



swiss center
of north america

January 2024

Dear friends, partners, contributors, and donors,

After 15 years as President and CEO of the Swiss Center of North America, I am announcing my retirement. My retirement is not immediate. I will continue in my role until we transition to new leadership. The Board of Directors has formed a search committee and will share details on their progress in due course.

I can promise you that this decision did not come lightly as I am leaving a position I absolutely love. I hope that my time with the Swiss Center will be remembered by my passion for our mission of preserving and celebrating Swiss cultural heritage.

The Swiss Center was newly remodeled when I started in 2008. We had yet to begin fundraising for the future and needed to clearly define our mission. Today we clearly know that mission to be celebrating our culture, preserving our heritage, and embracing our roots.

Since opening our doors 15 years ago, we have received extraordinary Swiss treasures that were stored in attics, closets, or basements. We have become the place to preserve family and Swiss club records, display beautiful heirlooms, and celebrate how our Swissness came to be. We have inventoried more than 5,000 items from your personal and estate donations, Swiss club records, and more.

Last year we nearly doubled our display and meeting space when the Linda Schiesser Gallery opened in August. We welcome more than 300 visitors from around the world every year, and our new gallery space gives us additional room to exhibit historical documents, objects, and artwork that comprise our collections.

I believe the impact we have had is everlasting and incredibly unique. It will be very hard to leave, but it is time, and I will leave with immense pride in all we have accomplished together. Saying goodbye is never easy. Therefore, I sign off with *Uf Wiederluege* --until we meet again.

With gratitude

Beth Zurbuchen