

Editorial *Dear Readers in the United States*

We had quite a bit of rain, which we desperately needed, so no complaints. The hills behind our house are greener every day. My garden starts putting on a show. But spring does not arrive light-footed in Southern California! The weatherman on TV announced unseasonably warm weather, with temperatures in the eighties. That's when there is no more holding me back. Off I drove to the garden center where I realized that like migrating birds that receive an invisible sign to fly off all at the same time, we all flocked to the nursery! I came home not only with a tomato plant and several edible herbs, but also with new flowers.

In all this warmth and springy feeling, I am thinking of my new friend, Willis from Homer, Alaska. He and his wife have a wonderful garden, but I am sure they cannot yet think about the new planting season. Willie had contacted me, saying that we mostly publish articles about people living in big cities and that we should also consider folks that live in the country side. So here he is on page 5. Mission accomplished!

I hope you like the other articles too, some art stuff, some Swiss Club News and a sheep dog! Have fun with it!

WAL BAUR, EDITOR



I am supposed to always include a picture of me. This one was taken at a Chinese New Years dinner, probably at the moment when I realized that I had won the door prize. The lady who took the picture is not a star photographer, but I thought you might get a kick out of it!

Oklahoma First Honorary Consul of Switzerland for the State of Oklahoma

On August 11, 2009 Consul General Claudio Leoncavallo from the Atlanta Consulate instituted Rico Buchli as the first Honorary Consul of Switzerland for the State of Oklahoma at an official reception at the



Consul General Claudio Leoncavallo



New Honorary Consul Rico Buchli

Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Rico was welcomed by numerous representatives from the governmental, political and business environment and a few members of the Swiss Club of Oklahoma. The next day both Claudio and Rico visited Tulsa and were honored by about 30 members of the Swiss Club at the home of President Andre Siegenthaler. The appointment of Rico will be a significant support to promote Switzerland in Oklahoma.

ANDRE SIEGENTHALER
SIGI21@COX.NET

Call for heirs

Bethli Stephanie Keller née Rüfli,

widowed, born on 14th March 1928 in Lengnau/BE, Swiss citizen from Lindau/ZH, daughter of Arnold Rudolf Rüfli, born on 8th July 1902 and deceased on 18th July 1970, and of Stephanie née Stämpfli, born on 13th June 1903 and deceased on 1st June 1985, last place of residence at Spirgartenstr. 2, 8048 Zurich.

The following persons from the grandparental kinship are called upon to register for succession:

On the father's side:

Any descendants of the father's full-blooded brother Hans Rüfli, born on 20th January 1905 and evidently deceased;

On the mother's side:

Antonietta Dolores Bodenmann, born on 30th October 1920 in Giubiasco/TI, Swiss citizen from Martisberg/VS, or – should she already be deceased – her descendants.

The persons appealed for are herewith requested to notify the undersigned public office within one year from the first date of publication of the present appeal for heirs. In doing so, they will have to present appropriate documents showing their quality as heirs; otherwise, they will be disregarded in the inheritance procedure.

Any application to the District Court of Zurich should be filed if possible in one of the official Swiss languages (German, French, Italian) or in English.

Zurich, on 26. Januar 2010

District Court of Zurich, Inheritance
P. O. Box
8026 Zurich, Switzerland

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Next Regional News

Swiss Review 3/10
Deadline USA June 23, 2010
Approx. Arrival USA Beginning of Sept. 2010

Swiss Review 3/10
Deadline USA Sept. 1st, 2010
Approx. Arrival USA Middle of November

Texas
Veronique Zehnder Hahn
"citizen of the world"

Veronique Zehnder Hahn, a Swiss citizen and artist whose travels have made her a true "citizen of the world" has found a



Meditative Landscape Nr. 1

home and developed an avid following in the Texas Hill Country, the home of several prominent cowboy artists, with her abstract impressions of nature.

Born in Casablanca, Morocco—her father was a Swiss scientist working there—she spent part of her youth in the United States. She returned to Switzerland for her early education before receiving a degree in Fine Arts at the College of Higher Education for the Arts in Arnhem/Netherlands.

