

Editorial Dear Readers in the United States

I asked for more articles, and you came through! See me laughing happily at the bounty coming in. The present Swiss Review is a really good mix. Carl Lutz, who rescued more than 62,000 Jews in Hungary from deportation to concentration camps, figures prominently. We have again very gifted Swiss: an art quilter, a writer, a jewelry designer and a couple of puppeteers. Reports from a Swiss Club and message from a very patriotic Swiss round out the picture. Enjoy reading everything and, if you feel inspired, send me an article (address below). Wishing you a wonderful summer!

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*Swiss trivia game
Helvetiq*

Helvetiq Swiss-American Edition From New Glarus, to New Bern, from Vevay to Sacramento, more than a million Americans of Swiss-descent have left their mark on the United States. Figures such as Albert Gallatin, Meyer Guggenheim, Louis-Joseph Chevrolet and Renée Zellweger are well known, but what about those unique stories that have yet to be shared. To honor this rich heritage, the Swiss Center Los Angeles, in partnership with Lausanne-based RedCut, will release later this year a Swiss-American version of the popular Swiss trivia game Helvetiq.

We are in the early stages of content development and want to

hear from you. Does your local Swiss club have interesting in-



formation, trivia or little known facts about the history of the Swiss in your area? Do you know of any Swiss inventions, enduring traditions, local luminaries or tall tales? No fact is too trivial, no anecdote is too obscure. Our intent is for the game to be a living testament to all the Swiss who have made a difference in the United States.

Please send your insights to Jean-François de Buren Helvetiq Swiss-American Edition Project Manager threebeehives@gmail.com or 617 Rowland Blvd. Novato, CA 94947.

Thank you in advance for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

SwissCenterLA & RedCut. The SwissCenterLA can be found online at

www.swisscenterla.org/ or on Facebook & Twitter @SwissCenterLA.

Helvetiq can be found online at <http://helvetiq.ch/> or on Facebook & Twitter @helvetiq.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS DE BUREN
NOVATO, CA

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Next Regional News

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California

Carl Lutz honored at the Museum of the Holocaust in Los Angeles

Dear fellow Swiss,
Almost one year ago, I wrote to you for the first time and asked for your participation and for your donations in favor of the Garden of the Righteous, to be

established outside of the new Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and also honoring, among others, our Swiss Citizen Carl Lutz by planting a tree in his memory.
You have been numerous in joining in with generous donations and we finally surpassed our initial goal set at \$ 5'000.00 by far. I have the great pleasure to in-

form you that on February 2, 2011, I had the chance to hand over a check in the amount of \$ 9'612. 00 on behalf of the Swiss Community in the Southwestern U.S. to Mr. Mark Rothman, Executive Director of the Museum. At this occasion the photographs included in this article were taken in the Garden of the Righteous outside the Museum. My heartfelt thanks go out to you, fellow Swiss, for making possible such a significant



Mr. Mark Rothman, Executive Director of the Museum of the Holocaust, left, receiving the generous check from Mr. Bruno Ryff, Consul General of Switzerland

donation of which I am really proud.
Sincerely yours,

BRUNO RYFF

CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND
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Memorial Stone for Switzerland, placed in the Garden of the Righteous outside the Museum of the Holocaust



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Texas

Carl Lutz event in Houston

The daughter of the Swiss Diplomat Carl Lutz spoke at the Houston Holocaust Museum.

Agnes Hirschi, the daughter of Carl Lutz, traveled a great distance for her lecture on March 28 at the Houston Holocaust Museum. Ms. Hirschi, who has lived in Bern, Switzerland since 1949, has made it her mission to insure that her father's life and his courageous and devoted work will not be forgotten. Carl Lutz rescued more than 62,000 Hungarian Jews from deportation to the Nazi death camps. He issued the famous Visas for Life and housed Jews in 76 safe places throughout Budapest. Among them was the famous Glass House that sheltered upwards of 3000 Jewish people at a time. Carl Lutz's job was to be in charge of foreign interest and visas from 1942 to 1945 in Hungary. When the Germans occupied Budapest in 1944, Lutz began negotiations with the Nazi regime and the Hungarian government. They reluctantly gave him permission to issue 8000 protective documents, the so-called Visas for Life or Schutzbriefe. Lutz re-interpreted his mandate to go from saving 8000 individuals to saving 8000 families thus rescuing



From left to right: Agnes Hirschi, Zoly Zamir, Alex Schlesinger and Georg Somogyi. All three men are holocaust survivors who owe their lifes to Carl Lutz.



