

# Regional news : USA

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## FLORIDA

# First SWISSARTMIAMI Exhibition a Success!

Under the patronage of the Florida Chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, [www.sacc.net](http://www.sacc.net), the first SwissArtMiami (SAM) exhibition, [www.swissartmiami.com](http://www.swissartmiami.com), entitled „Visions of Nature – From Mountain to Sea“ took place on the ground floor of the Abbey Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida. It lasted from November 30th to December 5th 2004, coinciding with the famous Art Basel Miami Beach.



**Gertrud Kohler-Aeschlimann and Martha Gschwend enjoying Swiss Art through "sculptured" glasses**

17 Swiss Artist from Switzerland and abroad were selected to exhibit their art in the media of painting (Eugenia A. Burgo, Filip Haag, Nikolaus Hipp, Peter Panyoczki and Daniele Robbiani), photography (Patricia A. Haemmerle, Cathérine Huth & Pia Frey, Ursula Knobel and André Melchior), sculpture (Heinz Aeschlimann, Lisa Enderli, Ralf Gschwend and Gabri-

ela Von Habsburg) and video installation (Tatjana Marusic, Christoph Oertli, Eri Székely and Margot Zanni).

This first SAM exhibition was a definite success! Among the over 100 dignitaries who gathered to enjoy the upbeat Vernissage on November 29 were international museum directors, gallerists and collectors who enjoyed mingling with artists and Swiss representatives alike. The art on display ranged from large scale paintings and whimsical photography to interactive kinetic sculptures.

We were able to welcome the representative of our main sponsor Coumts Bank von Ernst, Mr. Peter Amrein from Zürich, and Mr. George Gandarias from Miami. Also present were Monsieur Eric Amhof, Culture Counselor, Embassy of Switzerland, Washington D.C., Dr. Urs Lindenmann, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Ms. Diane Camber, Director Bass Museum, Mr. Milton Estero, Editor & Publisher of Artnews and many more

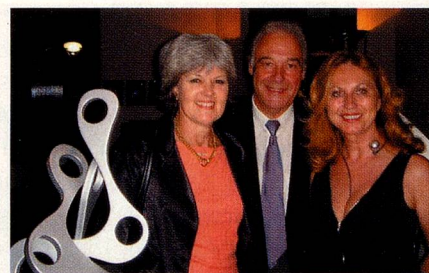


**Kinetic sculpture by Ralf Gschwend**

VIPs, as well as the artists Mr. Ralf Gschwend, Mrs. Patricia Haemmerle and Mrs. Cathérine Hut.

Due to the excellent location and proximity to the Art Basel Miami Beach, the Art Container City and the Bass Museum, the number of visitors to SAM#1 exceeded all expectations and resulted in several sales. Mrs. Susanne Widmer, curator of the exhibition, was able to attract a high-powered jury for the first SwissArtMiami prize, which selected the following SAM prize winners: Photography: Huth and Frey, Sculpture/Installation: Heinz Aeschlimann, Painting: Peter Panyoczki, Video: Eri Székely. Each winner will receive Sfr. 1,500 generously donated by the main sponsor Coumts Bank von Ernst.

For a list of the other sponsors and supporters please see the SAM website. For SAM#2, December 2005 we are now inviting interested potential sponsors to contact their SAM rep-



**Romy Hochreutener, SACC, Urs Lindenmann, Hon. Swiss Consul and Gertrud Kohler**

resentatives listed below. Swiss Artists interested in participating in SAM#2 can register online at [www.swissartmiami.com](http://www.swissartmiami.com)

For further questions, please contact: In Switzerland - Mrs. Susanne Widmer, Curator, [susanne.widmer1@bluewin.ch](mailto:susanne.widmer1@bluewin.ch), Phone: +41 43 844 0290. In the USA - Mr. Ralf Gschwend, SACC Boardmember [ralfonso@ralfonso.com](mailto:ralfonso@ralfonso.com) Phone: 561 655 2745  
*Ralf Gschwend*

### Next Regional News:

- # 2/2005- Copy deadline: March 02  
Mailing date: April 14
- # 3/2005- Copy deadline: May 18  
Mailing date: June 28

### Please send contributions to:

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## COLORADO

## Fine Wooden Mosaics - The Journey of Mr. Blacksmith

"I played the violin as a child. I come from a very musical family. We were eight children and everybody played an instrument"

Born in Switzerland in the Kanton of Solothurn, Chris Blacksmith moved on with his interest in instrument to a Mecca for violins: When he was 16, he became a student at a violin-making school in Mittenwald in German Bavaria, where building violins has been a tradition for over three hundred years. "There I was trained to develop specific skills and an eye for art, for shapes and forms." He then moved to Vienna and worked as a violinmaker for the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra.

