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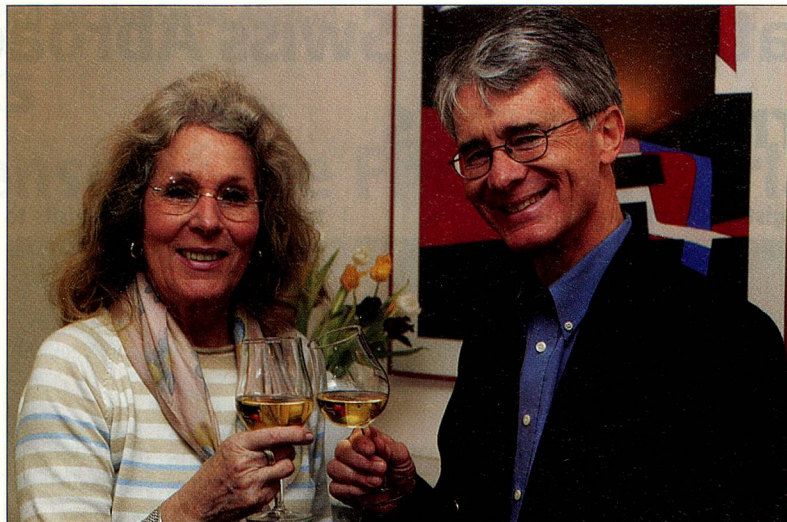
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Linda Geiser named Swiss Abroad of the Year

New York resident Linda Geiser has been named Swiss Abroad of the Year. This is the second year that the international chapter of the Swiss FDP has awarded the prize.

The jury, chaired by Neue Zürcher Zeitung editor-in-chief Hugo Bütler, awarded 68-year-old Swiss actress and artist Linda Geiser (68) the Swiss Abroad of the Year prize for her outstanding services to Swiss art and artists in the United States. The 7-member jury included OSA President Georg Stucky. Born in Wabern near Berne in 1935, Linda Geiser emigrated to New York in 1962. In conjunction with the city and canton of Berne she created the "Berner Stipendium" in 1982, and in 1985 was the first woman to sit on the board of the Swiss Society of New York, at the time the most important Swiss Abroad association. At the same



Patrick Lüthy

On her visit to the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad, Linda Geiser receives warm congratulations from OSA Director Rudolf Wyder.

time she helped to found the Swiss Institute of New York, dedicated to promoting Swiss art in the metropolis. In 1991, at the invitation of Marco Solari on the occasion of Switzerland's 700th anniversary, she gave an acclaimed speech in Bellinzona in support of artists and Swiss Abroad. Linda Geiser is well-known for her collaboration in film and TV productions, including "Ueli der Knecht", "Annabäbi Jowäger" and "Die sechs Kummerbuben", as well as the popular TV series "Lüthi und Blanc". In June 2002 the international

chapter of the FDP asked Swiss representations abroad, the Organisation for the Swiss Abroad (OSA), Swiss clubs and institutions abroad and its own members to nominate persons or institutions for the prize. The deadline for submissions was September 2002. From the field of 25 candidates, the jury selected Linda Geiser as the second winner of this prize. Last year 84-year-old Swiss-Hungarian Raymonde Berthoud was awarded the prize for her selfless work in the service of her compatriots as well as disadvantaged

groups in Hungary, often under very difficult conditions. The aim of the Swiss Abroad Prize is to support the interests and promote the recognition of Swiss residents abroad. The prize, awarded by the international chapter of the Swiss FDP, honours individuals or institutions both at home and abroad (Swiss nationality is not an essential criterion) who have rendered extraordinary services in the interests of Swiss Abroad.

gk

Translated from German.

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