

**Rotary Club of Mission Bay
Meeting Summary March 3, 2010**

by Petra LaVictoire

Peter Scheuchzer's 'Who Am I' – Memories of a Swiss Banker

Thought of the Day: International Rotary Traditions and what we can learn

Rotarians and friends who attended: Mary Ann Brummer; Brian Current; Carlyn Kelley; Susan Thorning; Dean Dickinson; Terry Tilton; Rita O'Brien and friend; Larry Eberlein; Petra LaVictoire and Jerry Thush, MD; Alan; Peter Scheuchzer and son Patrick.

Whenever there is a new member at Peter's Rotary Club in Switzerland, there typically is a special celebration. Instead of welcoming the new person(s) at the regular meeting, a new place is chosen. In this case, Peter was very gracious in showing us this celebration by inviting all of our Club members and friends to join him and his son Patrick (who flew in from Switzerland) for a special BBQ.

The scent of European hospitality greeted one when entering the cottage in Pacific Beach. Plenty of veggies and dip, as well as salsa and chips were in the living room, and cookies were patiently resting on a side table. The beautiful outdoor courtyard was decorated with tables draped in blue covers and adorned with white candles; above a string of lit lanterns and the starry skies.

While we were enjoying the Hamburgers, Tofu and Veggie Burgers, Potato Salad, Sauerkraut and Swiss Bratwurst, Peter began telling us about his beautiful youth, friends, and how he finished school. He proudly spoke about his parents and his brother who also is a banker. He spent a few years in the Army where he helped with Natural Disaster and various other tasks. Met his first wife at a bank where he worked and had two sons from that marriage. Dominique is the older son, and Patrick who happily kept giving us more Swiss Bratwursts throughout the evening. Peter went into great detail how he worked himself up the ladder in the banking business, but then when the banking industry was going through changes he made a choice to leave that carrier to come to the United States. Here is where he met his second wife - Marla. He was first introduced to Rotary in 1994 by Arnold Zahner, who was the stepfather of one of his Army friends. Arnold Zahner was a very famous stain glass artist and potter. Peter proudly showed us his book and we were all impressed by such great talent and artistry. Since leaving Switzerland, Peter founded the San Diego English Center and in addition to that he does product research.

After his presentation, Peter served Fruit Salad (fresh berries, melon, etc.) and homemade Swiss Chocolate Pudding. Peter, on behalf of everyone who attended, thank you for a perfect evening, great company, fond memories for our taste buds, and most of all for sharing your 'Who Am I' and Swiss Rotary traditions!!

