

# Regional news : United States

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# REGIONAL NEWS UNITED STATES

## Editorial

### Dear Readers in the United States

One thing is for sure: You keep me on my toes! Once placed all the ads and articles I still had a nearly empty page 8. So, whether I liked it or not, I had to write something myself. Some years ago I had published articles for the Zürichsee-Zeitung so I went looking there for an inspiration. And lo and behold I found one, all about Trader Joe's and in particular the wine called "Two Buck Chuck". I translated it into English and then, off I went to take pictures. The front of the store was too dark so I would have to be back the next morning. Then inside I politely asked. The Manager said she had to go and consult with the supervisor and after some time she came back and said I needed an authorization from their head office and gave me a phone number to call. I bought one bottle each of the Charles Shaw wine who's price had risen to \$ 2.49.

It was too late to call the head office; I had to wait until Monday. But I lined up all the bottles and took pictures of them, so that, independently what the Company would tell me, I had some pictures for my article. On Monday, after some forth and back I was told that Trader Joe's has a policy to never ever allow somebody to take pictures inside the store. "How about the store front" I inquired. "Well, if you happen to stand on the sidewalk and just take a picture from there, I couldn't do anything about it!" That meant I was all go!!!

Then in came an e-mail from Puerto Rico. The Honorary Consul from there had tried to reach me and somehow her server didn't get it through at first. What should I do? It was the first time that an article from Puerto Rico was sent in, so -unselfish as I am - I offered her the last page and if you are lucky, you can read my article another time!

In Swiss Review # 2 we had an article about the solar powered catamaran. Well, it's getting more and more exciting! You probably already saw it in the news or heard it on the radio: The solar powered Swiss plane called "Solar Impulse" just started it's flight across the United States, from San Francisco all the way to New York without using a single drop of fuel. Read all about it on pages 4-5.

Hope you have fun. See you - hear from you after the summer. Next Swiss Review with Regional Pages is # 5, deadline September 9. Time to write down all your holiday adventures!

WAL BAUR

wbaur@roadrunner.com



## California

### The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies expands its global reach through a San Francisco Bay Area alumni chapter

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (the Graduate Institute) is an institution of research and higher education dedicated to the study of world affairs, based out of Geneva, Switzerland, an international city and a center of global governance. By intensely engaging with international organizations, NGO's, governments and multinational companies, it participates in global discussions and prepares future policy-makers to lead tomorrow's world. It aims to promote international cooperation and make a contribution to the progress of developing societies. More broadly, it endeavors to develop creative thinking on the major challenges of our time, foster global responsibility and advance respect for diversity. The Graduate Institute has recently gained an alumni chapter in the San Francisco Bay Area (the SFBA Alumni Chapter). This further reinforces the Graduate Institute's current marketing and recruiting campaigns aimed towards increasing its global visibility and reinforcing existing academic ties around the globe.

Through the volunteer efforts of alumni Philippe Sion and Loytavian Harrell, the Graduate Institute has welcomed the SFBA Alumni Chapter to its stable of alumni chapters and ambassadorships around the world. In a few short months, the SFBA Alumni Chapter has grown from 18 to 25 members and held 3 very successful events. The Chapter also represented the Graduate Institute at local graduate school fairs held by Idealist, the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs and the American Anthropological Association.

"The SFBA Alumni Chapter will focus on supporting the Graduate Institute's recruiting and academic efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area, engaging and collaborating with European-based or focused organizations and networking at professional and social levels," said Philippe Sion. "Our alumni chapter is extremely diverse," added Loytavian Harrell, "with nationalities that span the globe, graduation years that range from the 1970s up through this past September 2012, and degrees that include history, law, public policy and other fields. This really mirrors the DNA of the Graduate Institute."

The SFBA Alumni Chapter looks forward to undertaking its member-driven mandates and facilitating contact between prospective students and academic professionals.

For more information, please contact the SFBA Alumni Chapter at [sfba.chapter@graduateinstitute.ch](mailto:sfba.chapter@graduateinstitute.ch)

PHILIPPE SION AND LOYTAVIAN HARRELL



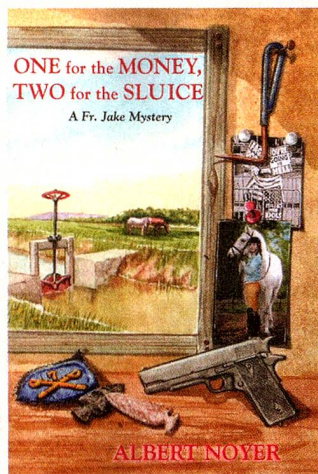
Philippe Sion and Loytavian Harrell with Bertrand Piccard in the middle, shortly before the launching of Solar Impulse's flight



## Book Review

### One for the Money, Two for the Sluice

By Albert Noyer



Several characters from the first Fr. Jake Mystery, *The Ghosts of Glorieta*, re-appear in this sequel.

