

commute only 20 minutes to Basel to a nice office with freindly coworkers, good pay and I got a job as a foreign language correspondent! Like I said, my dream job!"

"One summer two girl friends and I went to Torremolinos in the South of Spain on vacation and stayed at the same motel as two American Air Force guys, as we called them. They were stationed in Southern Spain and were on leave. They had a car, and we were invited on a couple of trips. Before heading back home we exchanged addresses and phone numbers and to our surprise those two guys showed up in Basel a few weeks later. After a few such visits the Air Force guy from Wichita, Kansas by the name of Ed Rogers and I got engaged and I moved to Madrid."



Government regulations for US citizens to marry foreigners were strict and the paperwork took months to complete, because in effect it is an immigration procedure. But the wait was well worth it. Ed and Maya were married and lived in one of Maya's favorite cities, Madrid! After their daughter Marilyn was born, they moved to the United States when Ed was transferred to Maryland. Maya was multilingual and got along well. They lived in Alabama; back to Maryland and eventually they found themselves stationed at McClellan AFB in Sacramento. The family fell in love with the West Coast. Since Ed was a navigator, trained in reconnaissance and surveillance, his service was required in Vietnam during the 1960s. He would be gone 4 - 6 months every year. During this era, the Rogers family lived in North Highlands where their son, Steve, was born. In 1965 Maya heard about the Swiss Lodge and soon joined.

In 1971 orders came for Ed to have a one-year tour of duty in Greenland. It was an unaccompanied tour, therefore Maya, Marilyn and Steve stayed in North Highlands. Ed's last assignment before he retired, was to Dayton, OH. The family did accompany him there and after four years in Dayton, the Rogers made a joint decision to settle in Roseville, CA. After retiring to Roseville, Ed and Maya both went back to college. Maya brushed up on accounting and tax preparation and has been working in this field ever since. Of course, she joined the Swiss Lodge again and has been secretary, inside guardian, vice president and president. Daughter, Marilyn lives in Sacramento and is also a member of the lodge.

Ed Rogers passed away in 2008 after 48 years of marriage. He never did go back to Switzerland, and would pat Maya's back stating that "he already had everything he wanted from Switzerland." So, Ed would house-sit while Maya visited her family and friends in Switzerland; which she still does every couple of years. In between visits, she enjoys skyping with her sister, Toni every Sunday; keeping up with the town gossip. These days Maya enjoys the Swiss club dinners, still volunteers and is on the teaching team for the Swiss-German classes offered by SHV.

Prost! Maya



SACRAMENTO HELVETIA VEREIN

FALL YODELER 2017

SPOTLIGHTING SACRAMENTO'S LOVELY MESDAMES

Introducing Iride Revere, Marianne Richardson, and Maya Rogers. All were born and grew up in three separate linguistic and cultural regions of Switzerland; (Italian, French and German). As young ladies, they all sought continued education, traveled and in their 20s they all married US Airmen. But they didn't find each other until the 1970s in Sacramento, California. Now they are the best of friends.



MARIANNE RICHARDSON

"I was new in Sacramento when someone told me about a ladies' Swiss club in town. I found out that they met the first Wednesday of every month at 8:00. I was excited when the time came and I left my house early to assure I was right on time! I went into the Turn Verein Library looking for the group. Finally, an office manager told me that the meeting was to be held later that evening at 8:00 PM. I was there at 8:00 in the morning!" laughed Marianne. "I knew I would enjoy being a member after that first meeting. Maya Rogers was president. She and the ladies made me feel very welcome. They all shared stories and backgrounds much like my own. I became very involved in the club and after a couple of years I followed Maya's 1978-1979 presidency and became president myself from 1980-1983."

IRIDE REVERE

Iride Bizzozero was born in Lugano, Switzerland. As a child, she loved to sing and dance! She sang with the Bambini di Ticinese Choir for 5+ years as a young girl traveling throughout Switzerland entertaining most weekends. When she was 14-years old she started working in a ladies' couture dress shop specializing in 100% wool and 100% silk clothing. At fifteen Iride's schooling was over. She loved beautiful Lugano but she decided she'd like to see what life was like beyond the Lake.

With the help of her mother 16-year old Iride went to Geneva as a nanny to live with a family and learn French for six months. She also wanted to learn to speak English. A few years later, when friends in England required help with their children Iride became an au pair in London. The family she cared for had three children and she stayed with them for four years; two of those years as a single lady and two as a married woman.

continued on page 2 Iride

Marianne was also very active in the United Swiss Lodge of California (USLOC), helping raise money for the Sutter Statue that was designed by an artist in the Bay area and the bronze was poured in Mexico. Sutter Hospital said they'd love to have the sculpture dedicated on their site where the statue was erected and where it still stands today.

Marianne started life in small town in Les Vineuves near Vaulion, Switzerland; near the border of France. Her maiden name was Marianne E.L. Rochat who's family originated in Le Brassus, Canton Vaud. Marianne's father was Jean Rochat, a cheesemaker specializing in Vacherin Mont D'or Cheese. Marianne had a little sister named, Jacqueline.

continued on page 2 Marianne

MAYA ROGERS

Maya was born in a castle overlooking Lake Thun. It seems like a fairytale, but it's true.