Today Mr. Blacksmith lives and works in Allenspark Colorado, a small mountain community near Boulder and the Rocky Mountain National Park. He makes fine wood mosaics that are used as tabletops, for wall hangings and as floor inlays. The first thing you think when

you see his works – he has a website: [www.wooden-mosaics.com](http://www.wooden-mosaics.com) – is just how much work has to go into his finished products. The mosaics are reminiscent of the old European tradition of inlays in floors, of fine marble inlays in the Florentine style and of the mathematically precise works of M.C. Escher. They turn a flat space into a three-dimensional illusion. Asked about who his clients are, Mr. Blacksmith says that his business relies on "word of mouth". "They are friends or friends of friends. Some projects take an entire year or more to do. I cannot make a living off the mosaics. So I also build doors and do furniture repairs."

The path from Vienna to Allenspark was not a straight one. "In Mittenwald, there was a fellow from Nebraska. So I came to



**Chris Blacksmith, formerly Zurschmiede, with one of his huge tabletops made of wooden inlays. Just try to count how many different kinds of wood he used!**

Nebraska in 1973. Then I moved to Wichita, Kansas and worked in a violin repair shop. I became involved in all kinds of other ventures, such as hybrid corn research and general farming. I like nature." Through a friend, Mr. Blacksmith became involved with airlines and worked as a pilot scheduler. From there he found his way to mosaics. "I was quite poor. I had this four by eight plywood table and one day I started to draw designs on it. That is how the whole mosaic thing got started." One of his pilot friends lived in Colorado, so when Mr. Blacksmith became tired of moving around, he settled there.

Mr. Blacksmith has family in Switzerland and travels back occasionally. Asked about his roots and skills he says that one's family background, how you grow up and your environment makes people what they are. He appreciates his education in Mittenwald and the sense for precision he developed in Switzerland and Germany. He made, however, some concessions to his new homeland, learning the language and changing his name from Zurschmiede. "I wanted to adapt to my new home, and out of courtesy to my new environment".

*Egila Lex  
egila@verizon.net*



**A flat space turns into a three-dimensional illusion.**

### Useful Websites

A more useful website for currency exchange rates: [www.x-rates.com](http://www.x-rates.com)  
 General Information about Switzerland: [www.switzerland.com](http://www.switzerland.com)  
 Switzerland Tourism: [www.myswitzerland.com](http://www.myswitzerland.com)  
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 Federal authorities: [www.admin.ch](http://www.admin.ch)  
 Swiss Embassy Washington: [www.swissemb.org](http://www.swissemb.org)

## NEW MEXICO

## Basler Fasnacht in New Mexico

Several years of preparation led to an extensive exhibition on carnival traditions from various parts of the world at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

An exhibit from the Basler Fasnacht has a prominent place in the display. Colorful and, for those who know, meaningful masks and costumes carry the visitor to the knee of the Rhine River under drum beating and piccolo tunes. A permanent DVD display is rounding off the beautiful picture.

The exhibition was opened to the public on November 19, 2004 in the presence of Mr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Ambassador of

Switzerland in Washington, as well as Mr. Armin Meile, Consul General of Switzerland in Houston. The Swiss living in New Mexico were invited to the event and many enjoyed meeting with the government representatives and fellow-countrywomen and fellow-countrymen.

A clique from Basel of around 30 persons plans to visit Santa Fe in Summer 2005, and the Swiss in the area will be invited to join the visitors from Switzerland in a gathering to be announced on a later date.

*Marie-Jeanne and  
G rard Chaney  
montebello@comcast.net* ■



Guests at the exhibition, from left to right: Mrs. Rosine Meile and Mr. Armin Meile, Consul General of Switzerland in Houston, Mrs. Marie-Jeanne Chaney, Santa Fe NM and Mr. Christian Blickenstorfer, Ambassador of Switzerland in Washington.

## TEXAS

## To the Swiss Living in the Houston Area

Let's all celebrate French language and culture during the month of March 2005! The annual celebration of International Francophony Day, on March 20<sup>th</sup>, is the occasion for some 170 million French-speaking people throughout the world to celebrate their language.

In 2005, thanks to the involvement of many partners, an extremely varied program of events will take place during the month of March in Houston. Through these events, which include exhibitions, concerts and film projections, you will be able to discover a rich spectrum of Francophone

artists, writers, actors, musicians and film producers.

As the program is not yet definitive, we invite you to go to our webpage [www.eda.admin.ch/](http://www.eda.admin.ch/)

[houston](#) (click on the link "cultural events" and follow the instructions) to find out more.

*Consulate General of  
Switzerland, Houston* ■

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### Family search:

We are looking for Elizabeth Hoessly Lee, born May 31, 1939, married to Thomas Lee. Her parents were Max Hoessly (1891-1963) and Helen Czerny Hoessly (1898-1992), naturalized American citizens of Swiss respectively Hungarian origin, who lived in Washington State.

We would also like to know if Elizabeth has children.