Two months after beginning a sabbatical year in Providencia, New Mexico, 70-year-old Michigan priest Casimir "Fr. Jake" Jakubowski and Detective Sonia Mora receive word of a 3-month-old fetus found in an irrigation sluice. Discovered on property belonging to wealthy Don Fernando, Sonia questions the angry rancher, who asks Fr. Jake why God did not prevent a horse-related accident that killed his pious wife, Isabel, and left him to raise Dulci, their 5-year-old daughter. Suffering from Prolonged Grief Disorder, Fernando maintains a bizarre photo shrine to his dead wife and treats Dulci as still being five years of age. When this

delays the girl's pubertal development, he brings Millie Jaramillo, a Mexican-trained folk healer, to help her with Curanderismo practices. Now eighteen, Dulci struggles to throw off her father's unhealthy fixation.

David Allison and Breanna Springer come to arrange a funeral with Fr. Jake for a Sgt. Adam Salazar. Anthropologist Jayson Baumann arrives to excavate the Fort Providence cemetery for remains of Civil War Apache scouts. After Sonia infuriates Fernando by reopening the death of his wife, witnesses are found dead before they can testify. As out-state church members picket Salazar's funeral, Breanna wreaks vengeance on a youth pastor who had abused her and endangers Fr. Jake's life. The deaths accompany discord in Providencia: an Indian Graves Registration agent fears smallpox contamination in Jayson's dig; La Llorona, "The Weeping Woman," haunts the sluice, searching for her drowned children. Fr. Jake's vacation at a Jemez Springs cottage proves deadly, and a thwarted escape plan results in Fernando's ranch becoming an equine sanctuary. Could Dulci recover by working with abused horses? What is San Isidro's role in this compelling mystery? The book is available at Amazon.com.

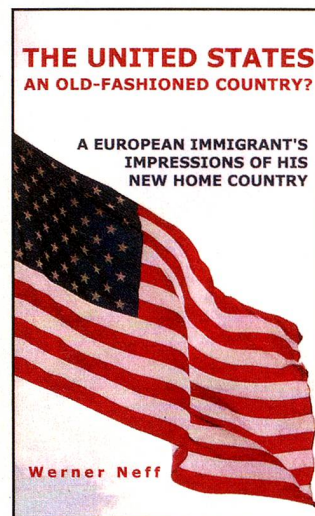
ALBERT NOYER

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## Book Review

### The United States – An Old-Fashioned Country?

By Werner Neff



The subtitle of the book is "A European immigrant's impressions of his new home country." The interesting thing is, that Werner Neff only moved to the US in 2010, after his retirement. His motivation was his American wife who suffered from Alzheimer's and felt safer being cared for by people who spoke

her own language. He immediately began familiarizing himself with the United States. The chapters in his book are

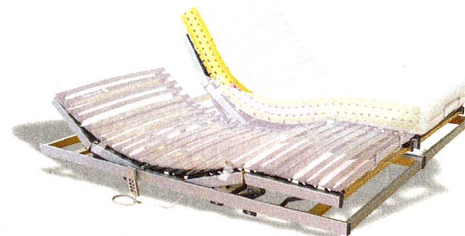
- 1 Immigration and First Impressions
- 2 Two Nations – Comparing Cultures
- 3 The Social Welfare
- 4 The United States and the World
- 5 The United States in 2012
- 6 Wishes and Outlook

It was fun for me to compare my first impressions, many years back, and those of somebody who arrived only a short while ago. The chapter about Social Welfare compares the systems in Switzerland and the US. I found that very interesting. Neff's thinking and reasoning are always colored by his opinion of his home country.

If you want to know more, go to Amazon.com where you can order the book. Werner Neff can be contacted at [wer.neff@gmail.com](mailto:wer.neff@gmail.com).