She moved with her husband Dittmar, from Holland back to Switzerland and then back to the United States. He is a biology professor at Texas State

University-San Marcos. From her biologist husband, she has developed a flair for "looking at nature with different eyes." She uses vibrant strong colors as well as pastel and gold to give different aspect interpretations. "Nature itself symbolizes a world to retreat in, to seek peace and serenity," she said.

Zehnder Hahn has exhibited at shows in France, Germany and Switzerland as well as the United States and currently has work on display at "The Village" in New York City, Missouri and New Jersey.

She does not limit herself to artwork alone but has penned three children's books combining her art and text: "Zara and the Magical Slippers," "Hisham the Little Scorpion" and "Leila the Magical Spider."

"I love the cultural richness of San Marcos and the Texas Hill Country and would like to leave something behind to contribute culturally to society," she said, "my abstract artwork does not only landscape/nature but also many impressions of different cultures. Symbols do play a role



Illustration: La Perla/A Fairy Tale
 but I leave it open to the interpretation of the viewer."

Veronique is not the only artist in her family as she and her daughter Sabine will show their works at the "Ortmuseum Bären in Richterswil/Switzerland" July 2-11, 2010. Sabine said she is "very excited to participate in this special opportunity with her mother."

Example of Zehnder Hahn's work can be seen on her website www.veroniquezehnderhahn.com and she can be contacted at info@veroniquezehnderhahn.com

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California
Art for your Soul....

The bubbly voice of Swiss Artist Monika Steiner lifts your spirits and makes you curious: Who is this artist? Monika grew up near Berne. After teaching for a few years, Wanderlust struck her, and eventually she asked for a



Emergence

sabbatical to spend a few months in the US. Unable to put her teaching credential to good use in the small idyllic city of Petaluma, CA, Monika turned to her hobbies and continued what

she thought was dabbling in various craft forms. Then she enrolled in the Art program of the Sonoma State University and her world changed. With the nurture of fine art mentors, she discovered her talent and fell in love with the meditative approach to painting.

Her paintings are of abstract nature as she explores the tactile experience between perception and reality, capturing fractions of a thought like a snapshot in time by gifting it eternal life. She looks for interconnectedness of the soul and the universe and strives to describe the archetypal harmony in the universe, bringing its balance to life through her abstract paintings. Listening to this 38 year old artist, you are intrigued yet not surprised about her references to philosophy, metaphysics and a whiff of Buddhism. "To understand abstract art", Monika states, "requires the observer to immerse his/her soul." Her bubbles appear trapped under ice, someday to be freed like the

subconscious mind ready to evolve into reality when the "ice" melts. In her art, Monika Steiner brings opposites into balance and transforms a single moment into eternity. Monika may modestly contribute her discovery and success to a streak of luck of being in



Turning Point

the right place at the right time – but is it only luck? One thing lead to another. Absorbed by painting, one day the artist suffered a severe equestrian accident falling from her horse.

Three of her vertebrae were crushed or cracked. Monika was informed that she might be a paraplegic victim. She thought returning to Switzerland would be her only option. During her painful recovery, a vision urged her to stay in California and continue painting. Monika almost fully recovered and considers that painful time her spiritual growth opportunity that re-defined her, giving her the opportunity to look at life differently. Several galleries in the San Francisco area carry Monika Steiner's art. She is presently preparing for her next exhibition in September/October 2010 at the Micaela Gallery at 49 Geary Street in San Francisco. Of course you may want to contact the artist directly through her website:

www.monikasteiner.net.
 Enjoy Monika's philosophic art and allow it to speak to your heart.

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Utah Labor Day Weekend in Midway

(Swiss Days & Soldier Hollow International Sheep Dog Trials)
Each year on Friday and Saturday of Labor Day Weekend, the town of Midway, Utah is buzzing with excitement. It's Swiss



Alberto Stern and his Border Collie Tweed

Days! Swiss flags are everywhere. There is a parade, singing, yodeling, bell ringing, traditional Swiss foods, local crafts, and many other activities. In the mid 1800's, Swiss Mormon emigrants came to Midway, Utah, a beautiful wide valley beneath snow capped mountains resembling the Bernese Alps! Even today, mailboxes still sport Swiss German names, and the faces of residents

look somehow familiar. www.midwaycityut.org
By Sunday morning, the streets were quiet again. We took the opportunity to drive to the nearby Soldier Hollow area, location of the cross-country

venue of the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics. It is here that the annual International Sheep Dog Trials are held. www.soldierhollowclassic.com. This event is the most prestigious competition in the World. In 2009, it attracted over 24'000 visitors.

