

Ellis Island – Immigration Exhibition: “Small Numbers – Big Impact”

Swiss Roots and Migrationsmuseum Switzerland present a newly designed exhibition, “Small Numbers – Big Impact” – an exhibition all about Swiss immigration to the US, taking place on Ellis Island from July 29th through October 31st, 2006.

The exhibition is divided into culture, music, politics, science and economics. Special attention will be given to the following five people: Marc Forster (Oscar-winning film maker), Adolf Rickenbacker (inventor of the electric guitar), Albert Gallatin (finance minister under President Thomas Jefferson), Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (psychiatrist and death researcher) as well as Louis Chevrolet (racing driver and car maker). A number of other personalities will also be introduced, such as Robert Frank (photographer), Jewel (singer), Andreas Dietsch (early socialist), Othmar H. Amman (bridge builder), Johann August Sutter (adventurer).

The sixth room - the “Swiss Forum” - will be a lounge in which visitors may browse through publications. There also will be an internet station at which visitors may start their own search for their Swiss ancestors.

In the run-up to the opening of the exhibition, a comprehensive publication will be made available. The 200-page exhibition catalogue delves deeper into the subject “Swiss immigration to the US“. The book will be published by the publishing house of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung newspaper, both in English and German. It will be available for sale in the US and Switzerland. At Swiss representations abroad as well as the museum shop on Ellis Island the book can be purchased at a discount.

The big opening of the exhibition will be celebrated two-fold on July 29th. First, Swiss Roots is very excited to have Federal Councillor, Pascal Couchepin, on hand for a special VIP red ribbon opening celebration. Speeches from the Federal Councillor will be followed by an official toast, musical entertainment and cocktails, as well as a guided tour of the exhibit by its curators. Second, join Swiss Roots and the Swiss community for the traditional National Day celebration. In Swiss village style, you can enjoy the varied entertainment program while indulging in Swiss wine and food. Many local associations will offer typical Swiss goods. Watch for the Swiss Roots old timer postal bus stationed on the grounds of Ellis Island and participate in its activities: learn how to yodel in 30 minutes, view some twenty three-dimensional pictures from beautiful Switzerland, participate in a sweepstakes to win flights to Switzerland, and pick up travel brochures and information about Switzerland. A tree-planting ceremony will commemorate all Americans with Swiss heritage.

**Swiss Roots on Ellis Island, New York
Saturday, July 29, 2006 (schedule to follow)**

Admission might be applicable.

For more information see www.swissroots.org and www.nps.gov/elis/