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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

9195

### Editorial



Dear Readers in the United States,

Thank you for sending so many articles! I have already two in reserve for the next – and last – Regional Pages in Swiss Review # 5. Deadline is July 27. And thank you for the many compliments for my paintings. I have been taking Chinese brush-painting lessons for the last 14 years, and it seems they are finally paying off!! So I couldn't resist including two in this Review.

I hope you enjoy the rich variety of articles and wish you a wonderful summer.



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**California****SwissFest 2015**

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club is proud to host the 2015 WCSWA Championship Schwiffest and 23rd Pacific Coast Musikfest



at Swiss Park in Newark, CA. This event will be September 4 - 6, 2015. SwissFest 2015 commemorates the Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club's 90th Anniversary and the 80th Anniversary of the opening of Swiss Park in Newark, California by our forefathers.

SwissFest 2015 will include three days of Swiss celebrations: a welcome dinner and Musik Abend on Friday night for all guests and musicians, a Schwiffest on Saturday and a Musikfest on Sunday.

Two tour groups including several wrestlers and musicians have committed to attend SwissFest 2015. This includes Schwingerkönig Kilian Wenger who will be wrestling. Also wrestling scouts representing the Eidgenössischer Schwingerverband will be in attendance, observing American Schwingers for invitation to the 2016 Eidgenössische Schwiffest in Estavayer-le-Lac.

Over 40 invitations have been sent out for Sunday's Musikfest. Ronnie Scheiber is the Fest Chairman, ably assisted by Susanne Cameron-Aschwanden. We look forward to a great day of traditional Swiss music.

There are several motels available in the area:

- Comfort Inn, 5977 Mowry Ave., Newark, 1-510-795-7995
- Chase Suites, 39150 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 1-510-795-1200
- Doubletree by Hilton, 39900 Balentine Dr., Newark, 1-510-490-8390
- Best Western, 5400 Mowry Ave., Fremont 1-510-792-4300

For more information, contact: Arnold Ambiel at [aambiel@ambiel.org](mailto:aambiel@ambiel.org) or Mariette Franke at [mariette2086@gmail.com](mailto:mariette2086@gmail.com)

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Two Schwingers from the 2014 Swissfest



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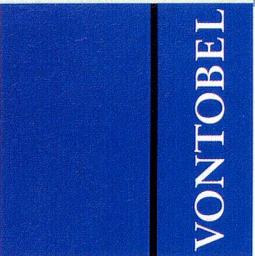
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**Book Review****ALBERIX the CELT****Book 2, Hear Again the Lark****By Albert Noyer**

Julius Caesar's political successes at Rome earn him governorship of two provinces and three legions. Although absent, he effectively runs the government with Pompey and Crassus. After Caesar's Helvetian victory he remains in Gaul to defeat a German king encroaching on Celtic lands. Yet as Gallic tribes resent the presence of Roman legions, talk of rebellion flares and culminates in a massacre of Roman merchants. A rebel leader emerges in the person of Vercingetorix. With ten legions in Gaul, Caesar establishes a chain of camps, pacifies some tribes, and defeats others, but an attack on Vercingetorix's stronghold of Gergovia fails. Rather than follow up his victory, the king retreats to a fortress at Alesia. Caesar surrounds the stronghold with deadly ground obstacles and twin defensive walls. In a brutal siege, Roman tactics defeat Vercingetorix. He surrenders and is sent to Rome for execution. Despite Caesar's victories, much of the Senate is hostile to his reforms and declares him a public enemy. Caesar wins a devastating civil war, but is assassinated in 44 B.C.E. Gaul recovers and prospers under a Pax Romana.

