

If you pay attention to the signatures at the end of each article, Doris Ritzi will be a familiar name to you. For years she has faithfully provided articles from the Southern California Region. Well, for this Swiss Review she wrote the one called "Switzerland's Short Film 'On The Line' gets Oscar Nomination". The Oscars taking place after the Swiss Review Deadline, we had arranged that she send me the article and right after the Oscars she provide me with the last paragraph, depending on the outcome of the Oscars. So last Sunday, we both were glued to our respective TV sets. Well, the great moment came – and the prize went to somebody else! We were obviously both disappointed. Doris so much, that the part of her article we were going to dedicate to the Oscars, just reads: "But at the Oscar ceremony the film lost to 'Spielzeugland', an entry from Germany"! By the way, this is the second article she wrote about an Oscar nominated film. The last one didn't make it either. So lets hope that the third time is the charm!



Dear Readers, please meet the second member of my editorial staff: This is Sunny, sister of editor in chief Cloud. She is in charge of paper shredding, keyboard manipulations and keeping the paper volume to a minimum!

As you already learned in edition # 1/09, the Swiss Parliament has drastically reduced the budget of Swiss Review. This also influences the Regional News, which, from now on, are limited to 8 pages. As there will be only 4 editions of Swiss Review a year, instead of 6, the dates have changed too. I intended to publish last year's First of August pictures in Swiss Review # 3, but that would be too late. So here are the pictures as promised. I hope you enjoy them as much as last year's crop!

WAL BAUR, EDITOR, REGIONAL NEWS USA

Swiss from all over the United States send you their greetings and wish you a Happy 1<sup>st</sup> of August



Claudia Willis with friend Jim Roberts and grandson Austin Morris, age 12, at the annual August 1st party in Gladstone, New Jersey, with a Swiss bean bag game that the family made.



While Prescott, AZ is a fairly small city, there are quite a few Swiss (primarily first generation) in this area. They meet several times a year and enjoy each others company.

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Daughter and Grand-Daughter of Marie-Claude Wills, Gladstone, New Jersey



The Hegelbachs enjoying 1st of August in Chicago



Both pictures above from Nicole Haller-Wilson, Napa, CA. Family and friends ate Spätzli and Gschnätzlets, had a cheese tasting (Emmenthal and Gruyere) and several salads and 2 chocolate cakes - Sorry, they were unable to find Swiss wine though, darn it. As a special touch, they loved their lampion, found on-line.



Goldendoodle Finnegan loves to join the celebration, especially when the yummy Brodwürscht are coming onto the scene ... Ruedi und Rahel Naegele from Manchester, MI

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From left to right, all 3 pictures from the Kansas City Swiss Society at Swiss Chalet, 58th St and Bennington in Kansas City, MO.



Heidi Stollen with son Zac and daughter Moriah from Leavenworth WA.



Alexandra Rayburn's son from Maui, Hawaii



Gjoko Ruzio's Cottageville Farm in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania



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More than 140 members of the New Helvetic Society/Pennsylvania Chapter met at host Gjoko Ruzio's Cottageville Farm in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania



22 Swiss united at Stone Bluff Winery outside Tulsa, Oklahoma, braving the heat being over 100 degrees.



Both pictures above: Swiss Heritage Day Celebration at the Stocker-Stampfli farm in Gruetli-Laager (Grundy County, Tennessee)

Left and above left: Katherine and Elizabeth Zimmermann join the 1st of August celebration at their grandparents home in Orange, Connecticut."