If you have any information regarding Elizabeth Hoessly and/or her children, please contact Philipp Hoessli, Technikumstrasse 72, CH-8400 Winterthur, Switzerland; phone 01141-52-2127864; e-mail [canophi@hotmail.com](mailto:canophi@hotmail.com)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# 25th Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival 2005

Come and join the "Harmonie" of Los Angeles and the other Choirs from the Pacific Coast. Spend four unforgettable days at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach. See and hear 250 singers, alphorn players and musicians on stage at

the Terrace Theater in Long Beach. Have a fun filled day at

the Swiss Park in Whittier where 12 choirs, numerous

soloists and the Swiss Ländler Gamblers will entertain you. Don't miss out on Hugo's Swiss specialities served throughout the day at Swiss Park. And you certainly don't want to miss the Yodeler Mass on Sunday morning on the grounds of the Hyatt Hotel!



The Swiss Singing Society "Harmonie" in front of the Matterhorn Room at Swiss Park in Whittier.

Foto: Teresa Lehmann

## All you need to know about Participation, Concert Tickets, Swiss Park Tickets etc. etc.

Reservations at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach.

Mention "Swissfest 2005" to get the special reduced rate of \$ 119.00 for a single or double room and \$ 139.00 for a triple or quadruple room per night. This is an excellent price considering that the Hyatt is a Five Star Hotel! You can start making your reservations now. Please call 1 800 233 1234 or go to [www.longbeach.hyatt.com](http://www.longbeach.hyatt.com).

### Buy a Festival Badge

The badge price is \$ 195.00. It includes

- Thursday evening meal with opening ceremony and entertainment.
- Friday non-singers excursion with lunch and after concert snack.
- Saturday bus transfer to Swiss Park, entrance fee Swiss Park, lunch and dinner.
- Sunday closing banquet with transfer of flag etc. to new host

society.

- All meals except Saturday are at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach.

### Buy Tickets for the Grand Concert on Friday Evening, June 24

Concert tickets are not included in the badge. They must be ordered separately. Cost is \$ 35.00 per ticket. However, for orders of 10 or more tickets the price will be reduced to \$ 30.00. Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Jeannette Meier at [tickets@swissfest2005.com](mailto:tickets@swissfest2005.com) or call her at 818 952 0396.

### Join us on Saturday, June 25 at the Swiss Park

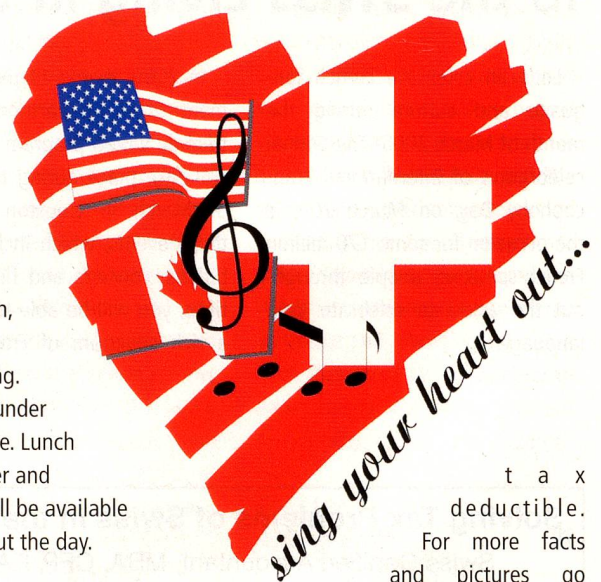
In the Matterhorn Room, the 12 choirs and the soloists will present individual performances. Outside under a large tent, there will also be continuous entertainment by

musicians, soloists and choirs. Entrance is

\$ 15.00 per person, including parking. Children under 14 are free. Lunch and dinner and snacks will be available throughout the day.

### Be a sponsor

From \$ 25.00 and up the possibilities are endless. Sponsor a Swiss Mountain, a Soloist, a Swiss Tracht, a Swiss Lake, a Swiss Canton – be a Benefactor, a Patron or simply a Friend. Check out our web-site or contact Angie Campos 310 833 1018. All donations are



tax deductible. For more facts and pictures go to our web-site [www.swissfest2005.com](http://www.swissfest2005.com). It contains all the above mentioned information as well as prices for individual events. If you don't have internet access, contact Wal Baur at 909 931 7708 or write to Swissfest 2005, 2364 Sunset Curv. Upland, CA 91784-1069  
Wal Baur

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA /  
NEVADA

## Belair Flights from San Francisco and Las Vegas

Starting June 30<sup>th</sup> the Swiss tour operator Hotelplan will resume its charter flights to and from the Bay Area after a successful re-launch last summer. Hotelplan, a Migros owned company, will again operate its own BELAIR Boeing 767-300 airplane nonstop from SFO to Zurich. 2005 will also feature a much-improved schedule with flights leaving SFO every Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. On the return flight, BELAIR will make a short stop in Las Vegas where customs will be cleared.

This flight will again be the only nonstop connection from the Bay Area to Switzerland and it seems that the old Balair and Swissair tradition is taking solid roots again. It is a commitment by Hotelplan to California as a tourist destination as well as to the Swiss American community that has been the loyal foundation of these flights in the past. In this spirit, it was at the annual Christmas luncheon of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce that the San Francisco/Las Vegas charter flight 2005 was officially launched and a free round

trip ticket raffled off.