We watched in fascination as the sheep herding dogs (Border Collies) patiently sat next to their handlers, awaiting the command or whistle. Racing up the steep hill toward a group of wily mountain sheep, it was the dog's job to bring them down the hill, keeping them bunched together, herding them through a series of gates, and into a small corral, all while the clock was ticking. With their mission completed, the dogs' reward was a cool splash in a tub of water. Smiles from the audience reflected the instant pleasure these amazing animals were enjoying.

There was one competitor who stood out among the others, and he was a crowd favorite.

Dr. med. vet. Alberto Stern from Lostallo, GR with his dogs Tweed



Checking out the flock

and young Jimmi always had an appreciative smile and friendly wave for the viewers. Since 2005, Alberto Stern and Tweed have consistently had excellent results at similar trials in Switzerland and throughout Europe,



Alberto Stern and Tweed in full action

including Vice Swiss-Champion in 2006, 3rd in 2007, 3rd with the Swiss team at the World Trials in Wales in 2008, and 1st in the Dutch Open 2007.

With such an impressive performance record, 2009 was Alberto Stern's second invitation for the prestigious Soldier Hollow International Sheep Dog Trials. He and Tweed managed a remarkable 7th place among the 34 handlers and 62 dogs from all over the World.

Alberto Stern has once again received an invitation for the 2010 Sheep Dog Championships, and he is looking for sponsorship of any kind. If you or someone you

know can help him make this dream come true, please contact him at www.creuscfarm.ch.

MONIKA MÜHLEBACH WESCOTT
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Tweed relaxing in his "spa" after a job well done

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Alaska
Willie from Homer

His colleagues said: "Why don't you go and look in Alaska?" That was in 1970, when Willie came back to Aspen, Colorado, and couldn't find work. And the rest is history!



The harbour of Homer, Alaska

Lets start from the beginning: Willie Suter was born in 1942 in Switzerland and grew up in Wettingen and Wohlen, canton of Aargau. He wanted to be a cook, but his father said he needed somebody with administrative



Willie preparing fish for smoking

skills. So that's what he learned. When he was 22 years old, he came to the United States. So many products were marked

"Made in USA" that he had to come and see for himself – and he was hooked. Slowly he followed the saying "Go West Young Man" until he ended up in Aspen in 1967, landing a job cooking at the Red Onion Restaurant. Finally he was doing what he lo-

ved. After three years working and saving, he had to satisfy one of his greatest wishes – to see Africa. So he went there and during one year traveled all over in a Land Rover.

In 1970 he came back to Aspen – see beginning of story! He ended up in Homer. From that time, he says himself: "I drove a truck while the pipeline was being built, had all my possessions in a trailer, worked in camps as a cook, had no plan, just lived from one day to the next, made a few bucks, went places

down South or Europe, came back here to make more 'dough'... What a bum!" Then, in Munich, he met the



The house Willie and Brigitte built themselves

kind of woman who was interested in what he did. Brigitte came to Homer to check things out and soon they were married. The twin boys Paul and Arley arrived in 1986. Before he had worked on the water, on research vessels, fishing boats or tugboats, but with a growing family he wanted to settle down. In 1990 Willie and Brigitte were ready. They startet their all home made house and cabins, Bavarian and Swiss Style, unearthing talents they had no idea slumbered within. Brigitte's Bavarian Bed and Breakfast was born. Here, dear reader, you should move over to your computer and check out the web-site: aksm.com/brigitte with pictures from the B&B and the surroundings. Even nicer pictures show up

when you click on the German version of the web-site. Or watch some homemade movies on youtube: www.youtube.com/user/alaskawill#p/. See Willie filleting a King salmon or his wife Brigitte unearh Brussel sprouts from under the snow. Try to count how many kinds of flowers grow in their lush surroundings! No doubt, the family is happy. One of the twin boys lives with his parents; the other one is in Homer itself. Willie says: "Most everything that is possible to grow we do and put it in the root cellar, can, freeze, dry or smoke it. There is so much edible stuff in our freezers, we feel rich". And indeed they are!

