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# REGIONAL NEWS UNITED STATES

## Editorial

### Dear Readers in the United States

Let me wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year! On January first I got up early to watch the Rose Parade and then it was back to work, as that was also the deadline for this Swiss Review. I must say we started the year very well. I received so many articles that three of them had to be held back for the next Swiss review. This time we have again three book reviews, so next time it will be the artists turn. You will read about two interesting women, meet the new Consul General in Los Angeles and check out what other Swiss Clubs are doing. I hope this variety meets with your approval!

WAL BAUR

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Introducing the new Consul General at the Harmonie Christmas Concert

9195

## Tennessee

### Alder's at the Festival of Nations in Pigeon Forge

After seven long years of absence, Streichmusik Alder finally returns to Dollywood's Festival of Nations in the Spring of 2014.



Having been founded by two Alder brothers in 1884, the current formation is as successful as ever. Representing the third, fourth and fifth generation of the family, the group will perform to an expected audience of close to 350'000 visitors coming from all over the US. Aside from more than 30 performances in North America, the Alders have also toured South America, Africa and the Middle East. Of all of their concerts, the most memorable ones include the opening act at the Montreux Jazz Festival, their performance in Brussels honoring the fiftieth anniversary of NATO and last but not least also their previous collaboration with Dolly Parton in 2007.

Between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup> the Festival of Nations will host 25 different countries representing their home in a variety of different ways: In addition to the Swiss folklore performance, visitors are invited to enjoy exotic dance shows as well as exquisite culinary specialties. The so-called "One World Celebration" rounds off this multicultural spectacle where all nations display their traditional costumes in a daily parade.

The Consulate General of Switzerland is excited about this opportunity to present our culturally rich traditions such as "Streichmusik" and "Talerschwingen" to the world and is very much looking forward to coming to Pigeon Forge next March.

In this respect, having the words of wisdom that "We all smile in the same language" in the back of our minds, we hope to be able to greet you with such a smile on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> in Tennessee, at the foot of the Smoky Mountains. Let's make it a Swiss Day!

ANDREAS MAAGER

CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN ATLANTA

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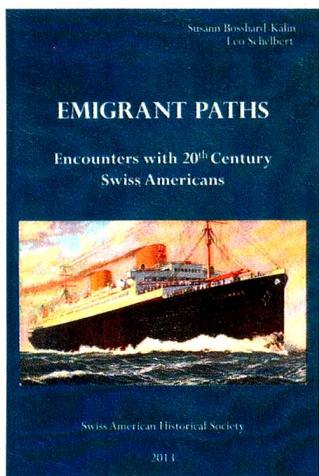
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## Book Reviews



### *Emigrant Paths: Encounters with 20<sup>th</sup> Century Swiss Americans*

Words such as emigration/immigration often are simply theoretical concepts. The present volume makes them come alive by showing the lived experience of 16 Swiss men who came here between 1888 and 1969. As a companion volume to "Westward: Encounters with Swiss American Women" (2010) Swiss journalist Susann Bosshard-Kälin again collaborated with the historian Leo Schelbert: she interviewed nine of the men, he edited seven self-portraits and in a brief afterword places these lives within the larger framework of Swiss emigration to the US in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

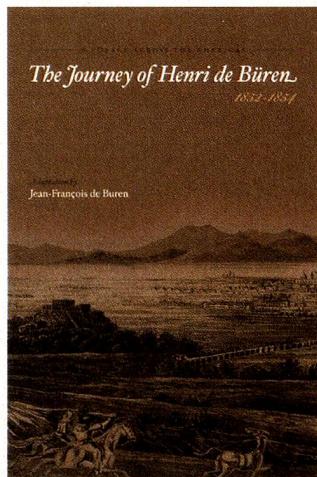
The biographies present a rich tapestry of life, full of opportunities and difficulties, success, failures, and above all, the necessity to adapt to all kinds of unforeseeable circumstances, which challenged them in the core of their personality. Arriving with various degrees of training, the men carved out careers in business, restaurant and hotel industry, farming, and in international monetary institutes. The earliest emigrant was a sheepman and land owner in Oregon; we find a professor of geography and of psychology, a bookseller/publisher, an archeological photographer, owners of skiing businesses and a

ranch, a dentist, a heraldic artist, and a cabinet-maker who, after a harrowing odyssey through menial jobs, found his niche as a restoration specialist at the Smithsonian. For all of them Switzerland remained a vital anchor in their lives.

