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# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear Readers,

In this issue you'll find information on three more delegates of the OSA (Organization of the Swiss Abroad) who represent us in Switzerland on issues specific to us. For a list of all the US delegates refer to the last edition of the Swiss Review USA (1/18) or go to <http://aso.ch/en/politics/council-of-the-swiss-abroad/members/america-1377072622>.

On the last page I share a letter from a Swiss couple who lived 30 years in North America and decided to move back to Switzerland. I can relate quite well to what they're experiencing back home in the

"Heimat". Having left Switzerland 39 years ago, I sometimes feel more like a tourist than a native when I visit.

The longer I'm away, the more I'm interested in the happenings in Switzerland. So that I don't lose my connection, I visit [www.swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch) and have signed up for their various newsletters for current information. Fortunately, the recent vote to maintain the public SRG (Swiss Broadcasting Corporation), the parent company of [swissinfo.ch](http://www.swissinfo.ch), allows for this service to continue.

Please note that contributions for the May issue are due April 16.

DORIS BERNATH CUNNINGHAM  
EDITOR

### New York: Letter from the Consulate General of Switzerland

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear fellow citizens

I am pleased to inform you that the head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs has appointed Mrs. Lisa Ladner as Swiss Honorary Consul to San Juan / Puerto Rico on 1 January 2018.

We thank Ms. Ladner for her willingness to take over this position. We also thank her for sharing her experience and knowledge with our Consulate General here in New York.

In her capacity as Swiss honorary representative, she has, among other things, the task of assisting you and our compatriots in transit with advice and assistance.

Ms. Ladner was born in Zurich to a Puerto Rican mother. She worked as a communications expert in advertising, journalism, as a director for the Swiss Television, and as an independent web publisher. A year ago, she permanently moved to San Juan where she made herself a name as an entrepreneur and curator.

We wish Mrs. Ladner every success and satisfaction in the performance of this honorary activity.

The coordinates can be found at Consulate of Switzerland Puerto Rico or [www.lisaladner.com](http://www.lisaladner.com)

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Sincerely,

The Consul General of Switzerland

André Schaller

Ambassador

### Locarno, Switzerland: Search for Heirs

The Court of Locarno-Campagna (Swiss authority) are looking for information about the following person:

**Vittorino Lunardi**, born December 21, 1910, died January 18, 1954, from Onsernone, got married December 19, 1944, in Foley (Florida, USA) to Pearl Gertrude (born Cruce).

The parents of Vittorino Lunardi were Enrico Alberico Lunardi (28.5.1884 - 10.1.1970) and Antonia Lunardi, born Brughelli (11.1.1883 - 23.3.1922).

The brothers of Vittorino Lunardi were Egidio Lunardi, Enrico Elvezio Florio Lunardi, Massimo Luigi Pietro Lunardi, Alfonso Lunardi, Ernesto Romeo Lunardi, Lidia Angioletta Lunardi, Aldo Alfredo Giovanni Lunardi, Aurelio Fortunato Lunardi, Pierina Maria Gioconda Lunardi, married Gamboni and Giovanni Nicolao Lunardi.

Anyone who can give information regarding Vittorino Lunardi, his possible descendants or heirs, is requested to contact the Court of Locarno-Campagna by February 28th, 2019.

After this date the heredity will be given to the heirs who are noted.

Court of Locarno-Campagna

Via della Pace 6

6600 Locarno (Switzerland)

### Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA):

Max Haechler



Max Haechler has been a member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad since 1990. He is responsible for the following areas: AZ (except Tucson area), ID, MT, NV, UT, WY.

He has been a resident of Paradise Valley since arriving in Arizona from Switzerland in 1962 with his wife Elsbeth while on their honeymoon. They raised four children and enjoy seven grandchildren.

Max established an Automotive Service Business specializing in European Automobiles where he hired Swiss and English Master Technicians. Starting in 1964, he established various automobile dealerships, under the name of MAX OF SWITZERLAND, representing such makes as Renault, Peugeot, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Maserati, MG, Jaguar, Porsche, Audi, Bentley and Rolls-Royce.

Max retired from the automobile business in 1995 and since then has been involved with Real Estate Investments and Management, together with son Anthony. Since 1979, he is also the owner of the travel agency "Travel by Max" in Scottsdale.

### Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA):

Jean-Pierre Mittaz



Jean-Pierre Mittaz was elected to the Council of the Swiss Abroad in 2017 for 4 years. He is responsible for the following areas: MA, ME, NH, RI, VT.

Jean-Pierre, born in 1965, grew up in the cantons of Valais and Zurich. He graduated from the University of Zurich with a PhD in Business Administration (Dr. lic.oec.). After working as a research assistant at the Swiss Banking Institute, Jean-Pierre joined an American bank in Zurich, and a couple of years later, in 1995, he emigrated to the United States. He has held various roles in the financial industry, working in Zurich, London, New York, and since 2010 in Boston.

Jean-Pierre lives in Needham, MA with his wife MaryBeth and their three teenage daughters. They are members of the Swiss Society in Boston which was founded 100 years before Jean-Pierre was born, Jean-Pierre has participated in events of the Friends of Switzerland (another Swiss club in Boston) as well as Swissnex Boston (a network for knowledge exchange devoted to connecting Switzerland and North America in science, education, art and innovation).

The Mittaz family loves the outdoors and sports, including routing for Roger Federer, Stan Wawrinka and the FC Sion. They are infrequently also seen playing music together, and on very rare occasions, Jean-Pierre surprises select audiences by playing a little bit of Alphorn.

JPMITTAZ@MSN.COM

Past and current memberships and offices held by Max include:

- Honorary Consul of Switzerland for Arizona from 1978 to 2005
- Charter President Scottsdale Papago Rotary Club (1970)
- President, Arizona Swiss Society
- Founder and Chairman, Arizona Swiss Foundation - with annual scholarship awards
- Chairman, Consular Corps of Arizona
- Director, Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce
- Board Member, Scottsdale Sister Cities Association, creating Sister City relationship with Interlaken, with annual Student Exchange program
- Board Member, World Affairs Council Arizona
- Member Scottsdale Charros, a Scottsdale civic and fundraising organization
- Member Dean's Advisory Council, Honors College at Arizona State University
- Event Chairman of five Ambassador's Balls - scholarship fundraising and Swiss tourism promotion

SWISSCONSUL@AOL.COM

### Member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (CSA):

Nathan Kunz



Nathan Kunz was elected to the Council of the Swiss Abroad in 2017 for 4 years. He is responsible for the following areas: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, Cayman Islands.

Nathan is an assistant professor of operations management at University of North Florida. His research focuses on humanitarian operations and logistics. He holds a PhD in management and a master degree in international business development from University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. His bachelor degree is in automotive engineering, from the Berne University of Applied Sciences. He started his education with a vocational training as car mechanic.

Before joining University of North Florida in 2015, Nathan held different positions at INSEAD Business School, EPFL Lausanne and University of Neuchâtel. Before his academic career, Nathan worked for six years as director of operations and deputy director at the Digger Foundation, a Swiss humanitarian organization building demining machines.

Nathan grew up between Switzerland and Niger (West Africa). In Switzerland he used to live in the Bernese Jura and Biel. He currently lives in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. He is married to Sara and has three sons: Isaia (10), Matteo (7) and David (4).

NATHKUNZ@GMAIL.COM

## Florida: Swiss American Club of Miami

On Saturday, February 17th, 2018, 22 Swiss Club members met to take off on a bicycle tour around the 15 miles loop at the Shark Valley Park in the Everglades.

Those who came for the first time perceived the distance between the alligators lying next to the path and their bikes as very close



indeed! However, the park ranger assured us that the alligators have plenty of natural food here and do not seek out humans. That was comforting!

With this in mind, we started at 9 am passing by lots of alligators laying in the sun absorbing the heat right next to the side of the trail,



sometimes even on the trail. They might not move for hours and some looked like they are made of plastic, but then one got up and crossed the trail. That photo was taken by Adriana Mettler who came to the park for the first time – what an emotion.



The youngest cyclist was 8 years old and the oldest over 80! It was a great crowd that came out on this beautiful day, cycling for more than two hours. Just about halfway into the 15-mile ride, there was a



lookout tower where a granola bar and some water awaited all the avid riders. And finally, at the end, everybody was hungry and stayed for a picnic.

BTW - At the conclusion of the event we found out that park visitors

are advised to keep a safe distance of 15-20 feet to the alligators – oops! Still, we all got home sound and safe!