From left to right: Margherita Young, Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Alex Schlesinger, Agnes Hirschi and Zoly Zamir at a reception offered by Margherita Young

many additional lives. In this way he and his wife Gertrud excluded so many more from the deportations and death marches. In 1965 Yad Vashem, the Jewish Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem awarded Carl Lutz the title "Righteous Among the Nations."

The Houston event was especially touching for Ms. Hirschi and all the attendees as two survivors, both saved by her father, were present at the lecture. This was unexpected and her meeting with them was an emotional moment. The first one was Dr. Georg Somogyi who survived as

a four year old in the Glass House. The second one was Alex Schlesinger, who in November 1944 as a 16 year old was digging his own grave outside of Budapest about to be shot. When Carl Lutz was informed about this he showed up at the last minute with his always present chauffeur, stepped out of the car, grabbing the young man and pushing him into his car, while informing the officials that the young person was under his protection. He then simply drove off. This was the very first time that Agnes had heard about this story. Another Holocaust survivor present was Zoly Zamir who worked in the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. He was a great admirer of Carl Lutz's whom he had met many times in Jerusalem and had many stories to tell. The Swiss and Houston publics were enchanted with the presentation and discussions followed long after the lecture was over.

Agnes Hirschi was most welcome in Houston. The Honorary Consul of Switzerland, Margherita Young-Zellweger, and the Swiss Consulate General in Atlanta, the Holocaust Museum of Houston, and the Honorary Consul of Hungary, Philip Aronoff organized the event.

MARGHERITA YOUNG-ZELLWEGER
HONORARY CONSUL OF SWITZERLAND
IN HOUSTON
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New York Remembering Carl Lutz

On Monday May 2nd 2011, on the occasion of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York, in collaboration with Rabbi Arthur Schneier from the Park East Synagogue and the Consulate General of Israel in New York, organized an evening of testimonial readings and music at the Park East Syna-

gogue in Budapest from 1942 until the end of World War II, he helped save the lives of thousands during the Holocaust. Park East Synagogue President Herman Hochberg welcomed the Diplomatic representatives, as well as several Holocaust survivors who were among the 200 guests who attended the commemoration. In their speeches, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Consul General of Israel in New York Ido Aharoni, and Consul General of Switzerland in New York, Amba-



Ambassador François Barras, Consul General of Switzerland in New York.
Credit: © Park East Synagogue

gogue to commemorate the life and achievements of Carl Lutz. Carl Lutz was the first Swiss national to be elevated to the rank of Righteous among the Nations by Yad Vashem. Swiss Vice-Con-

sador François Barras, acknowledged Carl Lutz's achievements, sharing with the audience the compelling story of a man of exceptional courage and generosity.



From left to right: Ambassador François Barras, Consul General of Switzerland in New York, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, and Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York.

Credit: © Park East Synagogue

After the Memorial candle lighting and prayer, cellist Yoed Nir performed music by Swiss composer Ernest Bloch. Music was followed by the voices of three young actors who read a selection of poignant testimonials by Holocaust survivors who have been saved by Carl Lutz, as well as an excerpt from the book *Dangerous Diplomacy* by Theo Tschuy. Jonathan Czyzyk and Jenny Aminov, two 8th grade students of the Park East Day School concluded this Holocaust

Remembrance Day commemoration.

The traveling Exhibit of the Carl Lutz Foundation, a unique collection of photos, documents and other materials about the life of Carl Lutz, was on display in the main Hall at the Park East Day School for a week prior to the event.

SANDRINE LIGABUE
CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND IN NEW YORK
nyc.culture@eda.admin.ch

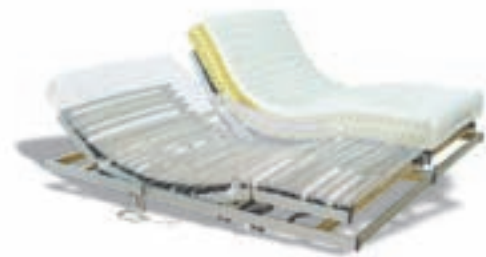
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*New York
Quilting:
"Daily Devotional" by
Katharina Litchman.*

Growing up in Switzerland, one of my earliest memories was of my grandmother patiently teaching me how to sew. This early passion for all things hand-made later led me to practice pottery and attend design classes at Parson's School of Design in New York City. I love nature and studied Japanese flower arrangement for many years and earned Certificate IV of the Sogetsu School of Ikebana of Tokyo, Japan. Yet, for over two decades, I earned my living as a New York banker until, due to a corporate



Daily Devotional - an inspiration combining New York and Switzerland

hand dyed and commercial fabrics, machine pieced and appliquéd and then free motion machine quilted.