Whether leaving or staying by choice or necessity, these men showed courage, stamina and creativity even under good circumstances. Emigration is a complex adventure, and this book provides fascinating insights into the mysterious ways in which individual personalities met its challenges and benefits with zest for life and grateful humility.

The book is available from Masthof Press, 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543 or [www.masthof.com/](http://www.masthof.com/)

S. MARIANNE BURKHARD OSB  
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### *A Voyage Across the Americas - The Journey of Henri de Büren*

Blending adventure and social commentary, the journals and letters of Henri de Büren, a young Swiss nobleman, detail his grand tour from his family castle overlooking Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to the still youthful Americas of the 1850s. His voyage — on foot, horseback, and by boat — would take him through the Eastern United States, the waters of the Caribbean, the vast expanses of Mexico and the stunning lakes and

mountain ranges of South America. Henri would not return home for two years. Henri's first-hand accounts of his travels in the New World reflect his observations on a variety of subjects: the grandeur of nature (made both from the vantage point of an artist and avid botanist), racial injustice and social inequality, his meetings with noted Swiss scientists such as Louis Agassiz, and his colorful encounters with European emigrants and wily government officials.

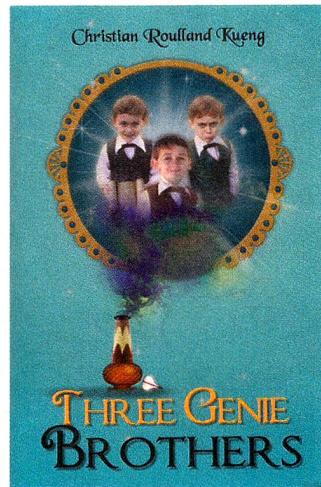
Henri's journals and letters to his family, seeing the light of day for the first time in over 150 years, will fascinate readers who value wit, history, and the broadening qualities of travel. His thoughts and observations on the 19th century open a larger window into the past, one that shows at times how far we have come and at others how far we still have to go.

The book is available in print and Kindle editions at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). The iPad version is available at the iTunes store.

JEAN DE BUREN  
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### *Three Genie Brothers*

JD, Morgan, and Blake are ten-year-old junior genie triplets. They've spent all their lives inside an amethyst bottle with their father and mother, Aristide and Cassidy. They become suddenly interested in the outside world when they view a young girl through a window



of their genie bottle; they soon learn her name is Brianna.

Brianna has come to visit her grandparents, the owners of the genie jar. She feels drawn to the beautiful bottle, and when she pops the cork, she becomes the master of the genies inside. The triplets are mischievous, though, and they plan to trick Brianna into using all her wishes right away. Their mischief goes too far when Brianna finds herself trapped inside their bottle. The boys are happy to introduce her to the world of the jinn.

They show her genie mail, flying camel races, and even a game called Jin Ji. On the boys' eleventh birthday, they receive a mysterious pentagonal box.

Opening the strange gift is a riddle, but it seems the box could have the power to send Brianna home; if not, she could be stuck in the bottle forever.

The book is available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) in Kindle, hardcover and paperback format.

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## North Carolina Swiss Society Of Charlotte

The Jasstournament on October 6th, held at Daetwyler Corporation in Huntersville, crowned a new champion, Thomas Koch, congratulations! The following day, a few of us participated at the "Weintour",



Marco Deillon presents the Jasskönig trophy for 2013 to Thomas Koch

organized by our friends from the Alemannia Society. After a champagne breakfast on the bus, we visited 3 wineries and also stopped in Old Salem on the way back to Charlotte, to take in some of the Moravian culture and see buildings and lifestyles of the past. We had another "Kaffee und Kuchen" oldtimer-gathering on October 20th at Heinz and Erika Roth's

residence in Charlotte; thank you guys for being perfect hosts.

The annual meeting on November 13th at the Hilton Executive Park was attended by 65 people and saw some changes to the Board and then as usual, we were spoiled with the culinary dinner and desserts created by Swiss chef, Mario Thom. Santa and Schmutzli visited us at the Sardis Swim & Racquet Club in Charlotte on Dec. 8th, another great event for the children but also enjoyed by the adults.

