

# REGIONAL NEWS

## UNITED STATES

### Editorial

Dear Readers in the United States,

It is with a heavy heart that I write these lines. My husband passed away quite suddenly on July 17, two weeks after our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and two months before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. We were already planning a big party, had the guest list and the invitations nearly ready and were going to Swiss Chef Ueli in the morning to talk about the catering menu. And then in the night he suddenly fell ill, had a massive stroke with a lot of hemorrhaging. At 7:15 AM he was dead. All the doctors could do was tell me how lucky we were that he didn't have to suffer.

I know I'm not the only woman to lose a husband, but that doesn't make it any easier!

So I will concentrate on my work – life goes on!



Happier times! Kobi and Wal Baur

WAL BAUR

wbaur@roadrunner.com

### Moving back to Switzerland?

#### SRF bi de Lüt / Familiensache

Wir suchen für die neunte Staffel des Erfolgsformats spannende Familien, die uns Einblick gewähren in ihren Alltag und ihr Leben. Wir wollen fesselnde, interessante und lebendige Geschichten erzählen.

Wir suchen unter anderem eine Familie oder ein Paar, welche im Ausland gelebt hat und jetzt zurück in die Schweiz kehrt. Wir würden gerne den Umzug in die Schweiz mit der Kamera dokumentarisch begleiten.

Fühlen Sie sich angesprochen? Falls ja, freuen wir uns auf ihre Geschichte.

Zur Sendung: Die Sendung „SRF bi de Lüt – Familiensache“ läuft jeweils am Freitagabend auf SRF 1 um 20.05 Uhr. Geplant sind 5 Sendungen à 45 Minuten. Wir sind grundsätzlich wohlwollend und

wollen niemanden blossstellen. Authentizität und Respekt wird bei uns gross geschrieben. Die Protagonisten sollen so rüberkommen wie sie sind!

Drehstart ist Anfang September 2015. Jede der drei Familien (können auch Alleinerziehende oder Kinderlose sein) hat jeweils einen Redaktor, der für sie zuständig ist. Gedreht wird an ca. 20 Tagen, dokumentarisch versteht sich.

Für weitere Fragen stehe ich Ihnen gerne zur Verfügung!

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**California**

**Los Angeles Swiss Athletic Society very successful in shooting competition in Switzerland**

13 shooters from the Swiss Athletic Society of Los Angeles traveled to Switzerland to participate at the 2015 Eidg. Schützenfest in the Valais.

This event takes place every five years. We were stationed in the beautiful Hotel Bahnhof in Ausserberg up in the hills above Visp. While the pistol shooters were not very successful under the windy conditions on Monday and Tuesday, later on the rifle team made up for it. At the non-shooting day (Wednesday), most of us enjoyed a trip to Zermatt and Gornergrat on a picture perfect day. From opposite the valley, the famous Matterhorn stared right back at us. Unfortunately Ernst Hotz slipped on black ice, broke his leg and was flown by helicopter to the Hospital in Visp. On Thursday and Friday we shot the various individual rifle matches for the different medals (Kranzabzeichen).

15 participating Swiss Teams were the main event at the Auslandschweizertag (day for the



Front row: Erich Fischer, Linda Nicolosi, Ernst Hotz. Second row: Hedy Schmutz, Tony Chow, Kurt Ingham, Hans Schmutz, Matthew Weinstein. Third row: Peter Albrecht, Antonio Luisoni, Peter Marti, Eric Luthi. Top: Richard Wismer. Missing in the picture is Hans Bruckler.



The winners: Tony Chow, Antonio Luisoni, Peter Marti

Swiss abroad.) Teams from all continents participated on that Saturday. Our team placed 2nd (Silver Laurel) behind Lichtenstein, followed by Cape Town and Vancouver. Our Tony Chow won the gold Medal with 97 points in the Std. Rifle competition (14 shooters) and our Peter Marti placed 2nd (Silver Medal) with 95 points with the Karabiner with 193 (yes 193) participants!

Congratulations! Our team price, a beautiful Walliserkanne, traditionally hand-made out of tin and decorated by an opulent chain, was filled several times with the good local white wine to celebrate our good result. The real heat wave started on Sunday where we participated in the televised Grand Parade.

A good time was enjoyed by everybody.

ANTONIO S. "TONY" LUISONI  
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California

«House of Switzerland» at the Consul General's Residence

The Special Olympics World Summer Games took place from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7000 athletes from 177 countries participated in 25 sports. Among them were 70 athletes who proudly represented Switzerland. Headquarter and point of reference for the staff was the Consul General's Residence.