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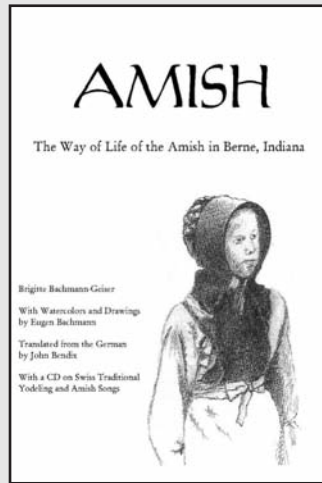


*Washington  
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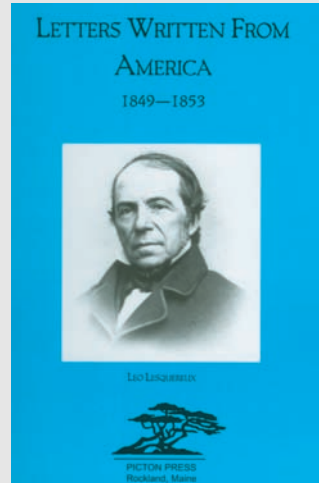
The SAHS Constitution mandates to conduct and encourage historical research; record the achievements of Swiss-American citizens; and publish and distribute information concerning the same.

Are the Swiss in America a particularly interesting subject of research?

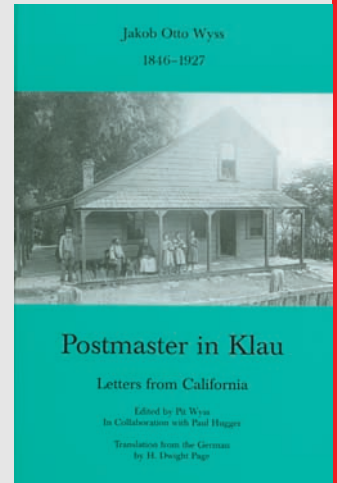
They are, certainly for people with a Swiss background living in the US or having resided here for some length of time. Alas, interest is rather limited among recent, younger immigrants; however, it is growing among older people curious about their ancestors, their reasons for leaving Switzerland, their early life in America, etc. A recent new-book-launch organized by SAHS in a small town in Central California brought together over 200 family members interested in learning more about their forefather who had immigrated in



the 1870s and had sent letters back to his family in Zürich for over 50 years, translated and published by the Society. One of the best-known books published is the "Introductory Guide to Swiss Genealogical Research" by Society member Lewis B. Rohrbach. Publication of a book on the Amish in Berne, Indiana is scheduled for completion in early 2009; it is the English translation of a book published in Switzerland by the painter/musicologist couple Bachmann-Geiser based on their close contacts



with the Amish community there. Under preparation is a book about Arnold Guyot, a prominent geographer/geologist immigrant from Neuchâtel in the 1850s who was professor at Princeton for 30 years. It represents a follow-up to the book on Leo Lesquereux another immigrant scientist from Neuchâtel and friend of Guyot, published by the Society in 2006 as well as to a paper on Louis Agassiz and Arnold Guyot, friends and fellow scientists, published in the SAHS Review. Aware of the



Society's interest in this tightly knit group, Prof. Philip Wilson from Penn State University contacted SAHS with a proposal to prepare a full-sized book on Guyot. After a careful review of the detailed outline by Prof. Schelbert, SAHS's book editor, the project was approved by the Oct. 2008, Annual Meeting. Since then, there have been frequent contacts between the author and the book editor on progress made.

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ThinkSwiss - Brainstorm the Future is a U.S.-wide program that showcases Swiss innovation. "ThinkSwiss addresses key global topics with American

counterparts," says Urs Ziswiler, Swiss Ambassador to the United States," and showcases Switzerland's leadership in science, research and technology." At a ThinkSwiss event you might learn how Switzerland achieved its top ranking as the most greenhouse gas-efficient economy in the developed world, or you might learn about Switzerland's approach to topics such as public transportation, climate change, finance or design. While ThinkSwiss focuses on innovation, "Swiss Roots-How Swiss Are You" reaches out to Americans of Swiss heritage or to those with an affinity to Switzerland. You might learn about famous Americans with Swiss roots, like Super Bowl winner Ben Roethlisberger. You can trace your own Swiss family roots or help your children participate in an online drawing

contest "When I Think of Switzerland, I Think of..." If you love chocolate, cheese and have a strong U.S.-Swiss connection, join the 15,000-member Swiss Roots community to make friends, post stories and win great prizes. "Our Swiss Roots program fosters open dialogue and showcases the best in

Swiss lifestyle, art, culture, history and business," explains Urs Ziswiler.

