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Swiss Cham Southern Africa – the lobbying body

The newly formed SwissCham Southern Africa South Africa Chapter is in its sixth month since its inauguration in April of this year.

More than 50 members have joined the Chamber to date. These include small/medium as well as large companies. Companies of any size can benefit from membership, where a wide spectrum of services is available to its members.

Amongst these is advice on import/export opportunities, market overviews and specific sectorial information. SwissCham will arrange introductions and referrals to potential business partners and assist with focused searches for location, partners, suppliers and customers. It also acts as a lobbying body when making representations to government by approaching Ministers and their departments on important issues representing the bilateral interests of the private sector.

SwissCham also provides individual advice and assistance with the setting up of business plans, marketing concepts and strategies, the formation of companies or subsidiaries and the procurement of custom tailored legal and tax advice. It will also help with the promotion and marketing of products and services.



Suzanne Howitt

An important part of SwissCham Southern Africa South Africa Chapter is the networking platform it provides at its luncheon and dinner meetings with leading speakers from industry, government and opinion leaders where knowledge and know-how is shared and important business contacts can be made.

Further information: Suzanne Howitt, Manager, SwissCham Southern Africa South Africa Chapter. P.O.Box 1553 Gallo Manor 2052. Tel: 011 603 2498 Fax: 011 603 2499 E-mail address : info@swisscham.co.za

Preparing for the ASR Elections

The 86th Congress and Council for the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizerrat) Session took place in Fribourg from 22 to 24 August. Next year the elections for the council abroad will take place and Francois Jeannerat has been chosen as Electoral Officer for Southern Africa.

The meeting was attended by over 400 Swiss from abroad including your elected Delegates and their Alternates, as well as some regulars such as Francois and Elisabeth Jeannerat (former Delegate and nominated ASR Electoral Officer for the ASR Elections for the period 2009 2013, and Kurt Scheurer (former Swiss Review Editor and Swiss/South African historian).

The President of the Council for the Swiss Abroad (ASR), former MP and Chairman of the Swiss Liberal Party Mr. Egly, delivered his opening address in which he summed up the most important areas in which the Council tries to promote the interests of the Swiss Abroad. We have tried to summarise the most important ones for you below:

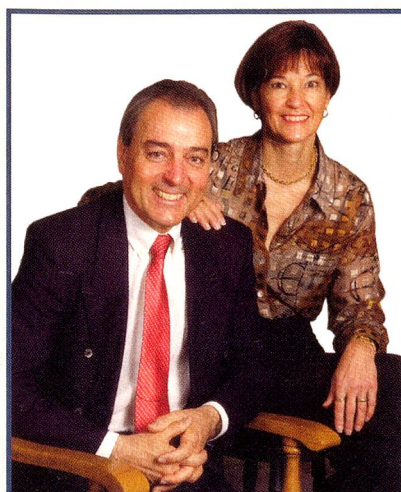
The future of the "Swiss Review"

The Foreign Affairs Department of Switzerland has seen fit to cut the Budget for the world-wide 400,000 copy issued 6 times each year information magazine Swiss Review, from 1,8 million to 1,3 million francs. It is clear that should such a drastic budget cut become reality, then the number of issues each year will have to be substantially reduced. Clearly this is not in our interests, nor in fact in Switzerland's, and your delegates joined those from throughout the world, pointing out that well-informed Swiss Abroad are Switzerland's best ambassadors who contribute in no mean way to the maintenance and furtherance of Switzerland's excellent image world-wide. The decision about the budget cut will be made in December.

Update on E-Voting and E-Consulates

In the elections held last October, it came to the Council's attention that many Swiss Abroad who are registered voters, could not vote timeously as a result of postal and logistic delays in many parts of the world. This regrettably also applies in Africa and indeed in

Continued overleaf/...



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Southern Africa. Your delegates, as well as the Council, are continually pushing the Swiss authorities to introduce E-Voting. Tests have been done in at least three cantons with very little problems. However, it would seem that some instances concerned with this are dragging their feet. Thus, a further appeal was made to expedite this important matter. In addition, more and more Consulates are being closed by the Department of Foreign Affairs, ostensibly to effect savings. The appointment of Honorary Consuls as replacements while welcome, cannot provide the same degree or depth of service as a fully fledged Consulate. As a result, your delegates as well as the Council, are

pushing for so-called E-Consulates, where one will be able to transact electronically most if not all the business that Swiss Abroad presently engage in with their nearest Consulate. Again, there seems to be some reluctance to push ahead with this speedily, but your Council is monitoring this closely.