For further information on upcoming events (Raclette evening, Family Picnic and more), visit us on our Website: [www.swisscharlotte.com](http://www.swisscharlotte.com). 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 OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF CHARLOTTE  
WALTER HESS, [mailtowally@gmail.com](mailto:mailtowally@gmail.com)

## Indiana

### International Festival in Indianapolis

The Swiss Club of Central Indiana participated in this year's International Festival held at the Fair Grounds in Indianapolis.



The Swiss booth at the Fair presenting explorers, heroes and visionaries like Einstein and Zwingli

Zwingli. Along with a cultural booth we also brought a Swiss delight to all festival participants and visitors for having imported various chocolates. Both booths were staffed with volunteers from the club over the four days of the festival.

Manning the chocolate booth in the photograph is Marceline Hammer originally from Zurich. On Thursday and Friday from 10 AM until 2 PM

The theme was "explorers, heroes, and visionaries" from each country. From Switzerland were the likes of Albert Einstein and Huldrych

local schools brought students from surrounding schools to the event which continued until 10 PM Friday and Saturday and from noon until 6 PM on Sunday.

We also enjoyed having a chocolate booth at the Ethnic Expo held in Columbus, Indiana in October, again staffed with volunteers over a Friday and Saturday,



The chocolate booth at the Ethnic Expo delighted young and not so young!

bringing Swiss chocolates for the enjoyment of the crowds looking to sample foods and goods from various countries. Students and adults attending were impressed with the cultural booth and the chocolate booth. At both events the crowds asked about Switzerland and many had visited Switzerland or expressed desires to travel there.

REGIS HAMMER

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## Texas

### Swiss Raclette in Houston

A traditional Christmas Market takes place in Houston every year at the Christ the King Lutheran Church, benefitting the German Saturday School.

With a great deal of enthusiasm, the Swiss American Society of Houston gets their raclette "team" together for this special yearly event. The delicious cheese, scraped in the traditional manner from a large cheese wheel, is served onto a plate garnished with potato, pickle and a cocktail onion. One can smell the savory cheese all around the neighborhood of the University Village.

And how good it is to eat! Customers may have to wait in line for at least 15 minutes but the wait is worth it and no one seems to complain. It has become a real tradition, and the volunteer team works hard to get all the equipment and supplies together. Since no restaurant in Houston, (a city of 5 million with the surrounding area) appears to serve raclette, this is practically a one-time opportunity to get this specialty from the Valais and people show their appreciation by lining up to enjoy it.



Swiss American Society 1. Vice President Lilian Tade, Swiss American Society President Yvonne Bucheler and Swiss American Society 2. Vice President Lina Corinth serving raclette

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## California

### Meet Ilse, Will Ham Tell and the others

"Swiss-Born Ilse Byrnes, 86, poses in front of the restored 1794 Montanez Adobe in San Juan Capistrano, a town she fell in love with years ago." That was the caption underneath a picture and an article by Los Angeles Times reporter Paloma Esquivel that tickled my fancy. I had to get to know this woman. With the help of the reporter, it didn't take long and we were chatting on the phone, Ilse in her best Baseldytsch.

We arranged a meeting and sev-



Ilse Byrnes in front of a glass stained door. Behind it you can see some of the parrot hill-cages. Pitty you can't hear side to

the house on top – not at the end of the world, but at the end of town. Ilse's husband was at a meeting, but she graciously showed us her house and the surroundings.

The parrots didn't need an introduction, they could be heard from far away. Everywhere were cages, from Aras to little lovebirds. Some in their feathery finest, others a bit measly looking. Ilse explained that word had gotten around that she would shelter abandoned and or mistreated parrots and other birds. She doesn't mind driving 60 miles to rescue a bird. You should just see how much bird feed there is – she needs to buy it in bulk. And then there are the other animals. Several dogs, cats, a donkey mother and son and, all the way in the back Will



## The Byrnes Family

Merry Christmas  
2013

Ham Tell, a potbellied pig that has become the family mascot! He is completely tame and grunts happily when being petted by Ilse.

You would think that raising four kids, getting seriously involved in the Historical Society of San Juan Capistrano and caring for all those animals would be enough to fill one's days. How on earth then did she find time to write a book entitled "A tribute to Father Alfred Quetu?" Simply because she became interested when old-timers often mentioned the "French Colony" that existed on the Ortega High-

way around 1910. She started researching and one thing led to another.

When we went to have lunch together at the railway station, the policemen on their bikes shouted immediately to Ilse. It was obvious that they knew her very well. Which feisty woman who takes on house owners and big companies who want to tear down old buildings instead of preserving the image of San Juan Capistrano wouldn't be in the heart of (most) people! Ilse, keep up the good work!