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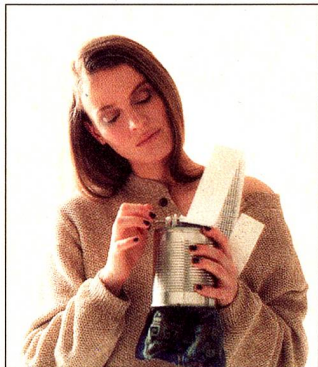
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*New York*  
*Swiss Singer*  
*Emilie Weibel*

"I saw a rather fascinating vocal performance on Friday night at Two Moon Art House and Cafe in Brooklyn. This is only the second "Solo Voice" concert by the young Swiss singer-songwriter Emilie Weibel, and there is doubtless much refinement to come. What is striking about her show is that she travels light, just her voice, a looper, a sampler, a few essentials to connect the devices to the speakers, a book of poetry by Mallarme, and a homemade music box with a player strip she punched herself. She uses the looper to accompany her own voice with itself and build layers of sound live and mostly in the moment. The effect is exceptionally delicate at times, playfully idiosyncratic, and sometimes stirring, a sort of musical bricolage that reminded me of everything from the Sym-

bolist poets, to Dada and the Futurists, the onomatopoeic conceits and childlike fancies of the "Banquet Years", and – given the technology she was using – the eccentricities of more recent artists in the vein of Bjork. The fruitful irony of all these associations is that they

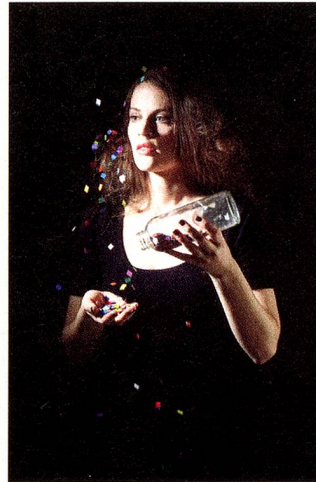


add up to something original rather than borrowed. I look forward to what the future holds for this very intriguing project."

JOHN OSBURN (SEPTEMBER 2012)

Emilie Weibel is a Swiss singer and songwriter from Lausanne

located in Brooklyn. Her repertoire is a multi lingual brew of jazz experimental, pop and electronics including her originals. This project is strongly influenced by her experience as a foreigner in New York and the physical, emotional and musical connection she has with her



home country; Switzerland. The name of this project is oMoO, which means the island wanderer. It is inspired by Herman Melville who as a sailor and writer had to adapt to new realities through constant travel, adventures and search always keeping his own critical and intellectual eye on things.

The fact that she is singing just in solo with voice is also part of her concept. The oMoO is about accepting our own vulnerability and identity in a world always changing.

Emilie often performs in New York. Her last show at Cornelia Street Cafe April 10th 2013 made



it for the Ten Best Concert of the Week in The Village Voice among Mika and Fleetwood Mac. Emilie is planning a tour in Europe next year and is also about to record her first album "oMoO" this coming fall.

EMILIE WEIBEL

www.emilieweibel.com  
 dimadear@gmail.com

**Appeal for legal heirs to come forward**

**EL120357-L.** Deceased on 16.03.2012, last abode in Zurich:

Armando Gobbi, born on 07.01.1927 in Losone TI, from Lugano TI, son of Enrico Gobbi, born on 11.07.1896, deceased on 20.02.1981 and of Martha Franziska Gobbi (née Tresch), born on 15.05.1901, deceased on 23.10.1966

An appeal is herewith issued for the **descendants of the parental family** to come forward to claim the inheritance:

- a) any possible children, i.e. descendants of the brother Costantino Gobbi, born on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1924 and deceased in September 2006
- b) any possible children, i.e. descendants of the brother Valente Gobbi, born on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1932 and deceased on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2009

The called upon persons are herewith instructed to get in touch with the undersigned authority within one year of the publication of this appeal for legal heirs to come forward. They are requested to submit suitable documentation as evidence of their inheritance rights. If they fail to do so, they shall not be considered for the distribution of the estate.

Correspondence has to be submitted in the German (or French, Italian, English) language.

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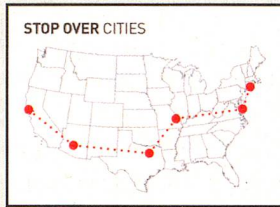
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## Solar Impulse across America

This spring, the airplane built by Swiss-based team Solar Impulse will fly across the US without using a single drop of fuel.

Swiss pilots and co-founders, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, will attempt their first coast-to-coast flight, departing from San Francisco in early May and arriving in New York City mid-July after stop-overs in Phoenix, Dallas, Saint Louis, and Washington D.C.



To date, Solar Impulse has established 5 certified FAI world records in the category of solar aviation:

- Duration: 26h, 10 min, 19 sec
- Absolute altitude: 9,235 m / 30,300 ft
- Gain of height: 8,744 m / 28,688 ft
- Free distance along a course:



Solar Impulse on a test-flight over Switzerland

© solarsystems-usa.net

1,116 km  
· Straight distance pre-declared waypoints: 1,099.3 km

The adventurous pilots will once again push the technological limits of experimental aviation to new dimensions. It will be the first crossing of America in an airplane capable of flying 24 hours non-stop day and night powered exclusively by solar energy, and the last adventure before an even bigger exploit: a zero-fuel round-the-world flight in stages, using only the power of the sun, which is planned for 2015.