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California
Art Forms Meet The Spirit of Figugel

"Kunscht isch guet und git e gueti Luune." On February 6, in Mountain View, California, the Swiss Peninsula Club partnered with the Swiss Cultural Committee to hold a cocktail reception and fondue dinner showcasing well-accomplished and world renowned Swiss artists living in the Bay Area.

Mona Coran displayed photographs of her vibrant art murals dramatically transforming street blocks. She aptly captures the

Geneva's mixed media artist, **Sylvie Serex-Bonnet** conveys deep and intense feelings with plays on shadow and light in her *Mémoires Oubliées* collection. Photography made a strong showing with **Hans Mauli's** vintage European photographs demonstrating his refined ability to capture the energy of the streets and the expression of characters. His black and white fine art photos are in touch with the passing moments of life in such cities as Aarau, Paris, and San Francisco.

Displaying modern trends in



Keisuke Nakagoshi and Eva-Maria Zimmermann (ZOFU Duet)

Picture by Peter Thoeny

personal and collective voice of San Francisco, as well as the natural setting of her Ticino canton. With influential roots in Bern, **Monika Steiner** presented abstract oil paintings on wood and canvas with the use of muted and bright strokes of color. (See separate article on page 3.)

graphic design out of Basel and Frankfurt, **Juliette Tinnus** creates surrealistic scenes with the placement and lighting of everyday items in extraordinary ways. In perfect pairing with these visual artists, Chaskinakuy members, **Edmond Badoux** from Lausanne and **Francy Vidal**, performed traditional village sounds of the Andes Mountains

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At the reception. Unknown guests, except the third lady from left to right (with long brown hair) who is photographer Juliette Tinnus.

Picture by Peter Thoeny



Edmond Badoux and Francy Vidal (Chaskinakuy)

Picture by Anna Ralston.

with soul stirring instruments. Unfortunately, all good pots of fondue must come to an end. The evening concluded with the **ZOFU duet** delighting attendees with adaptations of Swiss folklore and chamber music. Twenty fingers synchronized on one piano. This performance was like

the joy of finding the last garlic clove swimming in fondue. It was clear from the standing applause that the artist showcase was a success. And, more importantly, everyone would leave with the Figugegl spirit and our newly found "Kigugegl" ardour.

DAVINA HURT



Two attendees of the artist showcase are standing in front of paintings by Monika Steiner

Picture by Peter Thoeny

North Carolina Swiss Society of Charlotte

On February 20th, we held our traditional "Raclette Abig" at the Sardis Swim & Racquet Club and over 100 attendees enjoyed a great evening. This was followed by the Old Timer Raclette at the residence of our Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Heinz and Erika Roth, on February 28th.

We were also represented at the Charlotte Symphony's "Lobby Festival" on March 5th and 6th



Members of the Swiss Society at the Charlotte Symphony's "Lobby Festival"

during their evening presentations of music by Brahms, Mo-



Old Timers Raclette at the residence of Honorary Consul Heinz Roth and his wife Erika

zart, Blacher and Strauss, conducted by German native music director Christof Perick. For further information on our activities, visit our great Web-site: www.swisscharlotte.com. We are all looking forward to seeing you at one of our events and would like to hear from you. On behalf of the Board and with Best Regards,

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Letter to the Editor Tribute to Swiss Service in the U.S. Civil War (SR # 4/2009)

We much enjoyed your article on the American Civil War (called The War of Northern Aggression) in the South. The statement that very few Swiss served in the Confederacy is of dubious ancestry, and your comment about Confederate Henry Wirtz was incomplete. Wirtz as commander of Andersonville attempted to repatriate Yankee POW's in exchange for Confederates scores of times because he lacked the food and supplies to properly attend to his duties as commandant. In fact, the history of the conflict demonstrates that the South tried to repatriate POW's at every level of government, only to be rebuked by Grant and Lincoln repeatedly. Wirtz was executed by the Yankees as you stated as a scapegoat, and his execution was unjustified and

has been regretted by Washington ever since.