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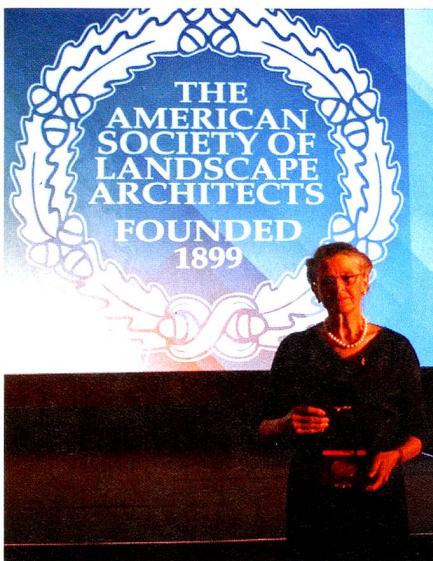
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## Massachusetts Medal Awarded to Renata von Tscharner

Renata von Tscharner, founder and president of the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), received the 2013 Olmsted Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) on the final day of its national annual meeting, which was held in Boston. Named in honor of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the medal recognizes individuals, organizations, agencies, or programs outside the profession of landscape architecture for environmental leadership, vision, and stewardship. Established in 1990, one medal is awarded annually. Notable past recipients include former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Robert Kennedy, Jr., former President Jimmy Carter and Roslyn Carter, and the Trustees of Reservations, among others.

Formally trained as an architect and urban designer in Switzerland, von Tscharner founded the Charles River Conservancy in 2000, a non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship, renewal, and enhancement of the urban parklands along the Charles River—from Boston Harbor to the Watertown dam. Under her leadership, the Conservancy has enlisted more than 23,000 landscape volunteers who

have contributed more than \$1.5 million of donated labor to improve the health, safety, and beauty of the urban parklands along the Charles. She is a steadfast advocate for improvements of the Charles River parklands including the development of a skate park at North Point in East Cambridge, better pathways, and pedestrian/cy-



Renata von Tscharner with the 2013 Olmsted Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects

cling underpasses at the Anderson Memorial, Western Avenue, and River Street bridges. She is also dedicated to bringing the tradition of swimming back to the river—a goal that was realized in July when the Conservancy organized the first community recreational swim in the Charles in more than sixty years. "Frederick Law Olmsted has been

an inspiration to my work on behalf of the Charles River parklands," said von Tscharner. "This extraordinary public space holds so much unrealized potential and it is essential to the quality of life we enjoy in the Boston area; we must ensure that future generations will inherit a world-class riverfront park along the Charles."

In her acceptance speech, von Tscharner explored what 19th century landscape architect Olmsted might design today along the Charles River. To the some 300 "fellow park-builders" in the room she concluded, "I look forward to working together to continue Olmsted's legacy along the Charles." For more information, please contact

JANET CURTIS

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

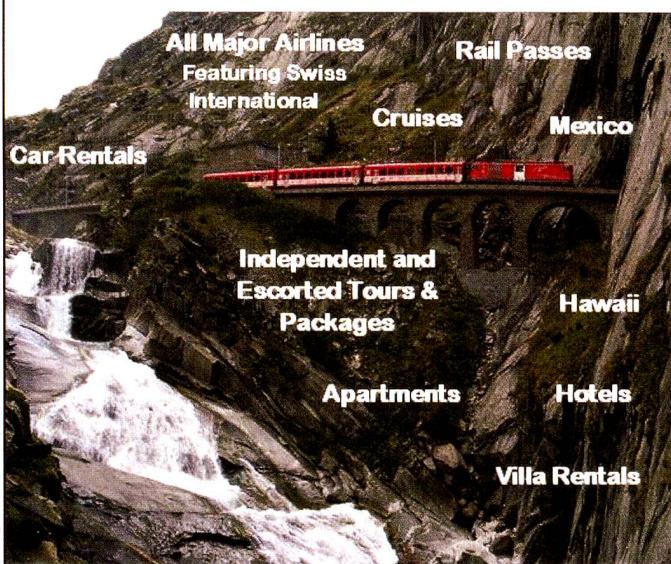
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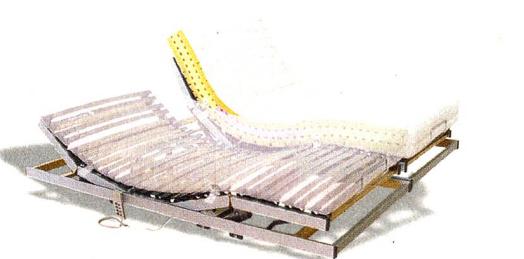
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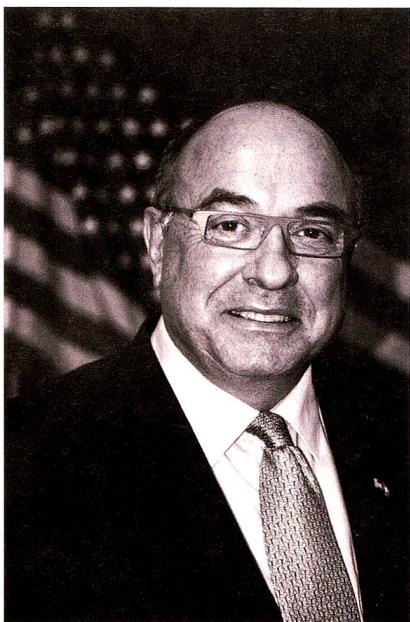
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## California New Consul General in Los Angeles



