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Thoughts shared by some Swiss relatives and friends about the America's Cup

New Zealand lost the cup but we won the Swiss hearts.

It was a joint effort with six New Zealand sailors.

Outstanding coverage on Swiss TV and Radio, not only on the Louis Vuitton Cup and the America's Cup, but on New Zealand as a whole (they called NZ, the "Land of the Kiwis"). It was a great advertisement for Swiss who have never been to NZ, and brought back sweet memories for the ones who have already visited our shores. The scenery was fantastic.

Switzerland is going through tough times (like the rest of the world) through globalisation and the worries of a war in the Middle East (which is very close to home), so the Cup is something which is positive and brings happiness.

Ernesto Bartarelli is a very wealthy man who has won the hearts of the Swiss for sponsoring Alinghi and thereby lifting the moral of the Swiss people by winning the America's Cup...this especially during a time of uncertainty in Switzerland.

I am sure that this event has brought Switzerland closer to us in many ways.

LB

WHAT IS A BIRTHDAY???

A birthday is a gateway
Between Old years and New,
Just an opening to the future
Where we can get a wider view -
For it takes a lot of birthdays
To make us wise and kind
And to help us judge all people
With our heart and not our mind -
Every year brings new dimensions
That enable us to see
All things within a "kinder light"
And more perceptively -
So birthdays are the gateway
To what the future holds
And to a greater understanding
As the story of life unfolds.

By Helen Steiner Rice.



HELLO CHILDREN

We are doing a competition just for you

Write a nice letter or story about your Parents or Grandparents. Where did they come from or grow up? (Country, place etc).

The winner of each category will receive a nice prize and will be announced in the next issue of the Helvetia.

Please send your letter with your name, age and address to:

Helvetia 'Hello Children' Competition
Silvia Schuler, Skinner Road, RD23, Stratford,
by the 15th of the month.



Also draw a nice Easter Picture, some of which will be published in the next Helvetia.