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Our star photographers were  
Miguel Reinfeld and Urs Brunner

## Minnesota: Twin Cities Swiss American Association (TCSAA)

The Twin Cities Swiss American Association is one of the well-organized and vibrant clubs in the Midwest. Our 400 members have many opportunities to get together. In addition to our five social



Phil Zeller, Nino Niederreiter and Jacob Zeller

events, we also host a quarterly Happy Hour, and over the past few months, we had two "Meet & Greet" events with Swiss athletes: one with Jérôme Thiessen (soccer player with the Minnesota United) and the other with Nino Niederreiter

(hockey player with the Minnesota Wild). As one can imagine, both of those events were very well-attended.

We are also active in many social ways, e.g. our on-line presence includes a website, a Facebook page (TCSAA) and a Twitter account. (@TCSAAMN). We also stay in communication with our members through eNews. Everyone is invited to check out any of these sites.

This February we had a Carnival/Cheese Fondue party at the Germanic-American Institute. This event was extremely well attended as we had close to 100 members and guests. This year we had to set up tables in two rooms, since the number has continued to increase every



year. As was the case in previous years, our very experienced kitchen crew had some members who drove all the way from South Dakota to enjoy this typical

Swiss specialty. I daresay they were not disappointed!



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## Illinois: Swiss Club of Chicago

For the Swiss Club of Chicago, the event season 2018 is already in full swing and we had a lot of fun at our "11th Annual New Glarus Ski Weekend" ... Yes, "Alles fahrt schii, alles fahrt schii" even in Chicago, resp. Wisconsin at the quaint little ski area called Tyrol Basin (west of Madison).

We had a great attendance and enjoyed nice snow, mild weather



Horst, Mike, Timo, Anika, Elke



Hagen, Horst, Kevin, Mike, Elke



(Alp and Dell Cheese), and Laurent (Swiss Cellars). We had a wonderful time together.

Our next event, the "18th Annual Raclette Evening" is already around the corner; and on March 16th the Noggeler Guggenmusic is visiting Chicago in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Chicago-Lucerne sister city relationship and are performing at the Hofbräuhaus Chicago in Rosemont, in addition to marching at the 2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. Then on June 17th, when the warmer weather has returned to Chicago, we will gather at the beach on Lake Michigan for our fun Swiss Sunday Brunch with homemade Zopf bread, Bircher Müesli and many other delicatessens.

To find out more about activities of the Swiss Club of Chicago, please check out our website: [www.swissclubchicago.com](http://www.swissclubchicago.com)

ELKE DIETZ SUJDAK  
VICE PRESIDENT  
[WWW.SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM](http://WWW.SWISSCLUBCHICAGO.COM)

## Arizona: Arizona Swiss Society

The Arizona Swiss Society held a garden luncheon reception on February 20 for the Consul General of Switzerland, the Honorary Thomas Schneider, who was recently posted to the FDFA's Los Angeles office. Mr. Schneider was scheduled to have dinner with the



Governor of Arizona that evening and made time to meet the Swiss in the Phoenix metro area. The program included an

Alphorn presentation, buffet lunch on the lawn featuring Berner Zwiebelsuppe, bratwurst, ice cream with Bonigen pear schnapps and cheeses including Emmentaler. The Bernese menu theme honored Mr. Schneider's Bernese canton of origin. The society discussed its programs and activities. The Consul General then discussed his office's work in Los Angeles and the extraordinary level of Swiss foreign direct investment in U.S. and its impacts on jobs and tax revenues. A lovely day was had by all in sunny Paradise Valley Arizona at president John Thornton's home.

John Thornton presents Thomas Schneider an Arizona wine in a Swiss wine bag made by member Helene Block (formerly with the FDFA)



L to R:  
Max Haechler, member of the Council of the Swiss Abroad, John Thornton, President, Tom Graf, Alphorn player, Thomas Schneider, consul general

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## Therapy: Forget the Couch, Think Horses by Edith Lynn Hornik-Beer

Edith Lynn Hornik-Beer, born in Zurich, is the author of several books and many articles and was among the winners of the 2017 Matt Kramer award for excellence in journalism for her articles: "Therapy: Forget the Couch, Think Horses" and "Life After NASA". For more information visit: <https://www.prforpeople.com/news/media/pr-people%C2%AE-announces-winner-matt-kramer-award-excellence-journalism> and [www.thedrinkingwomanrevisited.com](http://www.thedrinkingwomanrevisited.com). You find one of the articles below which features Abigail Hornik, daughter of Mrs. Hornik-Beer.

