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## President's Report

I sincerely hope that everyone had a pleasant Christmas and have enjoyed a possible break ... even if the weather didn't play its part!!! Having spoken to relatives in Switzerland over the festive season, they too are having unusual weather patterns ... very, very warm, which obviously means little, or no snow ... wouldn't seem like Christmas to the Swiss!!! And the ski resorts wouldn't be enjoying a lucrative time either!!! Skiers would be annoyed at not being able to partake in their favourite hobby during their holidays!!!

Just before Christmas, the Swiss Society got some very good news ... we had received several donations to assist towards the printing and postage costs associated with our magazine. May I extend our grateful thanks to the NZ Community Trust, the Lottery Grants Board and the Taranaki Electricity Trust for their generous donations. We are truly appreciative of your valuable support.

Until next time,  
Regards, Marianne



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## Spruch des Monats

### Friends Are So Very, Very Special

*Contributed by Walter Seifert*

Friends teach us some of life's most important lessons. They teach us about love. They search with us for life's meaning. They think out loud with us and give us their approval and judgment. They help us to have faith. By their example, they teach us about truth and honesty. About living. About confidence and favours. They sense when we're lonely and need acceptance.

Friends make us feel at home. We know where we stand with them and where they stand with us. They let us be ourselves and love us even when we are not the most lovable.

Friends don't abandon us when the going gets tough. They are there with us wherever we are, whenever we need them. They have time for us. They don't forget us, and we don't forget them. They give us the opportunity to find out more about ourselves, so we'll know what to try to change and what to accept. Friends validate us.

Friends are not afraid to take a chance on us, to defend us, to take a stand for us. They are not embarrassed to tell us how much our friendship means to them; they do not care how silly they may sound when they share these feelings with us.

Friends are like special gifts to us that we never discard or outgrow. No one can ever take their place. There is always room for them in the hotel of our heart. There are the memories that never fade.

Friends are special ... so very, very special.

*Donna Fargo*

## 85th Congress for the Swiss Abroad

**The 85th Congress for the Swiss Abroad will be held from 17 - 19 August 2007 in Geneva.**

Numbers are required by 30 April 2007.

Should you require further information, please contact either the Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington on 04 4721593 or Marianne Drummond on 06 7628757, or alternatively look up e-mail address: [congress@aso.ch](mailto:congress@aso.ch).

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