Solar Impulse's aircraft HB-SIA is in itself a technological wonder, with the wingspan of a jumbo jet (63.4m/208 ft), the

small car (1600kg / 3,527 lb), and the power of a scooter. The revolutionary, Swiss-made carbon fiber plane demonstrates how modern day challenges can be addressed by creativity and innovation, with many of the technologies employed also applicable to sectors beyond aviation. The HB-SIA is the result of seven intense years of work, calculations, simulations and tests by a team of about 70 people and 80 partners.

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April 24, 2013. Glorious test-flight over the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco

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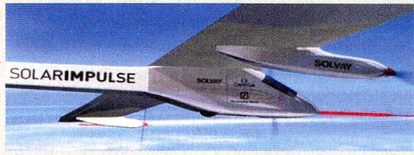
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View of the cockpit from below

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strand of human hair. They simultaneously provide four electrically driven propellers with renewable energy while recharging four packs of lithium-polymer batteries, thus enabling the plane to fly 24 hours non-stop day and night at an average speed of 43.5 mph/70 km/h. Solar Impulse's endeavor is a shining example of Swiss innovation and pioneering spirit. As a global innovation leader, Switzerland has not only the highest innovation performance in Europe but it also leads the Global Competitiveness Report and the Global Innovation Index. Moreover, Switzerland is home to the

highest number of Nobel laureates per capita in the world. Solar Impulse has tapped into this expertise and the innovative capital of Switzerland, while also securing a number of Swiss partners, such as Omega, Schindler and Swiss Re Corporate Solutions. Similarly, Solar Impulse reflects Switzerland's commitment to the pressing issues of sustainability and clean energy. The project aims to foster the adoption of clean technologies and to change people's attitudes towards energy consumption, by illustrating how innovation can contribute to the improvement of energy efficiency. The Solar Impulse project is further fuelled by Switzerland's diversity and multiculturalism, bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds to reach new horizons. At the zenith of the coast-to-coast flight is the friendship between two sister republics and Swiss-American collaboration in

the realms of research, innovation and sustainable development. The US is Switzerland's most important research partner worldwide, with 21% of all foreign affiliate R&D spending of Switzerland flowing into the US. Switzerland is the largest investor in research and development in the US and Solar Impulse's enterprise reinforces this deep partnership. Solar Impulse aims to inspire and motivate as many people as possible throughout its journey across America. The various events organized by Swiss representations in the US are an integral part of the flight's mission. From high-level political meetings to press conferences and educational initiatives,

Solar Impulse and its partners will connect individuals, build communities, and share a passion that sparks the imagination. An idea born in Switzerland, brought to America, and lauded around the globe – the Consu-



April 24, 2013. Golden Gate Flight. Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg walking to the runway

Photo: © Solar Impulse | N. Ackermann

late General of Switzerland in New York is proud to be part of this adventure!

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*California*  
**Swiss Singer Scilla**

Scilla is a singer/songwriter from Switzerland based in Los Angeles. She has had considerable media exposure in Switzerland having been on several major radio and TV shows including "Switzerland's Got Tal-

ian Conservatory before exploring other genres such as pop, rock, R&B, blues, and musical theater at the Academy of Voice in Milan. After graduating from high school in 2008, where her emphasis was on mathematics and science, Scilla decided to focus on her artistic career. She



ent" in 2012. She reached 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Swiss-Italian final of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2011 and reached the top 10 nationally at the Swiss final of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2010 with her song Barbie Doll, which was broadcast live on three major TV stations (SF1/RTS/RSI). Born in Lugano, Switzerland, Scilla speaks English, Italian, German, Swiss German and French. Her passion for being on stage was noticed at an early age. She was singing opera when she was twelve at the Swiss-Ital-

was accepted at a highly respected Musical School in Milan, founded by Saverio Marconi, a well-known Italian musical Director, where she studied singing, acting and dancing. Scilla came to the US in 2010 and earned a degree in Music Business from the Musician's Institute of Hollywood in 2011 and a degree in Independent Music Production at UCLA in 2012. She is now pursuing her career as a singer/songwriter in Los Angeles performing in various clubs such as The Roxy On The Rox



and the House of Blues among others. As a songwriter and performer, Scilla won the Silver Award in the 29th Annual Mid-Atlantic Song Contest in the vocal jazz and blues category with her song "Champagne and Sugar" co-written with Nitanee Paris. Being on different national Swiss TV shows, Scilla's talent was recognized and endorsed by