My pieces are all unique, but I had made a similar one called "Dreamin'", which was in a gallery in Phoenix, AZ and was sold, much to my surprise, as it is a very personal story. But the buyer told me that her story is like mine, living in big cities in her adult life, but growing up in the Colorado Mountains. I was certainly flattered. I did, however, feel compelled to make another one.

KATHARINA LITCHMAN

To see more of Katharina's work or to contact her, go to her website:
www.artquiltsbymietzi.com



City Trip

Initially starting out with traditional designs, I made my first art quilt in 2003 after reading Wassily Kandinsky's book "Point and Line and Plane". I am currently working part-time at the Swiss Consulate

visual tool to separate my lives. On each side are skyscrapers, including Citicorp and the Chrysler Building, and on the upper left in the night sky is the constellation of Cassiopeia outlined with Swarovski crystals best visible in August, my birth month. We live in the NY Catskills where the night skies are brilliant. The center is my "dreamin'" or "daily devotional".



The piece is made of NYSE - New York Stock Exchange

merger, I left the "monochrome" world of finance and entered the world of color when I began dedicating more time to my emerging love of quilting. My work has been called fiber art, textile art, fabric collage, or art quilting, but I am a contemporary quilter.

General in New York City.

*Description of
"Daily Devotional:"*

The skyline of Manhattan is breathtaking, and so are the glorious mountains of Switzerland, which I long for all the time. A zipper seemed the right

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Book Review
America's Call

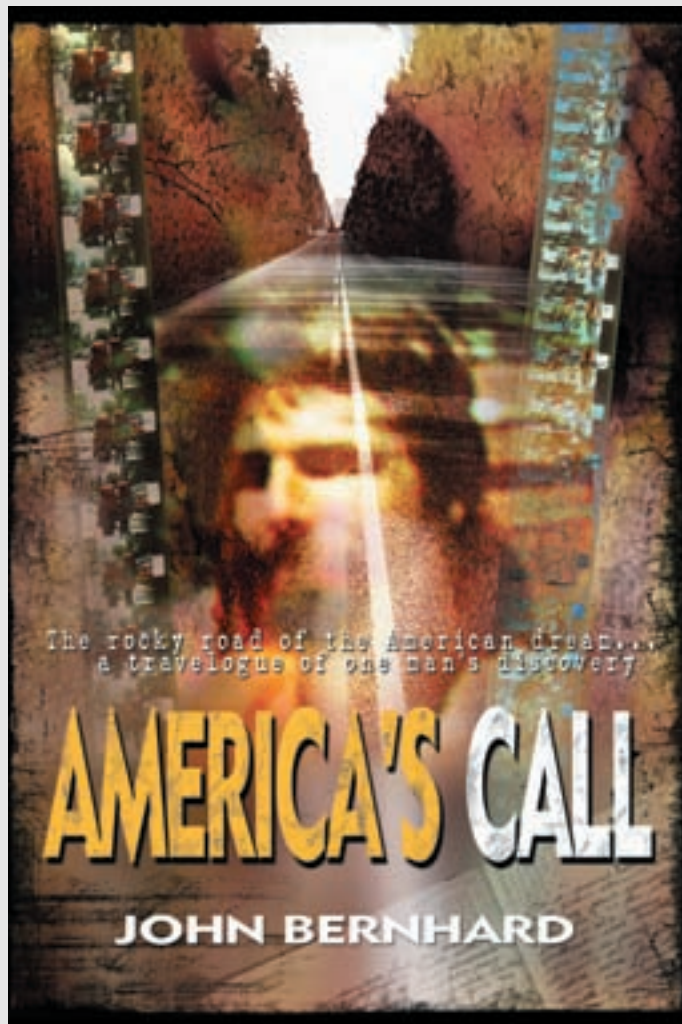
By John Bernhard

The author was born in Switzerland and after his backpack adventure, the draw to the U.S. tugged at his mind until he returned and settled in Houston, Texas to pursue the American dream. He has designed and built his dream house, and his studio adjacent to it, where he works as an artist. About his book, he says: "I had dreamt of traveling to the New World for as long as I could remember. I had filled my imagination with the romance of exploration until it overflowed with wild curiosity. When I left Europe on my journey, I did so without a definite destination. I knew only that I wanted to discover as much of North America as I could, from Canada to the U.S., from Alberta's Rockies to California's beaches."