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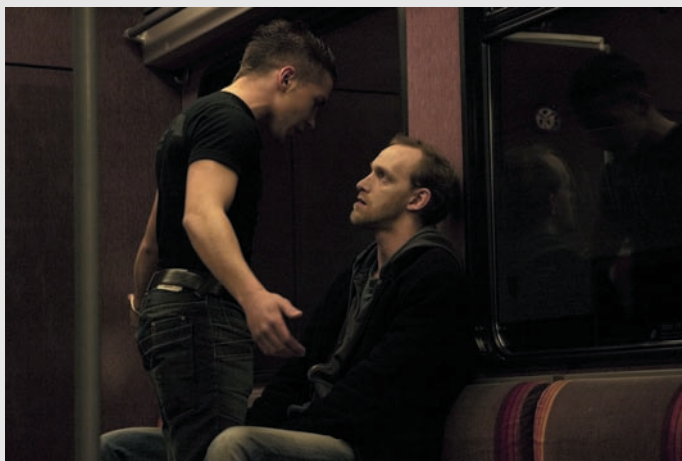
*California*  
*Switzerland's Short*  
*Film "On The Line"*  
*gets Oscar Nomination*

Reto Caffi's short film "Auf der Strecke" / "On the Line" was nominated for an Oscar in the category "fast action".

The plot for the film is an interesting one: Rolf is a Security Agent in a Department Store and monitors the patrons of the store on his computer screens. Within the shopping center is

eyes" Rolf explains, "the eyes will tell you." Just then on the screen appears a man with a hat and sort of curiously dressed, a likely suspect. But Rolf explains it is a homeless man, who comes to the store every day, gives himself a dash of perfume at the cosmetic counter and then goes to the food promotion display to get a free bite to eat. And in fact, the man does exactly that and then happily trots off.

Rolf is heartened by the progress he has made with Sarah. Things look good for him. In the evening, he goes ahead to the



On the train, skinheads start pummeling a young man, boxing and downright beating him.

also a bookstore. Rolf loves to screen the bookstore - the sales person is the lovely Sarah and Rolf is secretly in love with her. After work when Sarah goes home on the S-Bahn (train), Rolf follows her. Sarah is very friendly and they establish communication. Rolf is elated. Sarah shows interest in his work and Rolf is ever so pleased to show her how his screen does the detective work. Sarah asks Rolf how he knows which persons are suspects? "It is their

S-Bahn and waits for Sarah to come. She arrives, accompanied by a young man. She turns towards him, presses his arm and leans on his shoulder. Rolf is devastated. Sarah seems to already have a boy friend. On the train Rolf watches them, distressed. But then Sarah and the young man appear to disagree on something and Sarah somewhat angrily gets off the S-Bahn. On the train, three skinheads also witnessed Sarah's disagreement. They first make fun of her



Rolf is a Security Agent in a Department Store and monitors the patrons of the store on his computer screens

young man and then start pummeling him, boxing and downright beating him. The passengers watch anxiously. Rolf does not help the young man, he feels his "rival" may have done something wrong, and gets off at the next station. The following morning his colleagues at work ask him "Did you hear? Sarah's Brother got beaten to death by skin heads on the S-Bahn!" A catastrophic development and a consequence for Rolf that cannot be undone. Lesson learned: So often in life judgment is made by assumptions.

The film has received several awards in Europe. Caffi and Wiesnekker - both present in Los Angeles for the Oscars - were surprised by the attention the film got in the U.S.

But at the Oscar ceremony the film lost to "Spielzeugland", an entry from Germany.


Reto Caffi wrote the screenplay and directed the film. Reoland Wiesnekker plays Rolf. Catherine Janke plays Sarah. More info at:

[www.khm.de/aufderstrecke/](http://www.khm.de/aufderstrecke/)  
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