Also at that exciting luncheon, some changes regarding distribution of the flights were announced. Brigitta Ammann, whose company, Jason Travel, had been synonymous with these flights for

by a big ovation from the over one hundred Swiss American business people present at the festive event.

In order to assure an even wider awareness of the BELAIR product and to assure future increase in

flight. In addition to that, "A to Z Travel Planners" in San Jose has agreed to handle the bulk of retail inquiries that went primarily through Fugazi Travel last summer. Owner Albert Zimmerman and his Swiss born wife are looking forward to assisting all interested parties with their needs. Finally, it should be mentioned that Fugazi Travel, as well as Gaby Burkert, will also continue to promote and sell BELAIR flights to their exclusive and loyal clientele.

Hotelplan is looking forward to an exciting summer in the Bay Area and between June 30 and September 8 there will hopefully be many of you returning to or discovering this "best kept transatlantic secret", either in one of the 210 Ecco seats or in the almost legendary RELAX CLASS. An attractive schedule and prices well below \$1000 should make this flight a big success. And the word is, that '05 summer travel to Europe will be heavy and seat availability limited. Go, and keep this Swiss-American tradition growing. Book a nonstop flight to Zurich soon!

*Herbert Mueller*

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many years, had decided that she wanted to focus entirely on her established, private clients in the future. A big "thank you" to Brigitta from Hotelplan's representative Herbert Mueller was followed

travel (and extended seasons?) BELAIR has contracted a specialist who will cater to the travel agent market. This should make it possible for every travel agent to get information and book this unique

## Call for Heirs - Josef Severin VETTIGER

Josef Severin VETTIGER, born on December 7, 1918, originally from Goldingen, Canton of St. Gallen died in Einsiedeln on February 27, 2003 where he was living at the Abbey.

Legal heirs are the de-

scendants from both his parents sides. One of them is Maria Engelina OBERHOLZER, born on April 5, 1904, also from Goldingen. Her place of residence is unknown. This heiress, or her descendants, are requested to contact the

Swiss authorities within three months of publication with proof of identity at the following address: Vormundschaftsbehörde Einsiedeln, Schwanenstrasse 42, Postfach 161, 8840 Einsiedeln.

If no legal heir is found

after three months, the inheritance of Maria Engelina Oberholzer will be handed over to a legal adviser according to Art. 393, cif. 3 of Swiss Civil Law.

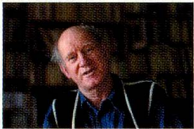
Einsiedeln  
November 24, 2004  
*The Guardianship Authorities*

## NEW YORK

## WHAT A YEAR ! With Swiss Peaks '04

What had started out as the Swiss Peaks Festival in February 2003 has been transformed into a series called Swiss Peaks '04 and on our doorsteps now the follow up Swiss Peaks '05.

Over 35 events were co-organized by the team of Swiss Peaks '04 with more than 30 local



**Author Franz Hohler narrated from his work**

partner firms and associations supported by the overall-sponsors: Pro Helvetia, Presence Switzerland, Ricola, Rolex, Swissinfo, Swiss International Air Lines, Swiss RE, Switzerland Tourism, UBS and Zimmer. Also to mention very importantly are the volunteers who made themselves available for the most impossible tasks...

As a member of the Swiss Peaks team and a Swiss citizen living in New York I would like to open this retrospective with a little personal remark: I believe, that you have to leave your country to fully understand and appreciate it. Working on such a variety of projects was a great pleasure for me. I have met many interesting people from all walks of life with very different backgrounds, experiences and stories, and the common base was our relation to Switzerland. It has opened my horizon enormously and at the same time brought me closer to my Swiss roots. It seems that fellow members of the Swiss Peaks team have developed the same thoughts and as a result of it created a new vision, namely to bring the Americans of Swiss origin back to their roots in a project called Swiss Roots planned for

next year. I won't divulge more at this point though, but keep your eyes and ears open for more 'Swiss' all over the United States!

### Swiss Peaks '04, a year of Swiss culture and education in Manhattan!

Swiss Peaks started the promotion of Swiss culture offering the opportunity to experience the opera "Die Schwarze Spinne/The Black Widow" by composer Heinrich Sutermeister (the adapted story of writer Jeremias Gotthelf), listen to concerts of renowned musicians such as the composer and oboist Heinz Holliger, composer and saxophonist Daniel Schnyder, the Koch-Schütz-Studer Trio (chamber music) and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich. Furthermore, we were able to listen to the poems of author and poet Giovanni Orelli, the narration of author and bal-



**Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey opened the first session of the Swiss-American Council for Women**

ladeer Franz Hohler, the homage to the famous writer Robert Walser, the discussion with Hugo Loetscher (novelist, literary critic and journalist) and the readings of author Silvio Huonder.