Jean-François Lichtenstern, Consul General of Switzerland, was one of the most devoted fans of the Swiss Delegation right from the beginning. Not only did he support local fundraising activities before the event, he also aided the Swiss team by transforming his residence into a veritable little "House of Switzerland", where the communication staff held daily meetings. He visited competitions, cheered with

the athletes, invited them for breakfast and the official reception on the occasion of the Swiss National Day. Inclusion and acceptance of persons with disability is very obviously close to the Consul General's heart. He emphasized: "In supporting our athletes efforts to reach their best, we are part of the revolution aiming at dismantling attitudinal barriers. We promote their inherent dignity, we recognize them as members of the human family on an equal basis with others. And we are not acting by mere philanthropy – it is a moral duty."

Successful Swiss Delegation

The Swiss delegation was competing in 13 different sports (aquatics, athletics, bocce, basketball, cycling, golf, judo, equitation, sailing, soccer men and women, table tennis and tennis) and was very successful. With 14 x gold, 19 x silver and 23 x bronze medals, the medal



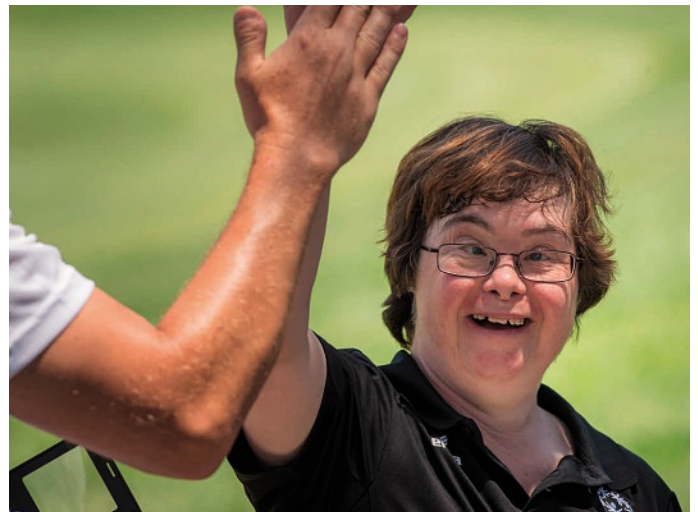
Opening ceremonies. The Swiss Delegation, led by Simon Ammann, the four times Olympic Gold Medalist in Ski-Jumping

Christa Niederer-Rupf on her magnificent horse



Soccer - Women - Goal Keeper Monica Gomes

Golf, Sandra Künzi





count is indeed very impressive. However, at Special Olympics, the medals are not all that counts. The world's largest movement for persons with mental disabilities strives for acceptance, esteem and inclusion of these persons. World Games are an unforgettable experience for every athlete. They are supported by a great public, are cheered for and can reveal the champion in all of them. This gives them more self-confidence and makes them stronger for their everyday life back home in their countries.

**The Olympic Spirit**

Joyful athletes crowded the campuses of the two LA universities USC and UCLA. Never before have these places been more colorful. Persons from all over the world met, communicated and had fun to-



Christoph Meienberg - obviously tennis

Below: Consul General Jean-François Lichtenstern at the Swiss National Day reception he offered for the whole Delegation at his residence.



Cycling, Roman Brügger

gether. There may have been uncountable cultures and languages. However, for Special Olympics athletes, there are no barriers. The passion for sport unites them all. The Olympic Spirit in its most authentic form.

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**California**  
Fresh Voices in San Francisco

The Swiss Singing Society of San Francisco celebrated their 123rd Anniversary with a Spring Concert and Luncheon on Sunday, April 26, 2015, at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. The event was completely sold out, such that drop in guests had to eat at the bar!

The concert included lively songs, including Edelweiss, The Happy Wanderer, and traditional Swiss folksongs in



Some of the members of the Golden Gate Boys Choir



The Swiss Singing Society of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Boys Choir under the direction of Steven J. Meyer

Swiss German and French. The Golden Gate Boys Choir, under the direction of Steven J. Meyer, joined the Swiss Singers in three songs, adding their young voices to the listening pleasure of all in attendance. More than 30 singers were included in the presentation.

