetia Verein, have helped maintain a plot for over 15 years. Betty chairs the SHV Club's Beautification Day each year. Ferdi always volunteers and this year four other members joined them: Ernie Gudel, Pius Schuler, Claire Weissman Hurni and Joan Achermann. It was a beautiful day to garden. The weeding, pruning, planting and fertilizing paid off. The overgrown plots of the Horeth, Burgler and Häfliiger Families (all from Switzerland) were transformed into a little garden oasis. With Betty Morant's encouragement, artist Clair Weissman Hurni will be sculpting a small Swiss Flag as well as pouring some free-formed stepping stones to add to the plot. We all plan to visit this spring to see the finished product.

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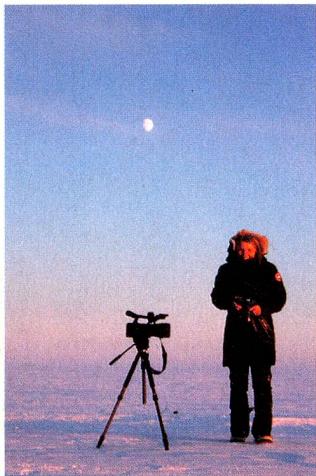
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## "Gatekeepers of The Arctic"

### A Documentary in the making



Corina Gamma ready to start filming

Photo by Nestor Rial

Corina Gamma is an accomplished fine art photographer. She is Swiss born and began her studies in Art in Switzerland. After moving to the US, she continued at the University of Cali-

fornia in Riverside and completed with a Masters in Fine Arts from the Claremont Graduate University in California. Currently, she teaches photography and photo-journalism at Long Beach City College, CA.

Corina Gamma's project began with a journey to Greenland. She was hired as artist resident on a ship in the arctic in 2009. Drawn to the beauty and remoteness of the Arctic, she discovered an island, the world's largest, with a small population of 57,000. When she visited the most Northern part of Greenland, she realized that with the disappearance of sea ice, a culture and a community were at stake. The Inuit of the North have lived with ice for thousands of years and are now undergoing a fast transformation. This small community has dwindled in population from 100 to 50 in less than

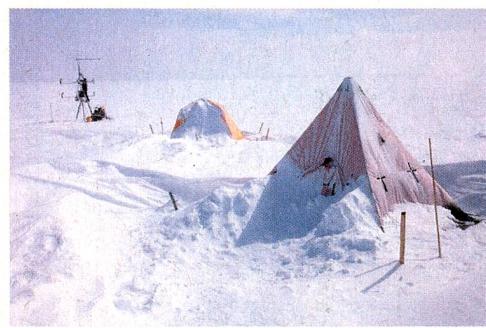
10 years. She began the documentary project *Gatekeepers of the Arctic*, to put a human face on the politicized issue of global warming. The project has now grown into a committed team effort. Two years ago Corina Gamma was joined by Swiss American producer Markus Käppeli. They are both Swiss born and live in Los Angeles. Last year Swiss Tellfilm producers Stefan Jäger and Patrick Merkle joined them.



Life in an Inuit village and an Inuit hunting hut

The goal of the documentary is to demonstrate the interconnectedness between these small Arctic communities and the larger global society. Corina Gamma hopes this documentary will turn into a large project that reaches policy makers, and will also eventually inspire the public to take action on a personal level. See teasers of the film at: [www.gatekeepersoftheartctic.com](http://www.gatekeepersoftheartctic.com).

Since 2009, Corina Gamma has traveled three times to Greenland. Among others, she spent three weeks at "Swiss Camp", a remote climate research site on Greenland's Inland Ice Sheet. There she camped out with the renowned Swiss climatologist Dr. Konrad Steffen and



Swiss Camp - the tents only protect from the wind, not the cold, and get snow-covered every night by the wind

his expedition, to document their fieldwork. "Koni", as Steffen is known, set up Swiss Camp in 1991 for the Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich,



Men and sled dogs - one great team!

Switzerland. Since then, his automated weather stations have continuously been sending data,

which have become important information to the Earth's climate research. Corina Gamma is preparing for one more journey to the Arctic to connect again with the locals and to finish the filming.

CLAUDE GAMMA  
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All pictures except the first one are by Corina Gamma

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