We attended movie and docu-

mentary screenings by and with actor/director Dani Levy, actor/director Bruno Ganz, a documentary on the Max Birnbach story (refugee in Switzerland) and many others during the Swiss Film Festival honoring the Locarno Film Festival. Last but not least, a film on the renowned artist Dieter Roth was shown in combination with the retrospective exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art. On another note Swiss Peaks participated as an exhibitor at the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages with 2,500 educators from 40 states and 10 foreign countries.

### Swiss Peaks '04, a year of Swiss Business and Politics in Manhattan!

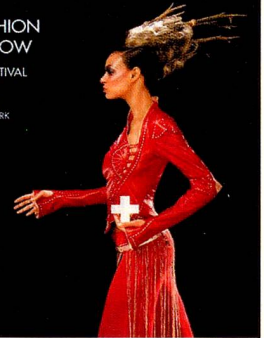
One of the highlights Swiss Peaks was able to celebrate was the foundation of the Swiss American Council of Women in presence of Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, with the goal of internationally strengthening and promoting the professional role of women. Walter Kielholz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Credit Suisse Group spoke with fellow panelists on Switzerland's involvement in the international financial system. A discussion between Klaus Schwab, Chairman of the World Economic Forum and Charlie Rose, one of America's prime interviewers was held to discuss the challenges that today's leaders face.

The Presidents and CEOs of LVMH Watch and Jewelry N.A. and the Swatch Group (US) were invited to discuss developments and trends of Swiss watches in the U.S.

market. Furthermore, a panel discussion was held between two signatories of the Geneva Initiative: Dr. Yossi Beilin and Dr. Nazmi Al-Jubeh. The speakers presented their assessment of the political situation in the Middle East and

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NOVEMBER 30, 2004



**Patrons at a Music Club could hardly believe their eyes when they were treated to a hip Swiss Fashion show.**

the accuracy of the Geneva Initiative. Also, a panel discussion on Swiss Banking Privacy was organized. In the field of exhibits, Swiss Peaks was present at CeBIT New York, the information and technology fair.

### Swiss Peaks '04, a year of Swiss Lifestyle in Manhattan!

Swiss Peaks surprised with a Swiss Fashion Show at a trendy music club in New York, which opened unknown vistas to the young and hip local crowd. During the food & wine festival connoisseurs had the opportunity to indulge in Swiss traditional and contemporary specialties with an 'imported' chef from Switzerland, Peter Brunner. The highlight of the summer and letting our Swiss heart's beat a little bit faster, were the festivities in honor of the Swiss National Day. The motto of the celebration was "Paint the Town Red" and with an enormous crowd of some 4000



The supporters for the New York Marathoin runners really "painted the town red"!

visitors considered a great success. Autumn was marked by the New York Marathon activities. On one hand the already traditional participation of Swiss Peaks at the New York Health and Fitness Expo, with the countless servings of Swiss Müslix, and on the other hand two Swiss cheering posts were again somewhat 'painting the streets red' (!). As the icing on the cake, Swiss runner Serge

Roetheli passed through New York City. He is an ambassador for Terre des Hommes and runs around the world accompanied by his wife on a motorcycle to promote children's rights all over the world in a campaign called "Run for Kids". They started in 2000 and will reach the finish line as intended this year, with 40,000 kilometers (25,000 miles) on their backs!

Coming back to my personal

remark in the beginning, I am very impressed by the achievements the Swiss were able to realize in 2004 and in my view these achievements

become even greater when exported into another country, enriched with local peculiarities and presented to the public, which is mixed in turn.

A brief look at [www.swiss-peaks.org](http://www.swiss-peaks.org) into the program of



The first of August celebration, with an enormous crowd of some 4000 visitors was a great success.