Book 2. In Alberix's search for Vercingetorix, he witnesses a birth ritual by Ollam Fodla that predicts failure for a rebellion. The king is present, so Al-



berix hears his plan to unify Gaul. He and Simonides scout Gergovia, where Vercingetorix is expelled, but they are captured by his warriors. At Wermaros, Arvos murders Cluvios and burns his body. Infatuated with Apsa, she kills Arvos in a rape attempt. Tricos tries the slave woman for murder, but she is exonerated. When Alberix refuses to join the rebellion, Vercingetorix mutilates and expels him from his camp. The king repulses Caesar's attack on Gergovia, yet retreats to Alesia. After a month-long Roman siege, Vercingetorix surrenders. Assigned to escort the king to Rome with Lucius, Alberix rescues his mother and aunt from Wermaros. At Rome, Briga and Apsa are abducted in a failed plot to free Vercingetorix. While Alberix is away, Germanic warriors raid a settlement rising on the site of his father's destroyed village. A rival candidate accuses him of collusion with the enemy, but he is cleared and elected a magistrate realizing his dream as foretold, fifteen years earlier, on the Celtic Wheel of Life.

**Breaking the Code of Silence****by Gabrielle Pullen**

Sometimes the clearest exit from abuse is exile. It's a way to make a new start. Fleeing the comforts of home in the hopes of a safer life abroad is not a frequently publicized theme, because, initially, at least, it's a matter of survival. For a woman to gather together whatever things she can carry and disappear into the night for fear of bodily harm should she tell her spouse she's leaving is a double bind at best. On the one hand, she must behave like a thief in the night for her own protection. On the other hand, she is denied the natural impulse to behave like a mature adult and talk about what's going on to clear the air, because experience has taught her that with some people, there can be no discussion. Well-intentioned attempts at negotiation end in a one-sided escalation that strikes fear in the heart.

Living on the banks of the Bodensee growing up, I felt the constant shadow cast by the legacy of WWII. It's a big lake, and Germany is far, but visible in the distance. I could not help but be indelibly affected by the older generations around me who had watched, stunned, as the world of normalcy was suddenly wrenched off center, rendering normal into relationships strained, obvious hurts ignored, blatant demoralization become ideology. Ironically, this is the same pattern seen in the abusive home. The slow proliferation of abuse, whether in society as a whole or in the microcosm of the home is accomplished by the same crooked representation of reality. Hence, the need to break the code of silence, otherwise what is not accurate is allowed to grow and fester until something cracks in the very foundations of a country, or in the personality of an individual.

*The Write to Heal Abuse Anthology* is currently opening a Call For Submissions for creative non-fiction, memoir, poetry and fiction about the profound experience of finding new freedom after decisively ending the pattern of abusive relationships. One of the greatest gifts of taking the initiative to leave abusive patterns behind is learning to honor one's own intelligence, or, in the words of Hanna Arendt, *The Life of the Mind*. Editor Gabrielle Pullen, a Swiss abroad, living in Browns Valley, California, welcomes your stories of escape, release, achievement and success in ending a life of subjugation. The second edition closes December 15, 2015 for publication February 2016.

Please send your writings to: [gabrielle.pullen@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.pullen@gmail.com)  
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## New York

### Don't miss "The Visit" on Broadway!

In March, Ambassador André Schaller and his wife Brigitte Schaller-Schoepf welcomed legendary Broadway stars Chita Rivera and Roger Rees at the Swiss Residence for a breakfast celebrating the upcoming Broadway musical "The Visit".

The show is based on Swiss author and playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt's "Der Besuch der alten Dame" – one of the most popular Swiss theater plays and a must-read for every Swiss student. As Ambassador Schaller pointed out in his brief introduction, the timeless story about love and revenge, justice and greed, still moves young and old all over the world today. Written by Terrence McNally, directed by John Doyle and with songs by the legendary duo Kander/Ebb, "The Visit" will certainly sweep New York audiences off their feet.

Following the Ambassador's speech, Tom Kirdahy, who produced the Broadway show together with Tom Smedes, Hugh Hayes and Judith Ann Abrams, expressed excitement and anticipation for the upcoming Broadway premiere of Kander/Ebb's "The Visit". The first and last time a version of "The Visit" was shown on Broadway was in 1958, only two years after the original premiered at the Schauspielhaus Zürich.

Chita Rivera, the 82-year-old musical star and two-time Tony Award Winner, most famous for her role as Anita in "West Side Story", radiated elegance and charm and showed pure joy over participating in the breakfast. After a big entrance, surrounded by photographers,

Chita Rivera and co-Star Roger Rees mingled with the Ambassador and his wife and gave interviews to the many journalists in attendance.