"My father, Ernst Ochsenbein (an old Berner name) was a police officer in Thun, Switzerland. One of his duties as a young officer was to guard and live in the Thun Castle which was built in the early 12th Century by Bertchtold V, Duke of Zaehringen in Canton Bern". Her father liked living in such a novel residence, but her mother was glad the assignment was only for 2 years. It was a cold damp and draughty place and it was here that Maya was born. As her father moved up the ladder in the police force, they had to move often. They lived in Biel, Olten and Aarburg where her little sister, Antonia (Toni) was born. Maya remembers being on the swim team and swimming in the river Aare. In 1945 after the war, her father became Chief of Police and transferred to Rheinfelden, Canton Aargau. Right across the river Rhein is Germany.

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SAVE THE DATES -

Oct 21 Kafichränzli, 11 AM Ettore

Nov. 1 Mly Meeting; 7 PM

Nov. 4 Metzgete 5:30 PM Sacramento Turn Verein

Nov 18 Jass & Schweizerdeutsch, 11 AM Ettore

Dec. 6 Mly Meeting & Christmas Celebration 7 PM w/ Cookie Exchange, Food & Toy Drive (No Santa, no gift exchange) with our Swiss holiday coldcut spread, salads and Christmas music

Jan. 3 Mly Meeting, New Year Celebration & Potluck (We serve the ham, members provide, sides, salads & desserts)

Feb. 3 Annual General Meeting, 12 - 4 PM cocktails, lunch, planning and general elections

Feb. 10 Fasnacht, Mascarade Party 7 PM, Turn Verein - Prizes for best Costumes: Catagories: Single, Couples & Group

Visit our website for more details. Fasnacht Flyer will be mailed after the holidays.

Food & Toy Drive

Sacramento Helvetia Verein's Christmas Cheer will now be celebrated with members at our Member's Monthly Meeting each December

We will be turning our attention to Giving Back

Please bring four non perishable food items or/and one unwrapped toy to the December meeting. All collected items will be taken to Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services. Please bring your favorite cookies to share and after the meeting we will serve our nice Holiday Coldcuts Spread and Cookies

SACRAMENTO Food Bank & Family SERVICES

Iride Continued



Iride met a GI in 1951 named William Revere. She says now that she is not sure if working for the family in London or the enjoyment she felt while talking with her handsome Airman helped her the most. But when she was 22 years old she knew how to say, "I do" in English. She and Bill were married in 1953.

The newlyweds were later transferred to Hamilton AFB in Marin County, California. Iride fell in love with the United States. It was while living in Novato that Iride became a US Citizen and the Revere's welcomed the birth of their son, Bill. Soon after they were assigned a transfer back to Europe and lived in Paris for three years; then in Germany for another two years. In 1965 the family of three were back in the States, now living on the East Coast in New Jersey at the McGuire Air Force Base. Because Bill was an Air Force Chief Master Sergeant in charge of Procurement the government utilized his expertise throughout the United States and Europe, which meant they didn't stay 'put' for very long. The Air Force transferred the family back to Berlin for 4 years before their final assignment to March AFB in Riverside, CA. Bill retired in 1970.

The family had two homes in California. One in Sun City and one in Fair Oaks. They traveled from one home to the other every three or four years. "Bill couldn't sit still. He was so use to moving that he would get antsy if we stayed in one place too long." They did reside in Sacramento long enough to allow their son to graduate from Bella Vista High School in 1974. A couple of years later, Iride met Marianne Richardson at the NCO Wives' Club on Mather AFB. Marianne was the residing president of Sacramento's Swiss Ladies' Society and invited Iride to join; which she did although her membership was short lived when Bill was ready to move once again; this time to Olympia, WA where he and Iride lived for the next four years.

In 1996 Bill Sr's traveling was no longer enjoyable due to back problems so they decided to plant roots. Iride laughed, "Wherever Bill chose to live was fine with me. But once unpacked I never wanted to pack again." They bought a new home in Folsom in 1982 where she still resides today.

Bill passed away in 2010 after 57 years of marriage. Iride remains a proud member of the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. She still loves to dance and is the first one up and the last one down at our club's dances. Her older sister, younger brother and cousins still live in Lugano, where she visits every few years. She always enjoys the splendor of her hometown on Lake Lugano.



Salute, Iride!



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Marianne Continued



When they were small they were very close and loved the countryside although it was very cold and snowed all winter. The two girls would ski to school and never missed a day. Her childhood was idyllic. Then, at 10-years-old Marianne's tranquil life changed. Her mother asked her father for a divorce; not so shocking these days, but back in the 1940s it was scandalous. Marianne and Jacquelin became "Those

girls, with divorced parents". Some people wouldn't let their children play with Marianne and her sister. Eventually, her father married again and had three more children but Marianne was unhappy and ready to leave. She had too much spirit for the small-minded village. She wanted to see the world. When school ended at 15 she went to Finishing School near Lake Brieuze where they specialized in manners, presentation and they were well known for their advanced German Language Program. Marianne learned High German. "At least 30 French girls attended when I did and if the Protestant Sister heard us speak French instead of German, even on our day off, she would scold us very harshly and we'd have to work extra shifts. But I must admit, I was bilingual within the year. They got results."

