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Dear Members,

It feels like we just started the year 2005 and it may already be gone when you receive my New Years Greetings.

Our society had another good year. It started out with a board meeting at the residency of treasurer Alfred Knup Jr. on February 23, 2005. The board of directors discussed the upcoming annual meeting and finalized the yearly report.

The annual meeting, again held at the Kove Caterer's in Palmyra, was attended by a rather small crowd of 32 members and guests. We enjoyed great food and were entertained by the beautiful tunes sung by Julia Kemp and Guy Rothfuss. Thanks go to Frank Muggler for arranging the world known singers.

The meeting started with remembering our members Hans Haug and William Jung who passed away in the early part of 2005. All reports were approved as presented. Cecilia Zufferey and Ed Bell resigned from the board due to heavily involvement in their business. All other directors of the board were re-elected.

I had the opportunity to attend the Scholarship meeting in New York. The scholarship fund is administered by the SBS NY. The committee approved 78 applications and awarded more than \$236,000.00 to students for the upcoming school year. "Many recipients write moving thank-you letters. Some tell us that the SBS grants make the difference between part-time and full-time studies, or going to school at all."

I encourage all parents and students to visit the web site www.swissbenevolentny.com to get more information on the scholarship fund and download the application form. You may also call the SBS NY (215-246-0655) to get more details and have application mailed.

Our society made donations to several non-profit organizations, namely to the American Red Cross, supporting the relief efforts for the Tsunami and Hurricane victims. We also covered needs of some of our local families.

The membership is steady at 93. Can we meet a goal of 100 during 2006? I ask you all to encourage family members and friends to join our society and I hope to see increased attendance on our Annual Meeting.

A Thank-You goes to all Directors of the Board for their continued support and I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2006.

Dolf Herger, President