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REGIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

Editorial

Dear Readers in the United States,
I have been the editor of the Regional Pages USA since 1999. That is a long time. And a lot has changed since then. In the beginning, all your articles arrived by mail, typed or hand-written. I had to type them all into the computer and my husband was checking for typos. Your pictures were photographs, which I labeled. When all the Regional Pages were done, I copied them onto a floppy disk and brought it to a printer, accompanied by the pictures, which he would scan and insert into the text. Then I had to drive a second time to the printer to check if all the pages were ok. Once I gave the green light, the pages would be printed on transparencies, which I picked up and brought to the UPS Store to be mailed to the printer in Switzerland. The postage alone was over \$ 60.00 each time. And then I had to mail the photos back to you. Once the printed version of Swiss Review arrived, I also mailed copies of the pages containing ads to the advertisers.

Today, everything is so much easier. Your articles and pictures arrive by e-mail. So all I have to do is check for mis-

takes (yes, it happens to you too!), see how much space everything will take and start placing the articles and the ads. Sometimes I have to shorten your articles because I have too many, or make the pictures smaller, or even cancel an article because of lack of space. And sometimes I had to really go looking very hard how to fill the allotted eight pages.

While I enjoyed all this and also the contact with the advertisers, it sometimes complicated my life. Theoretically I was retired, but when we were talking vacations or even a short trip, I had to check each time if there was not a Swiss Review deadline that could interfere. The idea of retiring became more and more attractive. But then things precipitated my decision. A few weeks ago I was diagnosed with lung cancer. I'm still doing fine because I'm only in the test phase. The good news is that the cancer is limited to the upper right part of my left lung and should be easily operated on. Thinking that my health was the most important thing, I decided that the present Swiss Review # 3 was going to be my last one. This was also practical, as Swiss Review # 4 has no Regional Pages and the deadline for # 5 is August 29, so there should be plenty of time to find a successor for my job. Check out the ad on page 8.

I want to thank all of you for the interest you expressed, for the corrections and comments you made and of course for the compliments. I will miss you!

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Homage to Wal Baur

Dear Wal

As your Swiss Review Editor colleague and friend north of the border in Canada, I want to thank you for our wonderful and enriching professional association turned friendship. You took me under your wings when I started out and have always given your support freely and generously in any way possible. I am truly enjoying our mutual cooperation and friendship throughout the time that we've known each other.

With zest for life and a down-to-earth, practical attitude, you walk your path steadfastly and with purpose despite major personal setbacks. What I admire the most is your unfailing positive attitude, your humor, cheerful countenance and your practical enjoyment of everyday life.

You are an inspiration Wal, and you make a difference. Thank you for being such a good friend and colleague. I have no doubt that the readership of the Swiss Review Community in the US holds great estimation for you and your work as their Editor for the past seventeen years!

SILVIA SCHOCH
EDITOR, SWISS REVIEW CANADA
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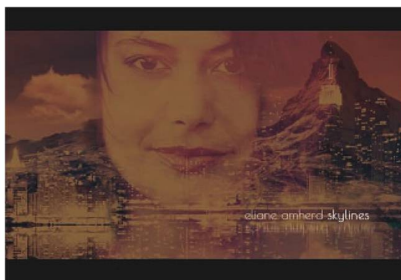
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New York – Switzerland About Eliane Amherd

Eliane, Swiss-born singer, guitarist and songwriter graduated from The New School University for Jazz and Contemporary Music, New York. Besides her performances as a leader or a featured artist in New York's most famous clubs, she also tours in North- and South America, Canada, Europe and Asia, where she appeared in international Festivals in China, Thailand, the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal and Mongolia - like the International Jazz Festival in Hong Kong, the Beijing Nine Gate Jazz Festival, the Shenzhen OCT Loft Festival, the Beishan International Festival in Zhuhai, the Jazzmandu Festival in Kathmandu, the Giant Steppes of Jazz Festival in Mongolia and the Yangon World Music Festival in Myanmar.



Her second to last album "Now and from Now on" which is broadcast internationally, continues to receive great press reviews and has topped the play list of several US Radio Stations. Eliane also arranged and produced the Swiss Miss Sampler "heimweh", featuring famous Swiss artists like Eliana Burki, Nubya, Gigi Moto, Mia Aegerter etc. This recording has earned her many great press reviews, several interviews on Swiss national radio stations and an appearance on the popular Swiss talk show "Aeschbacher". In 2013 she was a candidate of the first edition of "the Voice of Switzerland" on Swiss National TV. Since 2014 she plays guitar in the all female NYC band "As Lolas" playing Brazilian psychedelic 70ties Rock. Since 2010 she is the musical director of the "frauenstimmen Festival" in her hometown Brig, Switzerland.

And now the newest album "Skylines" is out. You can get your copy and downloads on cdbaby and i-tunes or order a copy directly via email: elianeperforms@gmail.com

Georgia

Elise Witt releases new CD "We're All Born Singing"

Elise Witt was born in Bern. Her father, a pharmacologist and cellist, is a descendent of the Mendelssohn family. Her mother, still very much alive at 96, taught French, made jewelry, and continues to play piano, sing, and improvise whenever the spirit moves her! Both Elise's parents sang in the Berner Chorale.