Francois Jeannerat as Electoral Officer for Southern Africa

Our four year term as your Delegates is coming to an end in August next year when the Council for the Swiss Abroad meets for the 87th Session in Luzern. Elections for Delegates for 2009 to 2013, similar to those held for the first time early in 2004, will be held in the affiliated Swiss Clubs in

South Africa early next year. In order to co-ordinate these elections amongst the clubs, the Council of the Swiss Abroad has appointed Francois Jeannerat as Electoral Officer for Southern Africa. Francois is a long serving former delegate himself and was on the committee of Soliswiss, and he handled the 2004 elections superbly. We are indeed fortunate to have him as Electoral Officer again, and both the Secretariat in Bern as well as Francois himself, will be getting in touch with the affiliated Swiss Clubs in South Africa in the next few months.

Your delegates Rolf Schudel and Peter Muller, and alternates Gabor von Moricz and Toni Kolb.

Schneesportlager für junge Auslandschweizer

Die beliebten Schneesportlager im Rahmen der Ferien- und Bildungsangebote der Auslandschweizer-Organisation ASO finden kommende Saison in Graubünden und Bern statt. Die ASO berät die Jugendlichen über Ausbildungsmöglichkeiten in der Schweiz und organisiert Besuche und Kontakte zu Schulen und Universitäten. Sie vermittelt auch Gastfamilien in der Schweiz und ermöglicht einen authentischen Einblick in das schweizerische Alltagsleben. Auf der Homepage www.aso.ch unter der Rubrik Angebot sind die aktuellsten Informationen zum Jugendprogramm zu finden. (gp)



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Swiss Club Info and Forthcoming Events

JOHANNESBURG

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swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za,
a, Swiss Country Club
Restaurant «La Raclette»,
Ariane,
T/F 011 805 3040,
C 076 585 4405,
open Tue-Sat 11-21h
Restaurant, 11-23h Bar,
Sun 10-17h

The official opening of the newly renovated Swiss Country Club took place on our National Day Celebrations 3 August. The Gourmet-Restaurant "La Raclette" is in full swing, there will be also traditional Swiss food on the menu. Our AGM took place on 9 May 2008 at our newly renovated Swiss Country Club. The Committee for 2008: Chairman: Mario Valli; Vice-Chairman: Armand Salutt; Treasurer: Denese Salutt; Assessor: Walter Oechslin; Assessor: Max Waspe. At the EGM on 15 August two new Council members had to be elected. The Council members: Rolf Schlub (Patron), George Scherrer, Peter Lanz and Charly Dufey. Our active Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling: for Info call Debora Lanz at above Office Numbers. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch; Andy Tischhauser 011 672 1753. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for Lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 4640.

PRETORIA

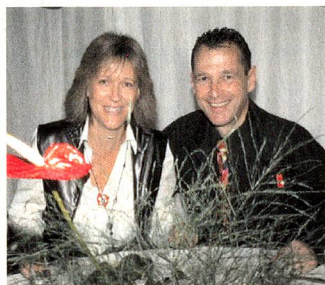
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Our National Day was celebrated in style at the Italian Club with a luncheon for the members who don't enjoy being out late and dinner with some music later the evening. The celebration was a great success and enjoyed by all. Forth-coming events: 18.10. Over 70's Tea Party; 29.11. Austrian's Seniors function; 6.12. Bänzejass; 6.12. Sämiclaus; 13.12. Rifle Club and Choir year end function. Negotiations with the City Council for new premises are still underway.



Andrea and Michael Hauser,
President of Swiss Club Cape Town

SWISS CLUB NATAL

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6.11. Green Bowls at Westville Bowling Club; **12.12.** Christmas Dinner+Price Jassen in West-ville; **18.1.09** Ten Pin Bowling in Pavillon Shopping Centre, Westville; **13.-15.2.09** Outing, details tba; **March 09:** AGM 2009. The Jass friends meet regularly every second Friday of each month at 18h in the Westville Bowling Club House. We have after four shooting sessions on "Dave Nicol Shooting Range" in Nottingham Road found a very suitable new home for practicing our traditional national sport. The range is located on the Mid-lands Meander route, on a farm with a stocked trout dam and club house. For a lift or driving directions contact 031 568 2457 or 083 262 6107. 25.10. "Emmentalerstich" and Team selection program for Inter-club; **29.11.** Local Interclub Competition (subject to final confirmation!). All shooting events start at 9h and are a full day.