- WSJ, March 15, 2015 „Broadway's 'The Visit' Receives a Diplomatic Welcome“
- NYT, April 9, 2015 „The Indomitable Chita Rivera, Back on Broadway in 'The Visit'“

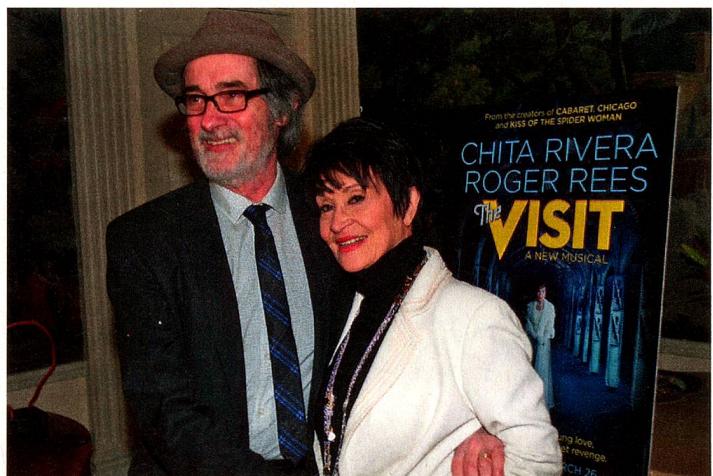
On April 23, the musical made its Broadway Debut at the Lyceum Theater. Ambassador Schaller and his wife Brigitte were among the guests on the red carpet for the premiere.

The very successful performance received 5 nominations for the 2015 Tony Awards since.

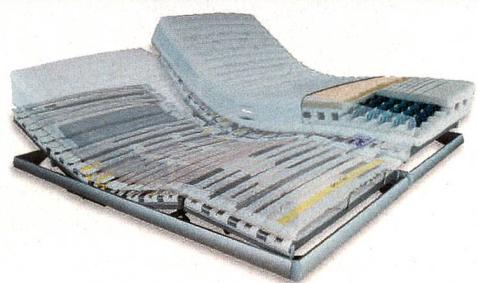
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Breakfast at the Swiss Residence. From left to right: Brigitte Schaller-Schoepf, Roger Rees, Chita Rivera, Ambassador André Schaller)



Roger Rees and Chita Rivera, graciously posing for the many photographers



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**Massachusetts**

Visiting a Giant Cell... Literally!

**Swissnex Boston at the Cambridge Science Festival**

Mid-April means it's carnival time in Cambridge, with the

host such a fascinating event.

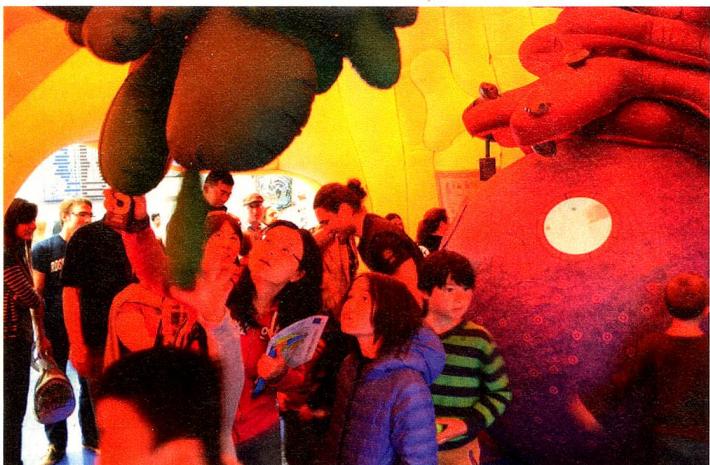
Naturally, swissnex Boston – the world's first science consulate – didn't miss out and featured a true highlight at this year's Cambridge Science Festival. Together with University



Partial view of the exhibition hall

annual Science Festival. As the home of both MIT and Harvard, as well as many other world class research institutions, Cambridge is the perfect place

of Basel, swissnex Boston presented the giant human cell, an inflatable model of a human white blood cell magnified 300'000 times larger than a



Inside the Giant Human Cell

normal sized cell to children and adults of all ages. Hundreds of people from the community came to experience the attraction, on what was a beautiful spring day. Visitors could walk into the Giant Cell and explore the details of its interior – and that's not something you can do every day!

