

## **Swiss Federal Charter in Philadelphia**

***“Swiss Roots” brings the Swiss Federal Charter, known as the “Schweizer Bundesbrief,” to Philadelphia’s Constitution Center. This occasion marks the first time this 715-year-old historic document has even been shown outside of Switzerland. It will be embedded in an exhibit, “Sister Republics”, for three weeks, showing the close constitutional ties between the U.S. and Switzerland. At the opening ceremony, former Swiss president, Arnold Koller, will participate in a “town hall meeting.”***

The Federal Charter is part of the newly designed “Sister Republics” exhibit, highlighting among others Swiss migration to the U.S. and Swiss involvement in the U.S. Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The exhibit will open June 10, 2006, with a town hall meeting that features Arnold Koller, who, in addition to serving as Switzerland’s president, is a constitutional lawyer and father of the modern Swiss constitution. He will give an historical review of the crosspollination between the Swiss and U.S. constitutions, as well as the direct democracy movement in the U.S.

Throughout the day, watch out for the Swiss Roots old timer postal bus, learn how to yodel in 30 minutes, view some 20 three-dimensional pictures from beautiful Switzerland, find your Swiss roots on the newly created website, [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org), accessible on the provided computer terminals, and participate in Swiss Roots’ sweepstakes to win flights to Switzerland.

In the evening, a colourful program will guide you through the delicatessen of Switzerland and invite you to dance to the folkloristic polkas. Various micro exhibits will spark the interest of young and old – Swiss mountain dogs, Alphorn players, Flag throwing, children activities - the ideal family outing before the summer break.

**Swiss Day at the National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA  
June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.**

For more information see [www.swissroots.org](http://www.swissroots.org).