Swiss Peaks '05 will certainly whet your appetite and entice you to come and visit us in New York on one or the other occasion?!  
 Rosina Colazzo-Franzese  
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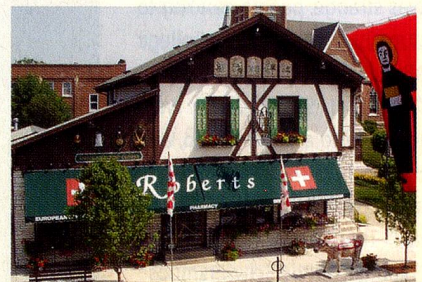
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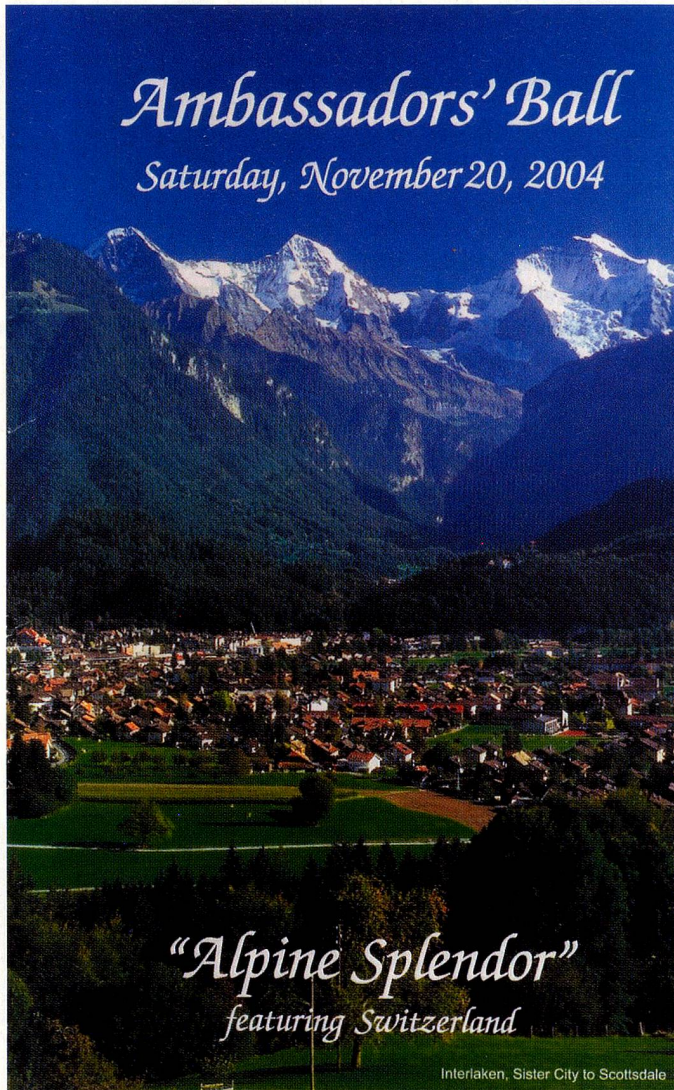
ARIZONA

# Ambassador's Ball in Scottsdale



**Beat and Käthy Hassenstein, owners Hotel Splendid, Interlaken. Käthy is wearing the traditional Bernese Costume adorned with beautiful silver chains and filigrees.**

"It was strange, people dancing to the tune of the Scottsdale College Big Band while summer pictures of "beautiful Switzerland" were projected onto a large screen, and we knew that the first snow had already covered the landscape at home." That was the impression the "Ländlerfründe Schwarzmoos" from Zweisimmen had when they were part of the annual "Ambassador's Ball" the Consular Corps in Arizona organizes each year. You

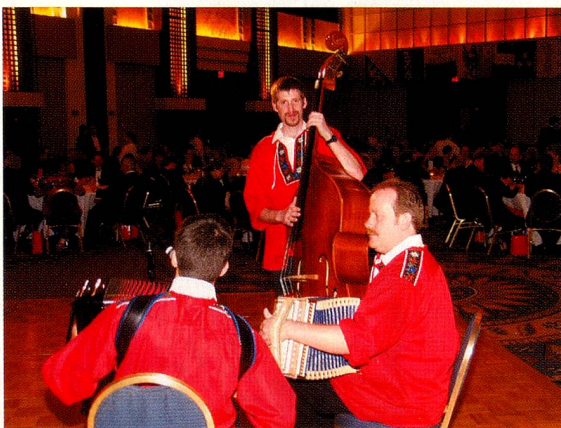


**A beautiful view of Interlaken, Sister City to Scottsdale, graced the Invitation to the Ball**



**Tom Graf plays the alphorn - the one and only way to open the festivities!**

Region and 26 large flags of the various Swiss Cantons decorated the dining room. While the 450 guests sipped champagne, the Ländlerfründe Schwarzmoos entertained with traditional folklore. And if that was not enough, then it was the gala dinner that made people feel they had been teleported to Switzerland. Executive Chef Manfred Roth from the Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel and Spa in Interlaken had been flown in to delight the crowd with among other things "Tasty Cream Soup of Bacon and Vegetables" (Bündner Hochziit Suppe modärn serviert) and "Veal Saddle Roasted in Traditional Swiss Style" (Churer Becki Braten vom Kalb mit Alpe Chrüter). Chasselas and Pinot Noir wine from Schernetz, the Swiss

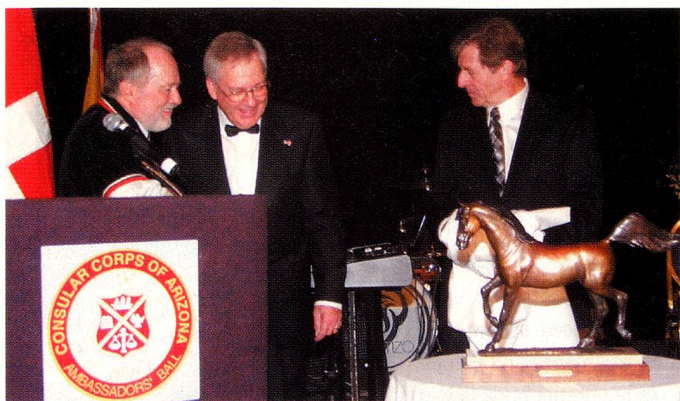


**Ländlerfründe Schwarzmoos entertaining the guests in the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort**

guessed it – this year it was Switzerland's turn! Max Haechler, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Arizona – Mr. Switzerland himself – had

worked tirelessly to organize this event. He had succeeded in not only getting his big boss, Christian Blickenstorfer, Swiss Ambassador from Washington, but also Franz Hunkeler, Consul General from Los Angeles, to travel to Scottsdale.