The cell was jointly produced by Interpharma and the University of Basel (which celebrated its 555th anniversary this year!). Since its creation, the cell has been on the road, visiting high schools across Switzerland, France, Germany and the US. Over 20,000 students have already experienced it in Europe.

Each year for the Cambridge Science Festival, swissnex Boston partners with a dif-

ferent university or research institution to feature a spectacular showcase of Swiss science as part of its mission of connecting the dots in science, education, art and innovation between Switzerland and the Eastern U.S.

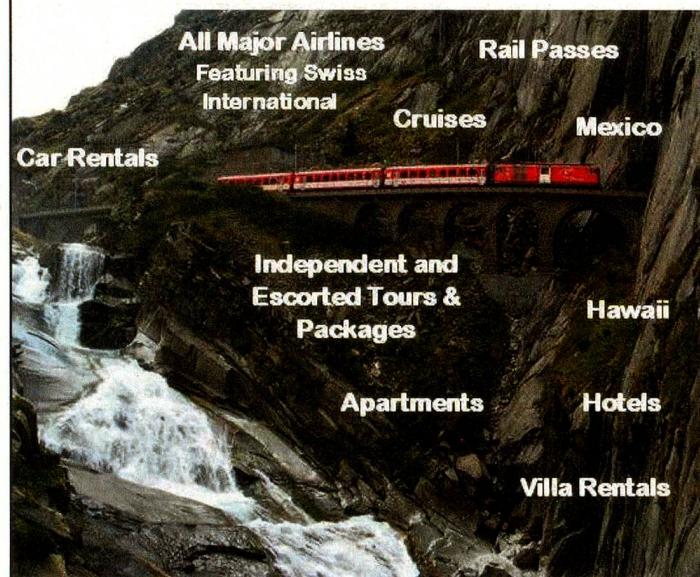
"The Cambridge Science Festival takes place right at our door giving us a unique and highly popular platform to display the excellence of Swiss research and education to the local community. It is a fixed date on our annual schedule and a great way to collaborate with our partners from Switzerland", said Felix Moesner, CEO of swissnex Boston.

For more information and upcoming events please visit [www.swissnexboston.org](http://www.swissnexboston.org)

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## Wisconsin

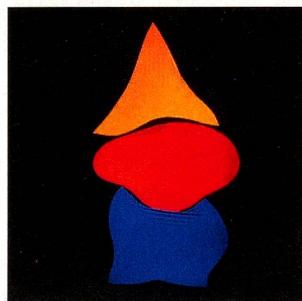
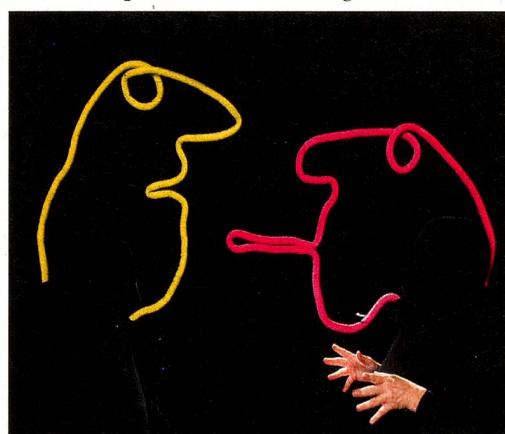
### Mummenschanz

A sellout crowd at the Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts gave a standing ovation to Switzerland based art troupe "Mummenschanz".