Jean-François Lichtenstern, new Consul General of Switzerland in Los Angeles

Photo: Germinal Roaux

The relations with the Swiss community in my Consular jurisdiction (Southern California, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico) are part of the tasks I have been entrusted with in my capacity of Consul General of Switzerland in Los Angeles. This is fully in line with my previous assignment in Bern as "Delegate for the Relations with the Swiss Abroad". Since I assumed my tenure on August 29, I had the pleasure to attend various events organized by Swiss associations, such as the Swiss American Chamber of

Commerce, the LA Colonia Suisse Romande Inc's Raclette, the Harmonie's Christmas concert at Swiss Park, and the Arizona Swiss Society's Christmas party in Scottsdale. I also had the honor to meet numerous fellow citizens at my residence, among them actors of the cultural or of the economic scene, presidents of Swiss societies and delegates of the Council of Swiss abroad (the so called Parliament of the Fifth Switzerland). I was again amazed how members of the Swiss community are eager to maintain our Swiss heritage or to showcase Swiss excellence and values in their daily activities. Let's come to mine...

As you know, consular services (covering passports, civil status issues, etc.) have been taken care of by our colleagues in San Francisco since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Since I detected some confusion, I wish to recall that there was no intent to push LA's Swiss representation in a shutdown. It remains open to safeguarding Swiss interests, a mandate consisting in sensitizing the American audience to Switzerland in areas including political and cultural affairs, and the promotion of Swiss exports and of American investments towards Switzerland. As mentioned above, it is also my privilege to comply with the Swiss Confederation's constitutional duty to encourage relations among the Swiss abroad and their relations with Switzerland. I intend to do it in participating in some Swiss community's activities, and in asking its support - as it is part of the Swiss diplomacy network - to realize some of my public diplomacy tasks.

Flexibility, creativity as well as prioritizing are therefore on this broad agenda, which Susanne Wildhaber will help me to dominate as a "one man-one woman show." I was introduced to the local specificities of this vast domain by a hardworking, efficient and friendly team, which also contributed to my successful introduction to the wonderful city of Angels. I therefore wish to warmly thank Consul Monika Horisberger, Susanne, Salome Bryant Gysi, Frank Ustar, Christophe Vauthey, my deputy, and last but not least our Honorary Consul in Phoenix (AZ), Mrs. Alisa Jost, who all join me to wish the Swiss Review readers a prosperous new year. As to my best resolution: meeting most of you in 2014 to enjoy Switzerland in the Far West.

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## Public diplomacy: Some highlights of the Consulate General of Switzerland's (CG) engagement on the LA cultural scenes in 2013.

The year was marked by the presence of Swiss celebrities such as Marthe Keller, who was received at the American cinematheque (her illustrious film career includes *Marathon Man*) and prodigy French speaking Swiss singer Bastian Baker during the celebration of the International Francophonie Month, which was opened with the Swiss movie *Sister* by Ursula Meier.