Abigail Hornik, the founder of Chinook Horses: Changing Lives Through Equine Partnerships, has loved horses all her life. It always has been a "must have" sport even while she was working in New York City as an online advertising and marketing person. Taking a break from her demanding career, Abigail came to Montana in 2001 to breed Spanish Mustangs and work with children on the Blackfeet Reservation. A year later, she met her husband, a native Montanan. Abigail fell in love not only with her husband but also with Montana. For 8 years, she owned and designed for her high-end home accessories company, WesternWare Goods with an equine theme appearing in the majority of her product line. In her free time, she did dressage and jumping with her two treasured horses. Observing her horses and fellow riders she realized more and more that horses are amazing creatures who take in and respond to situations, and because, they live in the wild in groups, naturally demarcate relationships.

In 2014, Abigail returned to her passion and prepared to open



Chinook Horses: Changing Lives Through Equine Partnerships. Listed today as founder and director, Abigail earned certifications from the recognized Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association, Inc. (EAGALA) and Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning & Therapeutic Riding Instructor from the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International and is pursuing further affidavits.

Abigail likes to describe the operation of Chinook Horses as a four-pointed star. There are, of course, the client(s) and the horses. The other point represents the certified equine therapist. The fourth point represents a licensed therapist and/or special education professional.



Clients do not ride the horses but interact with the horses at will on the ground which allows difficult, anxious, insecure or resistant clients to approach and reveal their problems in a different way. The therapists are in the arena with the client(s) but invite the client(s) to interact and observe the horses. Clients

who feel useless because their condition doesn't permit them to hold a job, suddenly develop a sense of themselves in relation to the horses.

Robert Bakko, a licensed clinical professional for 42 years, over a year ago got certified in the EAGALA modality. Bob finds that you can observe in one session many aspects important to the therapy.

For example, Bob and Abigail prepared a designated area in the rink to which a horse had to be lead. It was a mindful exercise. A couple

in therapy trying to improve their relationship were asked to lead a horse through the course. It was how the husband and wife each undertook the problem that revealed each one's attitude and solving-problem methods.

Kelly Melius, whose specialty is Autism and other special needs, is a licensed and certified PLAY (Play and Language for Autistic Youngsters) Project and Autism Specialist. Kelly explains that allowing



these children and young adults to interact with horses teaches them leadership qualities, and the all-important social thinking rules and tools. The group is taught the all-important "think with your eyes," "Start positive chain reactions," "keep your body

in the group," and "whole body listening," and "follow the leader." For instance, this group was asked to lead a horse through an obstacle course without a lead-rope and halter. After many tries, a group discussion on how to do it ensued. Finally, the group decided that they would get the horse to follow one of the participants by shaking a bucket as if food were in it. The designated leader, a 13-year-old boy, got the horse to move by shaking the bucket and another 18-year-old young man provided support. Everyone in the group felt that each person had helped to meet the challenge.

For more information visit <http://www.chinookhorses.org/> To find a group in your area go to <http://home.eagala.org/find>

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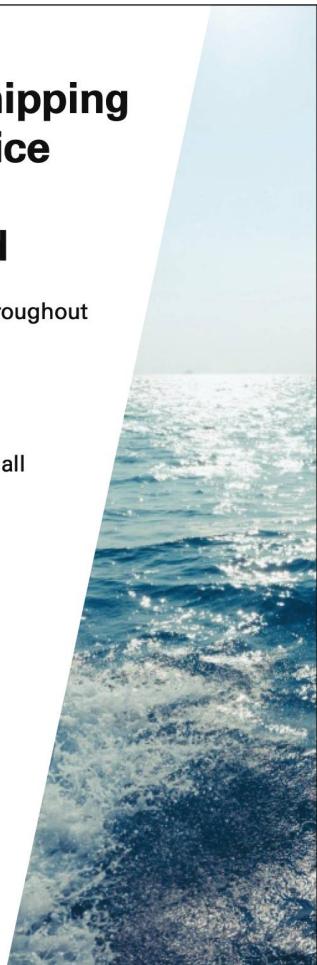


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## New York: A Social Enterprise with Swiss Roots

Deborah Agustoni is originally from Morbio Inferiore, a little village in the canton of Ticino. She has lived in Washington, D.C. since 2009, where she has been active with various humanitarian organizations, including the World Food Programme and the International Organization for Migration (a UN Agency). In 2017 she received a master's degree in social enterprise from American University.