Marianne loved the freedom being away from home and did not return. She went to a personnel agency after Finishing School that help wealthy families find proper staff. Her first stop as a professional au pair was in Luzern, Switzerland. She thoroughly enjoyed the Swiss-German culture on beautiful Lake Luzern but after two years moved back to the Switzerland's French region to Glion on Lac Lemman. She worked in a coffee house/bakery and enjoyed working with adults and the public. "It was nice that I had new and interesting people coming in every day! I liked getting to know all the township" She stayed in Glion for two years.

Marianne decided she should learn to speak English; got her visa and moved to London. She contacted the au pair agency she had previously worked with, got a job and quickly learned the language. She enjoyed London very much. She would stop at a bakery where she got to know the owner who liked Marianne's spunk. With her language skills and experience in Glion she was offered a job as manager. Marianne didn't hesitate and gave her notice. A couple of weeks later, Marianne became the manager of London's busy Le Mazot coffeeshop. It was here that an American GI from Shreveport, Louisiana named Robert Lee Richardson came in for coffee and the rest is history; they fell in love.

Marianne and Robert Lee Richardson, better known as Rich, got married in 1958 in London and had two children, Bob and Michelle. The family moved to America when Rich was

Continued, Page 3

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Maya Continued



Au pairs visiting Lausanne, Maya (Center)

Like Iride and Marianne, Maya finished school at 15, became an au pair for a family that lived in Pully, located right outside of Lausanne and she learned to speak French. When she returned from her year in Pully, her mother convinced her to sign up for an apprenticeship with a seamstress in town. Well, she just hated it, mostly because the boss was a witch. Maya knew she must finish what she started and received her diploma after 2½ years of training. She had also

signed up for business classes in the evenings, so besides singing in the church choir there was not much time for fun. She did not waste much time, two weeks after receiving the business diploma she took off for London to learn the language, again as an au pair. When a year was up she stayed another few months to study and take the Cambridge Proficiency Exam. (Which she passed.)

While in London she was hired to write articles about English movies and the film industry in general for a Swiss magazine. She visited the movie studios and was excited to get an interview with Gregory Peck when he was filming the comedy "Million Dollar Note" and French actress Odile Veronis working on "A Day to Remember". She had a pass to go to screenings of new movies and had a really interesting time.

She was in London about a year and a half when her mother hinted that it was time to go back to Switzerland. Maya went home and stayed long enough to learn a few Spanish phrases, got her visa and left for Spain. She found a pension for young girls in Madrid and soon heard of a job. A professor of the University of Madrid who was also the Secretary of Education was looking for a language tutor for the family's TEN children! The family lived in Madrid but spent the summer in Tarragona on the Mediterranean and it was while they vacationed that they needed Maya to start. Ten children; Big breath - she got on the train the next day for Tarragona which is a picturesque old Roman town with lots of history. The family had a huge house close to the beach with a large staff. There was a cook, maid, nanny and chauffeur. Maya's job was to tutor the older children in German, French and English. She loved it. "Family life was quite organized and disciplined. The kids and I got along really well, and I stayed with them for over a year. I had fallen in love with Spain".

"But it was time to move on; I wanted to use my language skills. I moved home thinking I'd be there temporarily, and instead I was lucky enough to find my dream job! I could live at home,

Continued, Page 4

assigned to San Antonio, TX; then transferred to Mather AFB for one year. This is where Marianne became a US Citizen. After a three-year transfer to Germany, they were relocated once again to California which pleased the family. "We were then assigned to Hamilton AFB in the Bay Area, but it was when they transferred us to Mather AFB again that we felt most at home. Rich spent a year in Vietnam and later assigned to Travis AFB. But our family continued to live in Rancho Cordova. Eventually we bought a house in Orangevale where I still live today with my daughter, Michelle."



Marianne worked 20 years for Macy's in the women's department. Her son, Bob lives in Northern California in Humboldt County along with her grandson and two great grandchildren. After Marianne's husband retired he worked at the Army Depot where he became a good friend of Marvin Zraggen, another active member of the Sacramento Helvetia Verein. Sadly, Rich passed away

in 2002 after 43 years of marriage.

Marianne tries to get back to Pully, Switzerland to see her sister, Jacqueline every couple of years and hopes to visit in 2018. She remains active with the Swiss Lodge and enjoys attending the annual events. "My friends and I have been going to the Swiss Club for so many years, it feels comfortable and I am happy and content when I'm here."

A votre santé, Marianne!



S&H Celebration



Save the Date
Saturday, February 10, 2018

The Carnival of Basel (Fasnacht) is the biggest carnival in Switzerland and takes place annually between February and March. It has been listed as one of the top fifty local festivities in Europe