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Farmausflug und/oder
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Teufelsbach, 25./26.10. bei
Bruno und Irmela Jordi-
Middendorff. 45 km nördlich
von Windhoek links an der
Hauptstrasse nach
Okahandja. Anmeldungen
bis 20.10. (Tel. siehe oben);
Jahresabschluss: 22.11.,
Chlauskegeln: 6.12.

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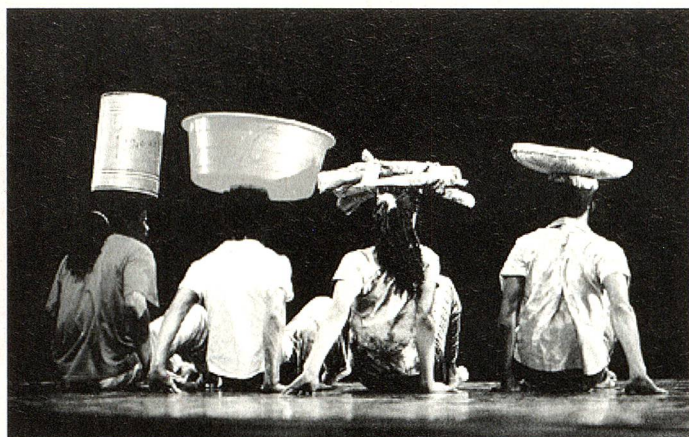
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10 years as cultural ambassador in Africa



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1998, a few years after the collapse of the Apartheid regime, Pro Helvetia opened a liaison office in Cape Town. The official 10 year anniversary programme is held in Switzerland from August until November.

With an annual budget of around Fr. 600'000, the office fosters cultural exchange between Switzerland and South Africa. A further Fr. 290'000, provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), are earmarked each year for promoting cultural development in Southern Africa. The Cape Town office has realised some 500 projects to date.

Jasper Walgrave, Head of Cape Town liaison office, is

convinced that Switzerland is an ideal partner. "It has a long tradition of international exchange, and Swiss identity has a lot to do with constant change and innovation. So Swiss artists are used to exploring fresh territory."

Pro Helvetia Cape Town predominantly supports large-scale cooperation projects that are then shown at major festivals. Groundbreaking projects involving Swiss and South African artists have been initiated and supported by the liaison office in the disciplines of music, literature, visual arts and, in particular, dance.

For the complete anniversary programme, go to: www.prohelvetia.ch/capetown

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Road to Nieu Bethesda

3 - 14 November: For nine days, 9 Swiss and 9 South African artists will live and work together in Nieu Bethesda, a small town in the semi-desert outside Cape Town. The town is somewhat of an art mecca because it holds the Owl House, which shows the sculptural works of South African artist, Helen Martin. In this relative isolation the artists will work together to look for different ways of communicating, translating between languages, culture and media. Mid-way through the symposium the artists plan to host a town feast with an aim to include artworks in the event: songs, videos and performances. Participating artists: Nicole Boillat, Monika Dillier, Fränzi Madörin, Muda

Mathis, Chris Regn, Dagmar Reichert, Andrea Saemann, Dagmar Wessels, Sus Zwick, Wonder Marthinus, Piet Pienaar, Daya Heller, Kai Lossgot, Bulewa Basse, Khanyisile Mbongwa, Anthea Moys (TBC) and Nkukuleko Mlangeni (TBC).



IMPRESSUM

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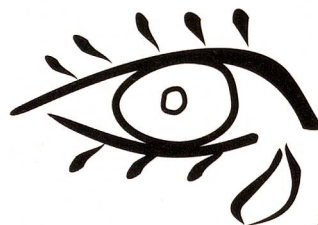
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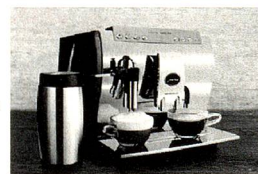


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