America's Call (John Bernhard's first non-fiction novel) is based on the journal that John Bern-

hard used to chronicle his trip to North America during the late 1970s. It is the story of two young friends on a New World walkabout, questing to discover their destinies and their souls during a quintessential time in U.S. history. The beauty of *America's Call* lies in Bernhard's visual depictions of 1970s America, the various destinations that make up his journey, and the people he meets along the way. Bernhard offers a sense of adventure and curiosity reminiscent of the vanished era he describes, and introduces those of us who missed it to a bygone America that we can only hope will not be forgotten. The book was released by Dog Ear Publishing and is available everywhere or at www.johnbernhard.com/Books/Books.html
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Maine

Jewelry by Etienne Perret

I am a jewelry designer living on the coast of Maine with a strong Swiss heritage. Although I have spent most of my life in the states, my father came from Rorschach and my mother came from Lugano. For over 30 years I focused my designing on 18kt gold and platinum set with colored diamonds. My designing led me to showing all over the world including a pavilion at the famous Basel Schmuck-Messe for a number of years.



Etienne Perret's innovative jewelry collection. Rings made from a very hard and durable zirconia ceramic. Many are then set with colored diamonds.

Currently I am working on a very innovative new concept. My "ceramique" gem jewelry collection is made from a very hard and durable zirconia ceramic. It is the same material that Rado and Chanel use for their watches. I design the original rings in wax or acrylic. The models are then sent off to be formed in a high tech sintering process. After they come back to me I set diamonds into the pieces and do the finishing.

ETIENNE PERRET

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Etienneperret@gmail.com

14 Sea Street. Camden, Me 04843-1728

New Jersey

Swiss Spirit

As a Basel born, 1959, dual citizen living in Island Heights, NJ, I very proudly display both my countries colors. I sent the attached picture to my cousin who lives in Basel, who replied "More Swissness than in CH." Thought you might like the picture of my front porch! It would be wonderful to see it somewhere in the outstanding Swiss Revue. There was at one time a big Swiss contingent in the Toms River, NJ area where my father was a chemist for Ciba and worked at the TR plant. As always, great job for keeping me aware of the on goings in CH. Keep up the good work!



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North Carolina Swiss Society of Charlotte

The Raclette evening at the Sardis Swim & Racquet Club drew again close to 100 people. The highlight was a musical presentation with chansons from the Fribourg area, performed by the "Chevalley-Clan" from Switzerland (parents and son) and our club member Sarah Chevalley. Thank you again for the great entertainment; the applause confirmed that everyone enjoyed it.

Two weeks later, the "Old-Timer Raclette" was held at our Honorary Consul's residence. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and there were lots of conversations



Not only kids but also adults were enjoying the family picnic.

about politics here and back home and in which direction we are heading; but we came to no conclusion, so we try next year



The highlight of the Raclette evening was a musical presentation performed by the "Chevalley-Clan" from Switzerland (parents and son) and our club member Sarah Chevalley.

again. Thank you Heinz and Erika Roth for your hospitality. In May, we had our family picnic together with our friends of the Alemannia Society. Over the last few years, this has become a very popular outing with way over a hundred participants enjoying a Sunday afternoon in the park with lots of stuff to do for the kids or teenagers, but also the adults were enjoying themselves.

For further information on upcoming events, visit our Website:



The "Old-Timer Raclette" was held at our Honorary Consul's residence

www.swisscharlotte.com

We are all looking forward to seeing you at one of our activities and would like to hear from you.

WALTER HESS, PRESIDENT
(mail2wally@juno.com)
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Pennsylvania Oh! A Puppet Show

The Swiss-American couple, Eugen(e) Keller and Cilgia Keller are active puppeteers. Eugene is from Zurich and Cilgia's parents were from Basel. "Oh A Puppet Show" is their troupe's name.

They create and perform the shows themselves. Eugene is the graphic artist who makes the puppets, scenery and props. Cilgia is the musician/librarian. She writes the scripts, the incidental music and stages the plays. Folk stories, fairy tales and original plots are brought to

life in 25 different plays using a multitude of puppets. "Oh! A Puppet Show" has performed numerous times as part of the Summer Reading Programs at Public Libraries. This summer, "Hansel and Gretel"

(based on the opera story by Humperdinck) will be given at the Glen Rock, PA Public Library on July 6. The Keller's can be reached by e-mail at ekckshows@aol.com, or by phone at (717) 266 5479.

WAL BAUR



Eugen (e) and Cilgia Keller proudly display some of their self-made puppets



This summer, Hansel and Gretel will be the stars of the show!