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News for the Swiss abroad

The Council for the Swiss abroad met for its Spring Session in the historic Bernese City Hall. Here a summary of the news.

President Georg Stucky opened the proceedings by presenting his presidential report which inter alia highlighted the following:

- At December 2006 Swiss abroad numbered 645,000 (Increase of 11,000)
- Of these 111,000 have registered to exercise their political rights
- The parliamentary Commission "Swiss abroad" is becoming more and more proactive
- The findings of Professor Linder re: "grouping" of political rights of Swiss abroad
- The Swiss Government's "E-Government" strategy
- Introduction of biometric Swiss passports
- Support from Swiss abroad for army reform
- Co-ordinating and rationalising the promotion of Switzerland abroad

- A revision of seat allocation in the Auslandschweizerrat will be ready by 2009

Colonel Elmar Mäder, the Head of the Vatican City Swiss Guard, gave a presentation on the "workings" of this "smallest Swiss security service in the world". Mr. J-J Didisheim and Ambassador Börlin informed extensively on the status quo of the Swiss government's E-Government strategy. Important for Swiss abroad is the future concept and creation of a "virtual consulate" in the internet, as well as E-Voting.

E-Voting for 2011 elections

Regarding the parliamentary elections that will take place on 21 October 2007, the Council adopted a resolution in which it expressed the importance of the vote for the Swiss abroad, as well as that it will be possible to have E-Voting for the elections in 2011. The Council's Executive Director Dr. R. Wyder informed that as from July 2007, the Council's internet sites, would

be "refreshed" to make information for the elections readily available.

The Solidarity Fund (Soliswiss) informed of new products for Swiss abroad. Please check with your nearest consulate for the latest literature in this regard, as well as regarding the availability of preparation courses for university studies in Switzerland by Swiss abroad.

The annual report, financial accounts for 2006 as well as the budget 2007, were presented and accepted unanimously by the Council. The Swiss government subsidy remains at Fr. 920'000 per annum.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 17 August followed by congress on 18 and 19 August in Geneva with the theme "Swiss Solidarity in Humanitarian Involvement".

Peter Müller,
sargro@bluewin.ch

Brand new website

www.eda.admin.ch/capetown is the address of a brand new web page for the Consulate General of Switzerland in Cape Town. Have a look and enjoy the innumerable information at your service. Including information for Swiss living in South Africa, marriage in South Africa or Namibia for non South African or Namibian residents, culture and many other links.

Cultural events

May - June
Intercultural Dialogue KIN:
BE: JOZI

In this the last of three workshops, the artists come together finally in Johannesburg to explore a range of social/political codes, habits and language, and communication structures found in the hosting city. The project aims to create a working process in three different chapters (Kinshasa, Bern and Johannesburg) by physically bringing together a core-group of artists from completely different urban contexts. Each chapter of the project culminates in a public performance. Contact Dorothee Kreutzfeld for specifics of the programme in Johannesburg:
dk1970@mweb.co.za

16 - 19 June

Cape Town International Book Fair with Swiss Books

Pro Helvetia and Swiss Books will represent Switzerland at the Cape Town International Book Fair. Two Swiss authors, Nadine Hostettler and Daniel de Roulet, will offer readings from their works to the public in English (dates TBC by CTIBF).

Nadine Hostettler lives as an author in Paris and Zürich. She has published two books "Fräulein Matter verliebt sich" and "Die letzte Hemmung". Daniel de Roulet was born in Geneva, where he worked in the field of information science. Writing in both French and German, he represents two major neighbouring Swiss cultures. His recent novels are published in Paris and carry the genes of running and the colour blue: "The Blue Line", "The Blue Century" and "Grey-Blue". His autobiography "Double" (1998), proved that "life is mistaken identity". He will read from "The Blue Line" (2000) and "L'Homme qui tombe" (2005) at the CTIBF.

Helene Schär from the publishing house Kinderbuchfonds Baobab will participate in a workshop "Selling and buying translation rights: how to promote African fiction and non-fiction abroad?" organised by Frankfurter Buchmesse, covering topics like: foreign rights and contracts. The workshop is scheduled for the 18 and 19 June at CTICC from 09h-12h30. Since 1989, Helene Schär has been editor of the newly founded books series Baobab; children's book and books for young people from African, Asian and Latin American authors translated into German.

Register to attend workshop with Marion Boltman, Publishers' Association of South Africa.
marion@publishsa.co.za or
Tel: 021 425 2721

Added Reading Programme

14 June, 19h30:
Nadine Hostettler and Inka Parei will read in German at the Goethe Institute in Johannesburg

15 June, 10h:
Helen Schär will offer a presentation for children at Delft Library in Cape Town

CONTINUED OVERLEAF/...



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CULTURAL EVENTS CONTINUED/...

15 June, 12h:

Nadine Hostettler will read in English at Delft Library in Cape Town

17 June, 17h:

Nadine Hostettler and Daniel de Roulet will read at Glen Carlou Wine Estate in Paarl

27 June - 7 July

National Arts Festival: Roman Schwaller

Swiss tenor saxophonist, Roman Schwaller, has been playing music since the age of 10. He has received prizes from the City of Munich, the Canton of Thurgau and the town of Frauenfeld in honour of his work. He is the initiator and musical director of the "generations International Jazz meeting Frauenfeld". Now the Grahamstown Festival has invited him to the Jazz Stage, as a performer with the Swiss-South African Quintet featuring Feyfa Faku, the Awesome Big Band, and in a sextet with South African and Swedish musicians. While at the festival he will conduct workshops within the Jazz programme. See festival programme. www.nafest.co.za

