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President's Report

Friends ... what is a friend? Who is a friend? Well, the Longman English Larousse says "Someone on terms of affection and regard for another who is neither relative nor lover // someone who freely supports and helps out of goodwill // an acquaintance." A book of synonyms says comrade, companion, chum, confidant, partner, buddy, pal, mate, supporter, encourager, ally, associate ... well there are many words with a similar meaning to 'friend'!!! We all have friends (well I sincerely hope so), and aren't we truly lucky to have them? Some we have a closer association to than others, some we call close friends, whereas others are acquaintances. Through involvement in clubs and organisations many friends are made ... and the Swiss Club and Swiss Society are certainly no different!!! It is wonderful to see at the Swiss Society's AGM the members from the various clubs mingling and catching up on the year's happenings. This also happens in our Swiss Clubs, but I guess we are fortunate to see our 'friends' more often as we live in closer proximity. We all certainly treasure our friends, whether new or old, and look forward to seeing them frequently. I came across a book ...

True Friends ...

- hear your old stories with new ears.
- always have words of encouragement.
- share memories of the good old days - and dreams of days to come.
- help you see the forest before the trees.
- show signs of aging at the same rate you do.
- make the gift of self more precious than a diamond.
- share food for thought and thoughts of food!!!
- light up your life when you're in the dark.
- know laughter can be the best medicine.
- read you like a book.
- are there for you at every turn in the road.
- like fine wine, get better with time.
- listen when no one else hears.
- will tell you when an outfit is not 'you'.
- don't always agree.
- remind you to have a sense of humour about yourself.
- enjoy sharing special talents.
- see you through love lost and weight gained.

- like good health, are even more valued when they are lost.
- help you stretch your mind as well as your body.
- are never far apart even though oceans may come between them.
- share good advice, recipes, and bargains.
- share gossip and never tell.
- help you when the going gets tough.
- weather the storm in search of the rainbow.

Take care until next month ... and let's all make more time to share with our friends.

Regards
Marianne

**To accomplish great things
we must not only act, but
also dream; not only plan,
but also believe.**

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Spruch des Monats

Friends Are the Most Special People in Life

Friends are cherished people whom we carry in our hearts wherever we go in life.

We may spend a lot of time together, getting to know each other and sharing each other's lives, then have to move on to other places.

But no matter where we go, we always remember the special people who touched our lives, who loved us and helped us learn more about ourselves.

We always remember the special people who stayed by us when we had to face difficult times, and with whom we felt safe enough to reveal our true selves.

Friends are the special people we dreamed and planned great futures with, who accepted us as we were and encouraged us to become all that we wanted to be.

Donna Levine

Contributed by Walter Seifert