Interlaken being a sister city of Scottsdale, it was only natural that a 10-person delegation from that beautiful town, all wearing traditional Swiss costumes, were present to confirm the evening's motto "Alpine Splendor". A giant alpine panorama of the Jungfrau



Swiss Sculptor Andreas Schwab (far right) presenting his Arabian Horse Bronze to Ambassador Christian Blickenstorfer (middle) while Honorary Consul Max Haechler looks on.



They have reasons to smile: Max Haechler and his wife Elsbeth can look back with pride of what they have achieved!

wine region of the Lake of Biel, contributed to the happy atmosphere.

Numerous sponsors had donated prizes to the Raffle and Auction. One of the more intriguing items up for auction was a wedding or anniversary trip to Switzerland. The package included nine nights in three first-class hotels, a wedding or vow-renewal ceremony, photos and a guide.

It is a long-standing tradition to donate all the



Chef Manfred Roth from the Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel and Spa in Interlaken (center), coaching staff at the Hyatt Hotel

profits of this event to the Scholarship Endowment Fund of the Consular Corps of Arizona at Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management. Honorary Consul Max Haechler told me that this year's donation amounted to over \$ 90,000.00, which is a new

record. Congratulations!

For a list of sponsors and more pictures go to: [www.consularcorpssofarizona.org](http://www.consularcorpssofarizona.org) under "Ambassador's Ball 2004".

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# Book Reviews

**Alfred Defago**

## Was ist mit Amerika los?

**Beobachtungen aus einem Land, das anders denkt.**

"What's the matter with the US? – Observations from a country that thinks differently" is the loose translation of the title from the book written by Alfred Defago, former Consul General in New York and Ambassador of Switzerland in Washington and since 2001 Professor for International Relations at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, USA. So he should know what he is talking about! The 175

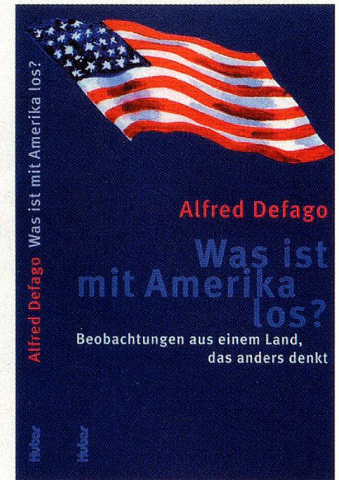
pages book contains several essays with titles like "The US and Europe: The end of a partnership", "Europe's conflicting America image", "An Empire that doesn't want to be one", "America's identity and the new Immigration", "Dilemma of a world power" and "Iraq and the consequences".

Professor Defago explains in a clear, precise and understandable language the reasons and motives that shaped the course of history

and influenced actions and reactions of America and Europe.

Although the book is written in German, I thought that sufficient readers in the US would be interested. Price: CH Fr. 39.80. It is available from Verlag Huber & Co 8501 Frauenfeld, Switzerland Phone: 011 41 52 723 5791 Fax: 011 41 52 721 4410 email: buchversand@huber.ch.

JB



**Bruna Moehl**

## Watch the Telltales

Once again Brunna Moehl presents us with an interesting story of a Swiss construction entrepreneur and local business tycoon who marries a German model and fashion designer in 1963. The following twelve years were a time of transformation in Switzerland's history where the booming economy gave the illusion of never ending prosperity. History buffs will

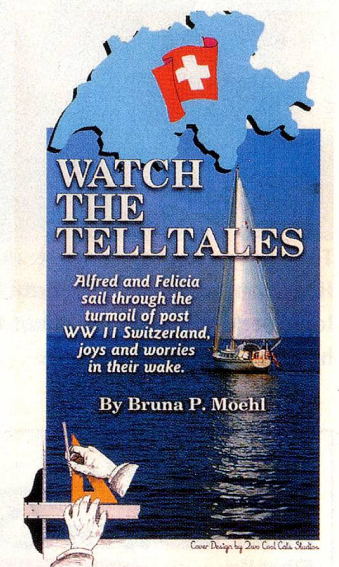
be presented with a variety of less known but quite interesting mores and customs from Switzerland and other parts of the world. Brunna Moehl's depiction of people affected by the war as well as the subsequent recovery is very much to the point. A nice book that keeps the suspense going to the last chapter.

Bruna Moehl and her husband

Albert moved to Florida nine years ago, after retirement. In Switzerland, Brunna had a job in the building industry for 30 years, and for this was a close witness of events and peculiarities described in her new book.

