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Abendlied

*Augen, meine lieben Fensterlein,
Gebt mir schon so lange holden Schein,
Lasset freundlich Bild um Bild herein:
Einmal werdet ihr verdunkelt sein!*

*Fallen einst die müden Lider zu,
Löscht ihr aus, dann hat die Seele Ruh;
Tastend streift sie ab die Wanderschuh,
Legt sich auch in ihre finstre Truh.*

*Noch zwei Fünklein sieht sie glimmend
stehn,
Wie zwei Sternlein innerlich zu sehn,
Bis sie schwanken und dann auch
vergehn,
Wie von eines Falters Flügelwehn.*

*Doch noch wandl ich auf dem Abendfeld,
Nur dem sinkenden Gestirn gesellt;
Trinkt, o Augen, was die Wimper hält,
Von dem goldnen Ueberfluss der Welt!*

Gottfried Keller

Regina Rose Mathys



21 September 1924 – 1 November 2010

Regi, as she was known to us, was born in Feusisberg, SZ as the second oldest child of nine. She went to school in Staretschwil AG. Her dad went to South America in 1936 and returned in 1937 telling the family that he had bought a farm in Ecuador. The whole family plus 24 other Swiss left Switzerland on the 3rd May 1937 bound for a supposedly better life in Ecuador. As the farm had no house, her Dad built a bach which consisted of two rooms - a bedroom with bunks and a dining room. The washing was done by hand outside with water from a small nearby creek. Times were not at all easy for the family.

In 1939, just before the war broke out, Regi's father became very sick and he decided to return to Switzerland, leaving the family behind. The family had no communication with him until 1945. In 1947 Regi's mother returned to Switzerland, and her dad died. Regi and one of her sisters left Ecuador for Switzerland in 1948, and then four years later Regi and two sisters left Switzerland bound for new adventures in New Zealand. Life was much better here. In 1955 Regi married Holdi, and soon after they started their farming career. They sharemilked in Riverlea before purchasing their own farm in Pungarehu. They had three sons: Peter, Eric and Willy.

Both Regi and her late husband, Holdi, have been tremendously supportive members of the Taranaki Swiss Club. Over the years they have attended most of our functions, and have been very generous supporters of our many raffles. They also enjoyed many bus trips away with our Club, and after Holdi's death Regi was fortunate and appreciative of having her niece, Irene, accompany her to many Swiss Club functions. Holdi and Regi travelled to Switzerland several times, and also visited Ecuador three times. They always thoroughly enjoyed their trips away, but appreciated returning home to New Zealand.

The Taranaki Swiss Club and the Swiss Society of New Zealand extend their deepest sympathy to Regi's family.

MD

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