International songstress and winner of the William L. Womack Creative Arts Award, Elise Witt has released her 12th recording on the independent EMWorld Records label. "We're All Born Singing" is a wild departure for the Swiss-born Atlanta singer. Spoken word, choral pieces, and soundscapes, join with an array of lush arrangements celebrating the power of singing to vibrate us body and soul, and bring us together as community.

Vibraphone, octave fiddle, trumpet, sax, flute, cross-cultural percussion, and a wonderful group of singers spice up the arrangements. Perhaps the most alluring instrument on the CD is Brien Engel's Glass Harp. 50 glasses, sized from a giant brandy snifter to tiny shot glasses, create musical magic on the songs "Bees Make Honey" and "Amoeba."

Students from the Global Village Project, a school for teenage refugee girls in Georgia where Elise serves as Artist-in-Residence, are featured on "I See You With My Heart," a multi-lingual musical collage, and "Break the Silence," written for Eve Ensler's "One Billion Rising," a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. A portion of the sales from the CD benefit the Global Village Project.

Digital downloads as well as physical CDs of "We're All Born Singing" and all of Elise's recordings are available on her website:

www.EliseWitt.com.



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Arizona

Swiss Society Visits the Triple G Dairy Farm

On Saturday March 19th at 3:00 p.m. the Arizona Swiss Society gathered at the Triple G Dairy Farm in Buckeye, AZ. We had a personal tour given by our own Dr. Ueli Zaugg, Dairy Nutritionist for Triple G Dairy. He received his degree at the ETH Zurich. What a wonderful educational tour it was! Fifty members started the tour in the commodity feed area with seventeen covered bays. Dr. Zaugg went to each bay and described what feed was in it and how it is used and how the cow will digest the feed. We saw everything from Alfalfa, rolled corn and barley, cottonseeds, almond hulls and much more that is used to feed the dairy cows. K.C. Gingg was a very gracious host. He described the farming operation with over 3,500 acres producing most of the forages used for the animals. He walked the tour with us answering all our questions.

The Gingg family farm, a third generation Swiss family from Appenzell, milks 3,800 cows around the clock three times daily on 2 rotary milking carousels with 48 stalls each. 16 years ago, the Triple G farm was the first in Arizona with the rotating platforms. It was awesome to see. The technology and equipment for the milking process is most interesting. Everyone's favorite cow on the tour was



Dr. Ueli Zaugg (left) and K.C. Gingg (the dairy gets its name from the number of Gs in Gingg)



Dr. Zaugg is explaining the purpose and benefit of each different feed additive.

The calves receive three times daily 3/4 gallon of milk

the Brown Swiss (not a surprise). K.C. Gingg explained to us that they use the Brown Swiss to increase the butterfat content in the milk that gets delivered to the United Dairymen of Arizona Coop (UDA). The cows on this farm are nonstop high performing, each producing an average of up to 12 gallons of milk per day. Triple G Dairy employs around 45 people to keep this top managed and maintained dairy as one of the best in the country.

About 400 calves are raised in a separate calf barn during the first 9 – 10 weeks of their life. The calves receive 3 times daily 3/4 gallon of milk or milk replacer. Gradually they start eating, beside the milk, a special blend of a calf raising concentrate that includes small amount of alfalfa hay, high quality protein, grain, vitamins and minerals. After they are weaned

they will be grouped together and kept in outside corrals. In the whole dairy there are no antibiotics or hormones fed. But if sick animals will get humane treatment that could include a medical treatment with antibiotics.

After our wonderful tour we all enjoyed dinner in downtown Buckeye at the La Placita

Cafe with lots of laughter, smiles and talking. Everyone enjoyed the Mexican dinner. We are truly blessed that Dr. Zaugg made this event possible for the members of the Arizona Swiss Society.



About 400 calves are raised in a separate calf barn..



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New York Swiss National Day 2015

It feels hot, like sitting next to a 1st of August wooden fire somewhere up in the Swiss Alps. But we are heading to Astoria where we are going to celebrate our National Day in NYC. The AC inside the car set to a comfortable 24C while the outside temperature shows 92F or 33C.

The closer we come the more we find cars with a CH sticker. Swiss flags all over.

Square Studio is a beer garden in the center of the Kaufman movie buildings. It is a great place to celebrate the 724th Swiss National Day. On 4th of July we celebrated the 239th day of independence ... the US is trying to catch up. Right around the corner



Swiss children come in many colors

of the beer garden is a very interesting museum called the Museum of the Moving Images.

More than 1300 Swiss with guests attended. We all beat the sun and heat and enjoyed a program packed with great performances. Erwin, a comedian and magician was very funny.

To feel really back in Switzerland, the Swiss Alphorn Trio performed to the delight of all of us.

André Schaller, Ambassador and Consul General talked to us in a short speech and reminded us that Switzerland with about

8 million inhabitants has many Swiss Companies in the States. All together those companies employ more than 500'000 people.

