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It's this time of the year again when we are invited to take stock; it seems to come around faster and faster.

I hope 2008 has been a good year for you - and at the same time I know it has not been such a good year for some of us, be it because of illness or loss or misfortune.

2008 might be remembered in history books as the year the first black president was elected in the United States, or the year the National Party won the New Zealand election, or finances got a bit wobbly all over the world. But each of us will remember 2008 for different and much more personal events: It is the year Saskia was born, it is the year Daniel started school, it is the year somebody started College, University, got his or her degree or failed in an exam. For some, it is the year they went to Switzerland, maybe after many years in New Zealand. Relationships developed or withered; we experienced our very personal joy and grief, had dreams come true and dreams shattered.

And now we are a year older and wiser, and we face a new year with new challenges that might turn into achievements or maybe failures. Let's hope that we can always share our joys with the people around us, and let's hope that the people around us are there for us when we need them. If we take a different angle: Let's hope we are ready to celebrate with others their joys, and we are there when they need us. In this sense: I wish you all a Happy New Year!



Mini liebe Mitglieder ou der Presidänt het gmerkt das äs ganz schnäu ar Wiehnacht zue geit u das die gueti Zyt eifach nid immer für aus längt.

My dear Compatriots, it's the time of the year when we look around us and start thinking of all our friends and families. The planning will start to make Christmas and New Year a very happy occasion. The Swiss clubs are starting their preparations for the Children's Christmas party and a function for the members and their friends. I would like to encourage everybody to participate with a good Christmas spirit and to remember the ones who are sick and less fortunate.

Making time for our family and friends is the best invest-

ment we can make. These are the people who share our deepest thoughts, dreams and insecurities.

New Year's resolutions:

I must remember the 15th of every month (deadline for the Helvetia), do more exercises to be able to fit into a pair of trousers I wore 10 years ago, maybe eat less!!! And hopefully to have a new roof on our Wellington club house.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year

"Dänkit a Läbchueche u dr Schnee im Waud mit au dene Cherzli"

Uf Wiederluege
Roland

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