In 2007, Deborah took a trip to Cambodia that changed her life. While traveling through the Siem Reap Province, the extreme



poverty in the rural communities commanded her attention. With no hope for employment, people in the community fell prey to human trafficking at an alarming rate.

The devastation of this horrifying reality was clear, and Deborah returned home forever changed. She could not forget the tragic stories of human trafficking and the faces of those who had suffered. From her anguish emerged a fiery desire to empower those who have been made to feel powerless. She knew she

would dedicate her life to eliminating human trafficking.

In 2017, after years of studying the issue and working on anti-trafficking measures at places like the International Organization for Migration, she established Aurore.

Aurore is a socially conscious skincare company committed to create high-quality, all-natural skincare products that empower trafficking survivors and at-risk individuals to disrupt the cycle of poverty that fuels human trafficking in Cambodia.

"I believe that the most effective way to combat this problem in developing countries is to give work to trafficking survivors and those at risk. This way they can break the cycle of poverty and build a dignified life for themselves and their families."

Aurore works directly with anti-trafficking organizations in Cambodia to create economic opportunity for vulnerable communities through integration in its supply chain. The social enterprise will source natural ingredients native from Cambodia through farming cooperatives that employ survivors of human trafficking and those at-risk.

Founded on the firm belief that everyone deserves to live a dignified life, free from oppression, Aurore is set to create skincare for humanity. The company is committed to creating safe, effective and natural skincare for consumers that are free of chemicals, parabens, synthetics, and other toxins.



Deborah with girls from the Siem Reap Province

To get started, in November 2017 Aurore launched its crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to finalize the R&D for its formula that will



meet FDA & EU safety regulations.

To learn more about the project and support the fight against human trafficking please visit [www.auroreskin care.com](http://www.auroreskin care.com) or [www.facebook.com/auroreskin care](http://www.facebook.com/auroreskin care)

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## Newark, California: Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club

The Aelpler Gruppe Swiss Club hosted their annual Jass Party and Fondue Dinner on February 11th, 2018. The club welcomed players who came together to play Jass during the afternoon from the greater San Francisco Bay Area. The winners of the Jass tournament were



Jass Königin Billy Leah Berchtold  
Best beginner Jenna Joseph  
Jass König Joe Haley



Our wonderful Fondue crew



Billy Leah Berchtold as Jass Königin, Jenna Joseph as the best beginning Jass player, and Joe Haley as Jass König. They were each awarded a certificate and a prize. In the evening the club prepared a delicious Fondue dinner. The fondue crew mixed together a wonderful blend of cheeses which made for an exceptional fondue. They also served a salad and a Bündner Platte to the delight of all. The Aelpler Gruppe's next event is the annual Folklore Night in April.

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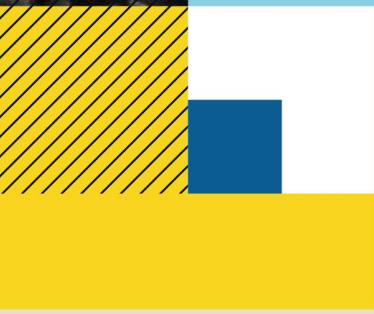
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## We're not in Seattle Anymore: Back in Switzerland

Roland and Doris Oberholzer moved to Canada in their early twenties and then moved to the US 10 years later. First, they lived in Arizona, and then moved to Washington State, where they lived for nearly 20 years. In February 2017, they made the big move back to Switzerland. They were part of the Seattle Swiss Club from 1998 until 2017. Roland was Vice President from 2010 to 2014, and President from 2014 through 2016. Their younger daughter Simone is now a board member of the Seattle Swiss Club and she is responsible for organizing some of the bigger events like the 1st of August celebration and the Christmas cookie baking day in December. Samantha, the older daughter, had moved to Switzerland in 2011 and keeps a blog "Cup of



Cultures" ([www.cup-of-cultures.com](http://www.cup-of-cultures.com)) where she writes and shares her experiences and adventures about different cultures around her. You'll also find more insights about her parents' experiences back in Switzerland. This following letter is their first year's recap.

Dear friends,

We can't believe that it's already been a year since we said "adieu" to our friends at the Seattle Swiss Club.