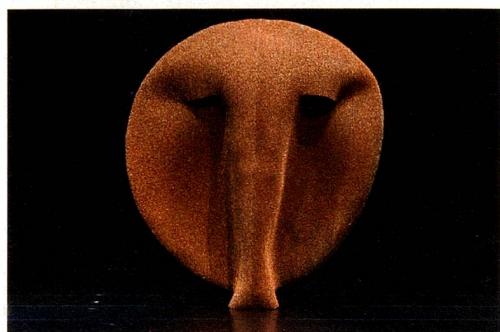
Floriana Frassetto (founder), Giovanni Colombo, Raffaela Mattioli and Jakob Benson gave a superb collection of performances on March 21, 2015 at this prestigious and wonderful gem of a theatre in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

It was a dazzling 80 minute show full of unexpected visual effects; in flight and flickering illuminated objects and imaginative beings moving through black space. Disembodied neon limbs dancing in air followed by the playful, clever and compassionate, earth bound "slinky man" contrasted famously to the plump, stage dominating "silkyes". Bold geometric colors, morph-able silk spheres and undulating shapes punctuated with human like personalities surprised, delighted and thrilled the audience (especially the young ones).

The troupe "Mummenschanz" have been on tour through the North American Continent since October 2014, their first time back in the Midwest since 2002. Unique for combining classical and new ideas in their performance art, the dynamics of "push-pull", surrealistic "I-love you-neither" and "who loses wins" is as enduring as ever. In a push button world that is ever more hooked in with electronic media, live performance is as magical as ever! Next, they travel to Michigan, Iowa, Utah and Alaska where they finish the tour and will wrap and pack their props before heading for Montceau, France.



Moving Forms



Full Moon?  
Face?  
Elephant?

## Washington DC

### Swiss Benevolent Society

The Swiss Benevolent Society of Washington (SBS) is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. Founded in 1865, it is the oldest Swiss organization in Washington.

The Washington SBS's sole mission was, and continues to be, to help Swiss in need. It was established as a membership organization with yearly dues of \$3.00 (45 in today's Dollars). In some cases travel assistance was extended to individuals who for various reasons had to return to Switzerland without having sufficient funds. Others needed short-term financial assistance, while some elderly and sick were helped with medical and dental expenses, as well as grocery gift cards. In many cases a loan was given, with the expectation that the money would be paid back, but at times some loans were forgiven.

In 1980 the membership, of around 100, voted to change from a membership organization to an entity managed by a Board of Trustees. This has been the structure ever since. Board members are chosen from other Washington-based Swiss organizations. That same year a scholarship program was initiated to help Swiss and descendants of Swiss with the ever-increasing cost of college education. Applicants must be residents of the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area, be a Swiss national or have at least one grandparent who is or was a Swiss citizen.

The 2014 award recipients were: Noelle Brahimi, The 2014 Monique Fürst-Price Honorary Scholarship (Virginia Tech Graduate School); Emily Biggs (West Virginia Wesleyan College); Joel Cox, Shannon Hall and Andrea Zemp (all University of Maryland).

For the second year in a row, in a joint effort by the Swiss Club of Washington and the SBS, silent and live auctions took place at the traditional Swiss Club Raclette dinner, held at the



Just a small sample of the many Swiss articles that were placed on sale at the auction

Swiss Embassy. Many Swiss items were auctioned, including 2 Swiss Rail passes donated by the Swiss Tourist Office, vacation rentals, paintings, goodies donated by the Swiss Bakery and much more. The very lively support by the attendees made for a fun, as well as profitable evening benefiting the SBS scholarship program. The SBS Board of Directors extends its sincerest appreciation to the Swiss Club of Washington, the Stauffacherin and their members for their continued support.

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The lively auction with Bernie Unti as auctioneer

## Washington

### Exciting News From Stella Schola

Brigitte Grossrieder-Tennis is a Swiss American dual citizen and teaches at the Stella Schola Middle School in Redmond, Washington

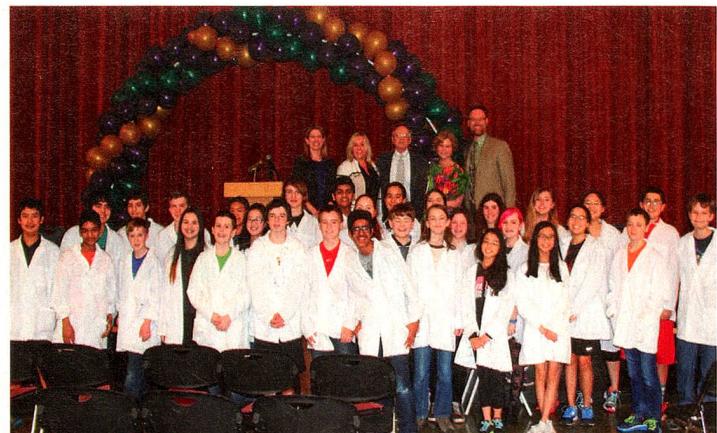
Redmond, March 27, 2015

Today we held a special assembly for Stella Schola students and staff to announce that Mrs. Tennis has been selected for induction into The National Teachers Hall of Fame [NTHF] as a member of the Class of 2015, along with four other educators from around the United States.