The book can be ordered from Brunna P. Moehl by e-mail: brunamoehl@aol.com or by mail: P.O. Box 1272, Mount Dora, FL 32756 and costs \$ 29.50.

JB



**Margaret Stucki**

## A Pictorial Autobiography of the Swiss-American Artist

"I am a portrait and figure painter, poet and historian in the great Occidental Christian Tradition." That is how Margaret Stucki defines herself. In this softcover book the reader will find some of Margaret's writings, letters from well known (Mother Teresa) and less known people and lots of paintings: An impressive selection of portraits, a lovely group of flowers and landscapes and some religious murals.

Margaret Stucki's art is very traditional. That's why she feels her works are not accepted in modern galleries in America today.

Born in 1928, shortly after her parents moved from Amriswil, Switzerland, to the US, Margaret discovered her artistic talent very early. As a senior at Cliffside Park High School she won a national award at Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh. Throughout the years, her

portraits have been praised again and again.

Margaret Stucki's book can be purchased for \$ 29.95 from Xlibris. E-mail: Orders@Xlibris.com. Fax: 215 923 4685, phone: 1 888 795 4274 ext. 276. The artist's work can be seen at www.livvart.com, P.O. Box 468, 5 East Oneida St. Preston, ID 83263.

WB

*Margaret Stucki*



A Pictorial Autobiography of the Swiss-American Artist (1928- ) In The Western Tradition

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## CALIFORNIA

## Dieter Meier - Film and Music Producer, Artist and Organic Rancher

Peripatetic pioneer Dieter Meier is at home on three continents. The son of a banker, he grew up in Zurich and studied law. He first drew attention to himself as an outstanding golf player and at 16 became member of the Swiss National Golf Team.

Artistically inclined, he directed short and feature films. His first feature "81'000 Units" was invited to the 1969 Cannes Film Festival. A music producer was interested in releasing Meier's first, rather eccentric record called "Cry for Fame". Since money was then not readily available to engage professionals to handle the sound system, he created his first pieces of music in a small home studio and termed his efforts amateurish.

Two years later, Meier met Boris Blank, a high priest in sound design, and together they founded the group YELLO. It revolutionized the music scene in Switzerland. The result was unbelievable success. Since 1979, YELLO has continuously released avant-garde electronic music and is considered the "Godfather of Techno" by music critics.

As a conceptual artist, Dieter Meier's work has been shown since 1971 in several museums (Kunsthhaus Luzern, New York Cultural Center, Documenta Kassel, Kunsthhaus Zurich and others). For his essays in the *Neue Zuercher Zeitung Folio*, he was awarded the Zurich Media Award, and for his music and video work he got the Art Award of Zurich in 1997.

In 1973, on a business trip to

Argentina with his father, Dieter Meier was deeply moved by the beauty and tranquility of its countryside. The vision to farm in Ar-



**Dieter Meier on his ranch in Argentina "Ojo de Agua" where he raises organic cattle and also grows corn, soy beans, lentils and wheat.**

gentina became a reality in 1996, when he got involved in organic farming and wine-producing. On his property, he raises Hereford cattle organically, which is somewhat surprising as the Argentines are strictly a conventional beef-eating population. Such matters, however, do not impede our pioneer, who pursues a vision when he is convinced of it. In the meantime, he has won Argentines over and also grows corn, soy beans, lentils and wheat organically.

The meat from his cattle is exported fresh to Switzerland where it has found wide acceptance. Meier intends to expand the market to other countries.

When Winter descends on his home town Zurich and the city is shrouded in fog and overhanging dark clouds, Meier escapes to Ar-

gentina. He usually stays for three months. His wife and four children accompany him for as long as their schedules allow it. Meier calls

unspoiled vast pastures, totally cut off from traffic and noise.

For three months - termed by schedules - Meier lives in Zurich where he has established a wine store "Ojo de Agua" in the center of town. And depending on projects, he can be in Los Angeles from weeks up to six months. In his home in Hollywood, he keeps a state-of-the-art postproduction sound studio built by the local Swiss company Studio Bauton.

The studio also serves digital mixing consoles of Euphonix, a Silicon Valley company which Dieter Meier took over with a group of investors. Major Oscar winning films such as the "Lord of the Ring" and TV shows have been mixed on Euphonic consoles. A worldly entrepreneur, Dieter Meier continues his industrious agenda. He does not let himself be hurried. He develops an idea and works on it until he is satisfied with its merit.

*Doris Ritzi* ■

### Search for missing person (Art. 36 ZGB)

The following person has not been heard of since 1969:

**Johanna Leu born Scheidegger, also known as Hanna Leu-Lane**, born on November 20 1898 in Aarwangen, canton of Berne, daughter of Anna Scheidegger born Kräuchli and Johannes Scheidegger. Her last known address was Box 533, Gold Beach, Oregon 97444.

Anybody who can give information about the missing person is requested to contact judge Fridolin Fassbind, Amtsgericht Luzern-Stadt, Postfach 6000, Luzern 5, Switzerland.

If no news are received within one year, this person will be declared legally missing.