“Paysan, Que Ton Chant S’Élève” was sung in memory of former Consul General Pierre

Jordan, who had requested it be sung at the 700th year celebration of Switzerland held in San Francisco in 1991. Soloists for the concert were Forrest Nolan, a 17 year old GGBC tenor - who all agreed has a bright singing career ahead of him, and our own Heidi Felder, who yodeled so beautifully. Multi-talented Director, Steven Meyer, accompanied Guete Sunntig, the final number of the program, on the accordion, which put everyone in a great mood!

The concert was followed by a delicious four-course lunch, a very exciting silent auction with multiple competing bids, and a tombola raffle. It was a terrific way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

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“Little Rescue Book for Women in Crisis, a Woman’s Journey”

By Catherine Winkler Rayroud

Life as a woman is not always easy, given expectations of society, spouses and women themselves. Artist Catherine Winkler Rayroud dealt with some personal doubts and demons by expressing herself through her art, and she shares those images in a new book released by Dog Ear Publishing. The collection of 70 whimsical paper cuttings depict her journey as a woman and what physical and emotional issues follow that reality.

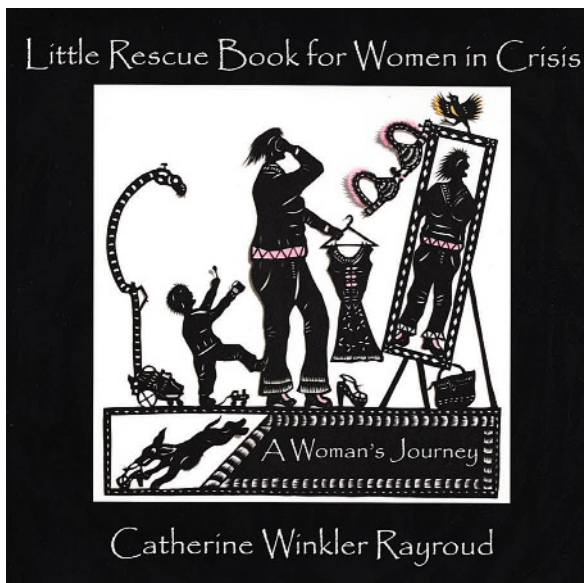
“Little Rescue Book for Women in Crisis” pairs thoughtful words with beautiful examples of Scherenschnitt, the art of creating intricate paper cutouts. Winkler Rayroud turned to art when she became a teenager, expressing her feelings of turmoil and response to physical ailments.

Social pressure and the traditional household responsibilities of a married woman made her feel trapped, but a move to the United States brought new role models into her life. She was inspired to create the book when she experienced early signs of menopause and faced a personal crisis. Her mission became illustrating those emotions bottled up inside, as well as the hopes and fears of women around her.

The text calls for women to recognize they are not alone, offering hope, while the incredibly detailed paper cutouts add a touch of humor to her sincere support for women in all walks of life.

Author and award-winning artist Catherine Winkler Rayroud has practiced Scherenschnitt, the art of paper cutting, for 35 years. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Europe, the United States and Korea and been published in books, magazines and newspapers.

The book is available at [www.catherinewinklerbooks.com](http://www.catherinewinklerbooks.com) or at Ingram, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and fine bookstores everywhere. For more information about the artist, please visit [www.catherinewinkler.com](http://www.catherinewinkler.com)



Texas

Veronique Hahn: In search for the best in every culture

Veronique Hahn was born in Casablanca, Morocco, grew up in Morocco, Switzerland, the USA and The Netherlands where she studied Fine Arts at the College of Higher Education of the Arts in Arnhem.



Impression of Morocco 1

Veronique Hahn’s artwork as an artist and children’s book author is a reflection of personal experiences, of childhood/youth impressions and memories, multicultural expression and the philosophical search for the best in every culture. Her abstract works render impressions of both symbolism and expressions of thoughts and feelings connected to diverse subject matter. Other artworks are a rendition of mere illustrative, figurative interpretations of nature, such as landscape paintings and animals. Veronique Hahn not only paints and draws, recently she started again her passion for sculpting. Now that her daughter is grown and in College, she devotes more time to her art and writing.

Some of her children’s books are part of the Alkek Library at Texas State University-San Marcos, Texas, the Library of the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, Texas among other libraries.

Veronique Hahn has shown her works in France, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and across the USA.

For more information, she can be contacted at [veronique@veroniquehahn.com](mailto:veronique@veroniquehahn.com). See also her web-site: [www.veroniquehahn.com](http://www.veroniquehahn.com).

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Regional News 2015

The present issue # 5/2015 is the last Swiss Review of 2015 containing Regional News.

Swiss Review # 6 will be published in November.

At the time of going to press, the dates for 2016 were not yet available.