To stay on the movie scene, *Harry Dean Stanton: Partly Fiction* was brought to the Los Angeles audience in the presence of the Hollywood legend portrayed in Sophie Huber's movie. The CG cultural team was further proud to support the campaign for the Swiss entry to this year's Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, *More than Honey*, together with its director, Markus Imhoof, who came to Los Angeles to promote the film himself. Unfortunately, his documentary about the death of stressed bees was not on the short list, but the message is spread: Bees strike back; let's find a compromise to live in harmony with them. In September, a Swiss American audience could enjoy some of the best Swiss made short films, during the "Short Films Long Night" festival – an initiative of deputy consul general Christophe Vauthey. Guests had the opportunity to present themselves on the red carpet - a very Hollywood-like experience. This third encounter between Switzerland and Hollywood turned out to be a considerable success. An organizing committee started working on season four!

One has to mention the summer exhibition "*The Presence of the Past: Peter Zumthor Reconsiders LACMA*" which revealed the Swiss architect's vision of the new Los Angeles County Museum of Art. It welcomed some 96'000 visitors and received well-reviewed praise from critics in the national press, including *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. After Swiss architects Herzog and De Meuron built the De Young Museum in San Francisco is Peter Zumthor's signature going to be part of the future LA Design? Let's hope so!

In October, Swiss Jazz was part of the "European Jazz @ UCLA" – a multidimensional festival which presented ten European countries' unique voice in the universal language of jazz, exploring the European musical experience of America's indigenous art form. Thanks to an initiative of the CG the "*Swiss Intercontinental Jazz Factory*" was born with world class names such as Greg Manning, Enzo Todesco, Hussain Jiffry, Katisse Buckingham and Munyungo Jackson.

Those examples show how Swiss-Californian bridges can be built by the means of art born in Switzerland and or made in LA... A large number of artists live in this expanding center of art, where they contribute to showcase Swiss excellence. This "Swiss Creative Society" is regularly hosted at the Hancock Park Swiss Residence to exchange views. The new Consul General intends to pursue this tradition – with the support of interested parties - as a Swiss American platform to reinforce solidarity and to conduct public diplomacy.

D. HALTER

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## Florida

### Swiss American Club of SW Florida

October: The weather forecast was favorable, and the 6th annual Punta Gorda Oktoberfest was held, as scheduled, on Friday, October 4th. The club was well represented with 34 participants. Two members had gone early to decorate the tables with Swiss flags. Soon the guests began arriving, and the Duo Mueller got everyone into a festive mood with happy German songs. Beer, Wine, and German food were available from a number of vendors. After enjoying some of the food, club members began moving around the two tables so as to visit with just about everyone. Some even ventured out on the "dance floor!"

November: On a sunny November morning, 74 members and

guests of the club gathered at McCarthy's Marina on Captiva Island. This month we celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the club. A 1 1/2 hour trip on the M/V "Lady Chadwick" took the group to Useppa, a private island in the Pine Island Sound. The lunch buffet was served in the Tarpon Bar adjacent to the Collier Inn. President Peter Zahner welcomed everyone and gave a brief history of the club. He also listed the names of the founders, some of whom were present. From its inception in 1998, the club has had an almost steady membership. Very enjoyable is that younger Swiss are joining. After lunch, some participants took a walking tour of the island and its museum. At 2:00 pm the boat departed from the dock for the journey back to Captiva,

with a stop at Cabbage Island. The weather was absolutely wonderful: sunny and not too hot. And the dolphins seemed to enjoy frolicking in the wake of the boat.

December: An unusually warm December afternoon welcomed members and guests for their annual St. Nicklaus party, held at Rosmarie Strother's estate in the woods. A total of 63 adults and 5 children enjoyed a delicious meal of "Leberkaese" and potato salad, together with their own beverages. Before dessert was served, President Peter Zahner welcomed everybody and thanked the organizers for their hard work in making this event happen. He then announced a special visitor: Santa Chlaus! Dressed in a beautiful red suit and carrying a gold-wrapped book, he first greeted the three

older children, handing each one of them a little present. Then he called on some of the adults, having each stand up and listen to his comments, most of which were more funny than harsh. It seems that the club members had been good in 2013! For dessert, cheesecake with fresh strawberries and whipped cream was served. Also available was hot coffee. After more socializing and good wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, the participants slowly collected their cars and drove off into the night.

View our monthly reports on our web page:  
[swissamericanclub.com](http://swissamericanclub.com).

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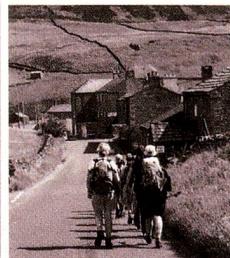
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