I was joined today by Mark Andrew, a representative from The National Teachers Hall of Fame, NTHF corporate sponsors and Dr. Traci Pierce to make the surprise announcement. A big thank you to Ms. Kesem Zur- Korakin, PTO President, for helping me pull off this surprise presentation!

The National Teachers Hall of Fame was founded in Emporia, Kansas, in 1989 to honor career teachers -- and the teaching profession -- through a recognition program and museum. Nominees must be certified public or non-public schoolteachers, active or retired, with at least 20 years of experience in teaching grades preK-12.

Mrs. Tennis will travel to Washington D.C. in late April and to Emporia, Kansas, in June for a series of induction events. In Washington D.C. the inductees will have the opportunity to discuss educational issues with representatives from the U.S. Department of Education and selected committees from National Education Association. In Em-



Brigitte Tennis, back row, forth from left, with Mark Andrew, a representative from The National Teachers Hall of Fame, NTHF corporate sponsors Dr. Traci Pierce, Erin Bowser, principal Stella Schola and the pupils from her class, still in lab-coats.

poria, inductees will visit an authentic one-room school house on the campus of Emporia State University, will participate in a webinar round table discussion about education issues, and will visit with high school students attending the Future Teachers Academy at Emporia State.

Activities will culminate with the formal banquet and induction ceremonies on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. The story of the inductees' careers will be on permanent display at The National Teachers Hall of Fame Museum in Emporia and on the website, [www.nthf.org](http://www.nthf.org).

ERIN BOWSER

PRINCIPAL STELLA SCHOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Kentucky

### Einsiedeln Elsewhere.

#### Ties between a Swiss Village and the American City Louisville, Kentucky.

During the last decade the Swiss journalist Susann Bosshard-Kälin initiated and realized two books, one titled *Westwärts – Encounters with Swiss American Women*, the other *Emigrant Paths – Encounters with 20th Century Swiss Americans* – in cooperation with Leo and Virginia Schelbert of Evanston, Illinois.

Her new project follows the path of emigrants from her home village Einsiedeln in Canton Schwyz who settled in Louisville, Kentucky, and in its environs. Louisville's White Pages list hundreds of names pertaining to Einsiedeln such as Kaelins (Kälins), Schoenbaechlers (Schönbächlers), Birchlers, Zehnders, Curiger,

Oechslins (Öchslins), and Ochsners. In April she visited Louisville for a first reconnaissance with a team that included a historian, camera-person, and photographer. The visit provided numerous and delightful encounters with descendants of 19th century immigrants from Einsiedeln as well as impressive interviews and pictures that eventually will be published.

Crucial for launching the undertaking was a seed money grant of the Swiss American Historical Society, the help provided by Vicky Ullrich-Birchler of the Swiss Ladies Society and of her husband Robert, as well as the assistance of Jeff Haeberlin of the Louisville Gruetli Helvetia Society. The cooperation of Donald Tritt, who accompanied and advised the team for days, and the input of Leo Schelbert, both of the Swiss American Historical Society, are gratefully acknowledged.

A re-activated "Swiss Picnic" of August First 2015, Switzerland's national holiday, follows next. Further steps are planned such as mutual visits that aim to strengthen ties between descendants of Louisville immigrants and Einsiedeln, the town of their origin.

SUSANN BOSSHARD-KÄLIN  
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84 persons with Einsiedler roots came to our reunion in Louisville in April 2015

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2/2015	February 23, 2015	March 19, 2015	5/2015	July 27, 2015	August 24, 2015
3/2015	April 20, 2015	May 15, 2015	6/2015	NO REGIONAL NEWS	