DR. ADRIAN H. KRIEG
BRADENTON, FL

Note from the Editor: Mr. Krieg has written several books. To look at them or read more about Mr. Krieg, go to his web-site: www.A2Zpublications.com



Spring - by Wal Baur



Roberts



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Celebration of Swiss Heritage Barns in USA, Canada and Switzerland

A unique event will take place on Saturday, August 7. It is a simultaneous Virtual Tour of Swiss heritage barns in the USA. The internet simulcast will be seen in the Swiss Cantons Graubünden and Schwyz, at 4PM Swiss Time, Pennsylvania PA at 10 AM and Wisconsin, WI at 9AM and in Toronto Canada, at 10AM.

This event is organized by the International Bundesbrief Society. For more information, contact them at: www.Bundesbrief.org.

Did you know:

25% of barns in America

trace their roots to a style of barn in Graubünden Switzerland.

The forebay bank barn is a Swiss invention.

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The design is a style of architecture 450 years old. Its relationship to the topography makes it an excellent example of how the early settlers adapted to their immediate hill-slope environment. Come tour historic heritage barns. Visit one barn in person, and see the other barns live on computer screens by simulcast!

Featured barns: Pennsylvania, USA

Oley Valley Berks County, PA, Classic Stone Schweitzer, 1787 original (with 1837 addition). A

working heifer barn with 1740's house. Owners and tour guide: Jim and Kathy Coker 610-987-6406 CHeifers@Windstream.net.

Wisconsin, USA

Swiss Barn Of Monroe, 1870-80's, square nail construction, hand hewn oak, floor joists are 12 inches on center. Lauren Meinent, 608-325-4298, Barn Located at N3793 County M, Monroe WI 53566, Green County WI,



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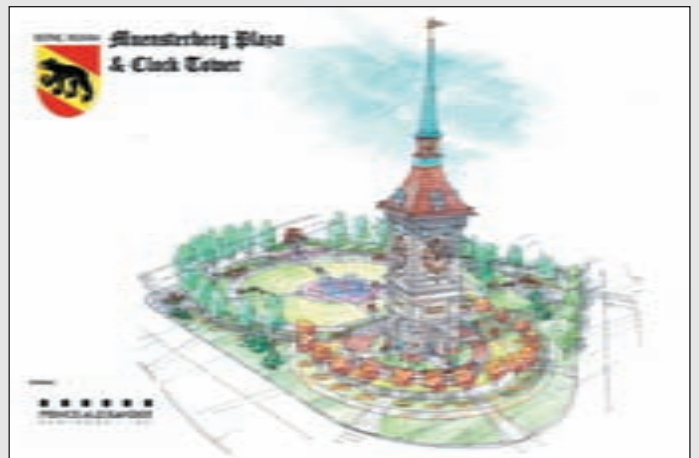
Indiana

Groundbreaking for Berne's Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower



Clock Tower Ground Breaking

Members of Berne's Muensterberg Plaza and Clock Tower steering committee broke ground Wednesday, March 17, 2010, to begin construction of the town's long-awaited clock tower project. Work will begin soon near the intersection of state Route 218 and U.S. 27 in Berne, with a dedication ceremony set for July 31, 2010, during this year's Swiss Days celebration. The clock tower will stand nearly 160 feet high and will include four large clock faces and animated fiberglass figurines that will emerge to perform a reenactment of scenes from the settlement of the city. The all volunteer steering committee has secured \$3 million dollars in private pledges to construct the clock tower and adjoining plaza.



Color Plaza Elevation Board Sketch

This is a proposed Muensterberg Plaza design, created by Prince Alexander Partners Inc. of Indianapolis, the architect working with the Berne Community Development Corporation on the project. Special plaza features will include a gazebo, a promenade, a water feature and a settlers sculpture. In addition to being a tourist attraction, the clock tower and plaza will provide a focal point for community festivals and special events, with a stage area and sound equipment for concerts and community gatherings.

If you need further information, feel free to call or e-mail.

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