Guess in Europe and Hairdreams USA. Scilla is currently working on her new pop/blues EP. Contact: scillasmusic@hotmail.com www.scillamusic.com www.facebook.com/scillamusic www.youtube.com/scillamusic www.soundcloud.com/scilla www.twitter.com/scillamusic

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*North Carolina  
Swiss Society of  
Charlotte*

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, we participated in the second World Parade and Festival, held at Independence Park in Charlotte. It was a sunny and beautiful day and the many visitors enjoyed the multicultural mix with dances and costumes, including various ethnic food stands. A big thank you to our members who volunteered to be at our tent, marched in the parade or spent time talking to people about Switzerland.



It cannot get more "swissy" than that!

The family picnic with our friends from the Alemannia Society was held again at the Colonel Francis Beatty Park in Charlotte on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Grilled Bratwurst with rolls and refreshments of all kinds, desserts and so on, started off the spring season of 2013. For the people who needed to exercise afterwards, the walking and biking trails or the close by soccer fields were waiting. We wish everyone a great summer and hope to see you soon at one of our activities.

WALTER HESS



Our Swiss flag, fluttering amongst many others



Picnic at Colonel Beatty Park with our German friends



This is our younger generation

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## Puerto Rico Important visitors

The first quarter of 2013 turned out to be a busy time in Puerto Rico. The Swiss Club of Puerto

Rico. The lunch on that Sunday turned out to be a very lively affair with close to 100 persons attending – members and non-members of the Club and friends

ceived when she was a Red Cross nurse during the war. She had a few interesting stories to tell from her life. To our knowledge she is also the only person in Puerto Rico who speaks

Manuel Sager and his wife Christine spent some days vacationing on our "Island of Enchantment". It was greatly appreciated that they accepted an invitation to the monthly



The Swiss community of Puerto Rico with (front row standing) 5th from left Honorary Consul Barbara Hostettler, Consul Nicoletta Regazzi, Mrs. Tina Guetg, Ambassador François Barras  
Photo: Pierre Hostettler

Rico scheduled its general assembly for January 27, so that it would coincide with the official visit of Consul General of Switzerland in New York, Ambassador François Barras and Consul Nicoletta Regazzi to

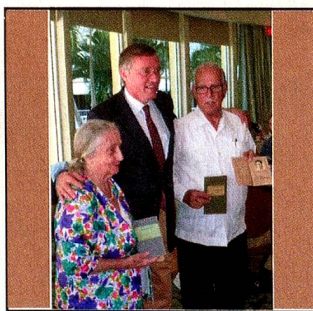
of Switzerland. One of the highlights came when the oldest member of the Swiss community, Mrs. Tina Guetg of 92 years showed everybody her first Swiss passport, as well as her "Dienstbüchlein" which she had re-

Romansh. She was then joined by Mr. Ernst Lindenmann of 81 years who had also brought his "Dienstbüchlein" for "show and tell". In February the Ambassador of Switzerland in the USA, Mr.

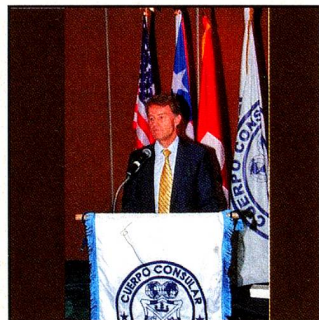
luncheon of the Consular Corps of Puerto Rico. Ambassador Sager addressed the Consuls to tell them how Switzerland "ticks", speaking about the political and educational system, as well as the relations of Switzerland with the European Union.

All our guests were fascinated with the Island of Puerto Rico. They were spoiled with the most beautiful weather and got to appreciate the colonial city of Old San Juan, as well as the beautiful beaches.

BARBARA HOSTETTLER  
HONORARY CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND  
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Ambassador Barras with Tina Guetg and Ernst Lindenmann, both proudly showing their old passports and Dienstbüchlein  
Photo: Pierre Hostettler



Ambassador of Switzerland in the USA Manuel Sager addressing the Consular Corps of Puerto Rico  
Photo: Eliza Llenza



Alejandro Cobo, Vice-Dean of the Consular Corps and Consul of Colombia, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Barbara Hostettler, Mrs. Christine Sager, Ambassador Manuel Sager, Mrs. Kate Donnelly de Romero and Mr. Carlos Romero Barceló, former Governor of Puerto Rico  
Photo: Eliza Llenza

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