Dates TBC: Swiss-South African Jazz Quintet

South African jazz musician, Feyfa Faku was resident at the Bird's Eye Club in Basel where he formed a quintet with local musicians. The five (Feyfa Faku, Domenic Landolf, Colin Vallon, Stephan Kurmann, Makaya Ntshoko) played so well together that a tour of South Africa is planned in order to fulfil both the Swiss musicians curiosity about South African Jazz. The quintet will play in Johannesburg, PE, Grahamstown and Cape Town, venues still to be confirmed. □



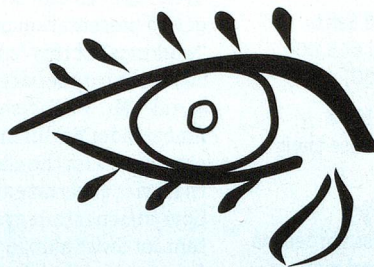
IMPRESSUM

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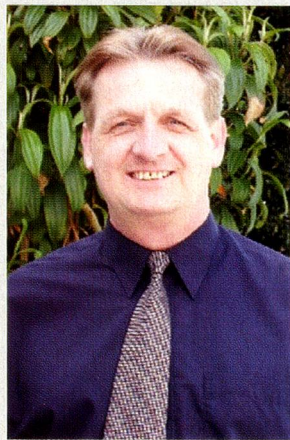
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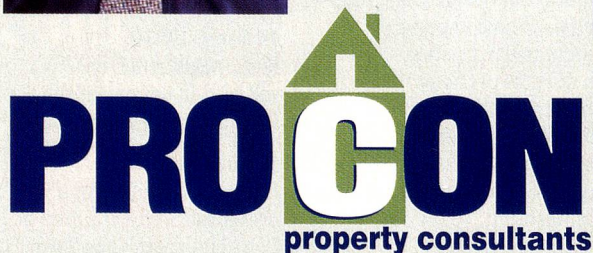
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Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, T/F 011 805 3039, Restaurant T 011 805 3040, swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za
Senior Swiss Circle meets every second Saturday of the month for lunch; Andy Tischhauser 011 672 1753 / 082 719 3389.

PRETORIA

Swiss Embassy 012 452 0660
Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Diana Lüthi, Secretary, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com
1. August Feier on 28 July at the Fountains resort. Annual Christmas function in late November.

CAPE TOWN

Swiss Consulate General T 021 418 3665
Swiss Social and Sports Club, Nick Eppenberger eppen@mweb.co.za, Nicky Rodrigues T 072 218 5759, nicky.rodrigues@za.sabmiller.com

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com
Family and Friends Social Program 2007: 16 June Cheese Fondue at Bowling Club House, Westville; 15 July Ten Pin Bowling at Pavilion Shopping Centre, Westville; 1 August Dinner in Durban and Pietermaritzburg at venue to be announced; 5 August Swiss National Day gathering at Hammersdale; 16 September Game Reserve visit near Durban, location to be announced; 21 October Green Bowling at Westville Bowling Club; 25 November Steam Train Ride Kloof - Inchanga and return and picnic; 14 December Dinner and Price Jassen in Westville. Everybody is welcome to all the aforesaid social gatherings. 083 301 4563 or 083 262 6107 for more details. Jass Meetings: The Jass friends meet regularly on every second Friday of each month at 18h00 in Westville Bowling Club House near the Westville Civic Centre. Everybody is welcome to join! Target shooting Practices: The target shooting section meets every first Saturday of each month at 12h00 on the Hammond shooting range near Hammersdale halfway between Durban and Pietermaritzburg. 073 433 9940 for more details.

SWISS CLUB EASTERN CAPE

Port Elizabeth, Ronnie Jucker T (w) 041 368 6141, T (h) 041 583 2927 F (w) 041 368 6145, C 072 341 5355
rjucker@netactive.co.za
East London
T (w/h) 043 736 1020, sc-el@brumann.li, brumann.li/sc-el

Events are published on the SC-EL-Website & all members are notified directly.

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Paul Thomas, PO Box 148, Makado 0920, C 082 334 3187
Girardin T 015 556 3690

NAMIBIA

Hon. Consul K. Neuenschwander, Veronica Strasse 22, Ludwigsdorf, PO Box 9298, Eros/Windhoek, T +264 61 225 116, F +264 61 220 104
Schweizer Club, Peter Hess, T +264 61 252 943, C +264 81 124 6890, phess@iafrica.com

Der Präsident Peter Hess und der Vorstand wurden wiedergewählt. Fondue Chinoise am 16.6. in der Fäschthütte. Die Bundesfeier am 29.7. am gleichen Ort.

LESOTHO

Rolf Herzig, PO Box 10592, Maseru 100, C +266 584 70 585, roherzig@yahoo.com
All compatriots are asked to please send their details (cell/phone no.) to Rolf Herzig to have the contacts whenever required.

SWAZILAND

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Restaurant, T (h) +268 416 1095, T (w) +268 416 1187, C +268 602 8545, calabash@swazi.net

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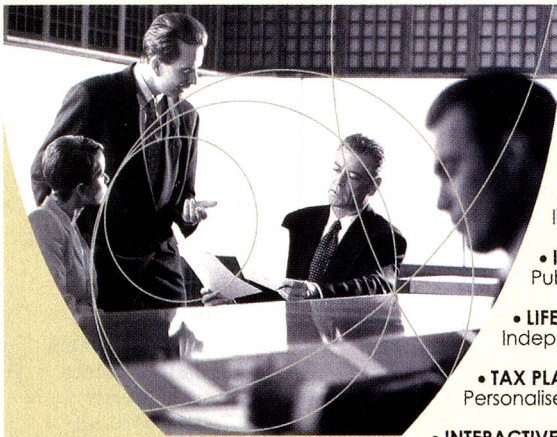
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