As soon as we arrived in Switzerland, we moved into my grandparents' old farmhouse, the "tan." We started exploring all the familiar places that weren't so familiar anymore. Do you know what it's like to hear the name of a place, town or street where you grew up – a place you've never been before, but for some reason you feel like you know it because it's where you grew up? That's what it was like for us after we moved here. We took day trips on Roland's days off and visited Schaffhausen, Bachtel, the Klausenpass, Amden, Stoos and much more. These places sounded familiar, so familiar that we felt like we'd been there before, but when we moved here it was almost as if we were discovering a new country for the first time.

Roland started working at "Speck," a restaurant at a small, private airfield in Feraltdorf outside of Zurich. He enjoyed the work and the co-workers, but he quickly realized he had a lot to learn: how to cook with electricity instead of gas, how to work a "hold-o-matic," how to use a steamer. It was a great place for him to get familiar with the ways of the Swiss restaurant business. Meanwhile, Doris was focusing on getting better and tending to the vegetable garden at the farmhouse.

We appreciate life here in Switzerland. Things like the quality of the health care system, the speed of the insurance company, the friendliness of people at Coop and Migros, and the efficiency of the DOT wowed us when we arrived. You should have seen the woman who helped us when we registered our car – her face when we pulled

out our old paper "Fahrzeugausweis" from 1976 was priceless!

At the end of the summer, we decided to move to the canton of Bern where Doris grew up. Roland found a new job in Nidau, a town just outside of Biel. And now, for the second time in our life, we live in an apartment. It's been a steep learning curve because there are very strict rules we need to follow: set laundry days, quiet time from 12-2 pm, no mowing the lawn on your lunch break, no hanging laundry out on Sundays, no vacuum cleaning or hammering on weekends...

Roland went to the city hall recently to register his bicycle to get the rectangular license plate. The woman looked at him as if he were from another planet. (Editor's note: A common theme apparently!) "I'm sorry, what?" "You need what? For what?" "Häää?" Then she sent him to the police station and the officer there had a similar reaction: "You need what exactly?", and then finally, "Oh! You don't have an e-bike? Well then you don't need to register... we don't do that anymore."

We like how life here forces us to slow down. No shopping from 12-2 pm because small shops – grocery stores, clothing stores, pharmacies – are closed. In the evening, most stores close around 6pm, unless it's Thursday or Friday and then they stay open late, until 8pm. This makes Saturday a crazy shopping day at Migros. Almost every store or restaurant is closed on Sundays, and since you can't go shopping or go out to eat, you go for walks or hikes. Or you watch sports on TV for 10 hours straight (the Swiss are nuts about sports!).

So far, we don't really miss the US. We do miss our daughter Simone and our friends though.

It's not easy to make new friends in Switzerland. People keep to themselves and it usually takes time before you can use "du" – the informal tense – with someone. It gets easier if you belong to a sports team or group like the "Turnverein," "Musikverein," "Feuerwehr" or any of the other obscure clubs that exist. That's where you find like-minded people and the "Kamaradschaft" that the Seattle Swiss Club has. We'll find something eventually, but for now we're just taking it easy.

We've welcomed many visitors over the past year and we're always excited to show people around Nidau. If you're passing through Europe or Switzerland, don't forget to let us know. We'd love to see you!

And that's it for now. We love it here and we plan on staying; maybe we'll start the Swiss Seattle Club. If we do, you're all invited.

With love from Switzerland,

Roland & Doris

For more information on the Seattle Swiss Club contact [seattleswissclub@gmail.com](mailto:seattleswissclub@gmail.com) or go to [www.seattleswiss.org](http://www.seattleswiss.org)

### SWISS REPRESENTATIONS:

ADDRESSES OF ALL SWISS EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING WEB-SITE: [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch) Click on "Representations"

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### REGIONAL NEWS 2018:

Number	Deadline USA	On Website	Mailed from CH	Arrival in US
1/2018	December 20, 2017	January 22, 2018	January 31, 2018	approx. 2nd week of February
2/2018	February 13, 2018	March 21, 2018	March 29, 2018	approx. 2nd week of April
3/2018	April 17, 2018	May 22, 2018	May 28, 2018	approx. 2nd week of June
4/2018	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>			
5/2018	August 14, 2018	September 21, 2018	September 29, 2018	approx. 2nd week of October
6/2018	<b>NO REGIONAL NEWS</b>			