As you all know here in the US we sing the National Anthem all the time even before an Ice Hockey or Baseball game in the middle

of a week. Many different "voices" are trying to sing the Swiss anthem. Some more successful than others. So it was a real delight to hear Amanda Bollag, a Swiss Opera Singer, performing the "Star-Spangled Banner" hymn and then the "Trittst im Morgenrot daher". Turning my head quietly I didn't see too many Swiss people proudly singing along. I guess we all didn't



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California

Los Angeles: Family gathering around "The Little Mountain Boy," a movie by Academy Award Winner Xavier Koller

The tremendous variety of activities offered by our leisure society makes it difficult to have families (parents joined by their kids) taking part in events organized by or for the Swiss Community. I tried to meet this challenge in organizing a family gathering in symbiosis with Los Angeles as capital of entertainment, by hosting a Swiss movie for a family audience: "Schellen Ursli/The Little Mountain Boy", L.A. based Swiss Film director Xavier Koller's last opus. It was featured at the American Cinematheque's Aero Theater on April 16, 2016 as a unique presentation, attracting over 200 people: parents, children, grandparents, aunts and nephews. Local Swiss filmmakers (Film directors, actresses, actors, etc.) also came to support their peer. Among numerous friends of Switzerland, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voting member, Gary Shapiro attended the screening. He depicted the film as "delicious", "so well made", and added that "The Walt Disney Company could not have done it better". Indeed Xavier translated in a magic way international bestseller "Schellen-Ursli/ A Bell for Ursli" by Selina Chönoz and Alois Carigiet into movie language. A captive audience dove into a Swiss adventure amid alpine landscapes of which majesty was painted through a stunning cinematography. It allowed us to witness, among other scenes full with delightful Swiss scenery, a (suspenseful) "Désalpe /Alpenabzug": the descent from the alpine summits, when farmer's families, their cows and cheese production leave the grazing pastures toward the plain, to make room for the winter's silent and white attires.

All in all, a good recipe for some of the Swiss expatriates attending the screening to feel homesick. An excellent cast evolves in this superb background: namely the children – the main characters - whose spontaneity was explored by the film director when shooting the movie, as Xavier Koller explained to the audience during the Q&A session (led by Vera Mijojlic). The music by Los Angeles based Swiss cellist Martin Tillman certainly was in perfect harmony with the movie. It was grandiose when accompanying the hero's "bell sledding", thrilling when setting the pace of the suspense which abruptly ended when wheels of cheese were swallowed by steep-walled gorges... A breathtaking picture (and not a digital one!) which reminded me of the refugee's suitcases flying over the mountain sides in "Reise der Hoffnung/Journey of Hope", a movie for which Xavier Koller was awarded the Oscar for the best foreign language film in 1991, 25 years ago. I invited the audience to applaud the film director for this anniversary, and I take this opportunity to again congratulate him. And I personally wish to thank and applaud him for having brought the local Swiss community together around this wonderful Swiss movie, in which Helvetic perfection rimes with direction around a perfect story, enhanced by a splendid cinematography and state of the art music.

Many thanks: to Switzerland Tourism for co-sponsoring this event (with their last commercial as American Premiere), to Mrs. Susanne Wildhaber, for teaming up with me in organizing this event and the reception I had the pleasure to host, and to the audience for supporting Swiss filmmakers in L.A.

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New York Festival Neue Literatur 2016

Once more we had the great pleasure of co-organizing the Festival Neue Literatur (FNL).

The annual German-language literature festival brings together six writers from Switzerland, Germany and Austria, for an exchange with celebrated US writers in a series of conversations and readings held in New York City. For the 7th edition of the festival, we welcomed Sibylle Berg (www.sibylleberg.com) and Pedro Lenz (www.pedrolenz.com) from Switzerland; Iris Hanika and Christopher Kloeble from Germany; Vea Kaiser and Xaver Bayer from Austria, as well as the U.S. authors James Hannaham and Jenny Offill.

Themed SERIOUSLY FUNNY, this year's festival was curated by award-winning translator Ross Benjamin and highlighted writing that uses humor to grapple with difficult issues and profound themes.

Every year at the opening celebration of the festival, the Friedrich Ulfers Prize is given by Deutsches Haus at New York University to honor the advancements of German-language literature in the U.S. This year's prize was awarded to translator Burton Pike, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature and German at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York hosted by Goethe-Institut.

The six authors were invited to readings, conversations and live interviews throughout the city, hosted by the Austrian Cultural Forum, the Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan, BookCourt in Brooklyn, McNally Jackson Books and Deutsches Haus at NYU. Made possible by

the joint effort among the various partner institutions, the events attracted a diverse and extensive audience.

On the Festival's website www.festivalneueliteratur.org you can read excerpts and translations of all six books presented. The events received successful media coverage, which you will also find on their website.

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Team Switzerland, from L to R: Elena Bänninger, Ambassador André Schaller, Sibylle Berg, Pedro Lenz, Thomas Schneider. © Goethe-Institut/Jacobia Dahm

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- **Interested?**
- For practical questions, call or e-mail Wal Baur at 909 931 7708 – wbaur@roadrunner.com
- For all other questions, including the financial aspect, please contact Patricia Weber at revue@aso.ch.



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