

**Eulogy for Peter Schultze (German Version read at church service in Sigriswil on July 18, 2016)**

In his memoir, Peter Schultze cited the following words of his grandfather: "those who grow up in a beautiful area, have an advantage over others". Peter felt that he was fortunate in his life to always again and again live in beautiful locations. This included his childhood and years of his youth in the Bavarian Forest and in Hechingen, Germany, where he grew up with his parents and his three sisters – Renate, Doris and Gerta. He studied engineering in Munich where he met his first wife Irene. With a spirit of adventure, they emigrated to the U.S. where they settled in Washington DC. They bought a fixer upper house on a street lined with oak and maple trees. In this time they had two children, first Petra, and then six years later Micha.

In his career as an electronics engineer in Washington at Comsat and Intelsat, an international telecom organization, he found friendships with people from around the world.

From his father, Ernst, a forest manager, he got to know and love the natural outdoors at an early age. With his father he went hunting, and on the typical hunting benches perched up in a tree he savored the quiet and the awakening of the forest at dawn. Experiences in nature were important to him throughout his life. He greatly enjoyed hiking, cycling, downhill and cross country skiing with his family and friends. The love of the forest moved him to build a log cabin with Irene in the forest of West Virginia. This was a dream come true for him. With his family and friends he spent many wonderful hours at this cabin.

He also had a great passion for music and literature. His mother Gerta taught him these things already in his childhood. He received his first violin lesson at age 14 and with his homemade radio he already enjoyed listening to classical music as a teenager, especially in the bathtub. He was at home in the world of classical chamber music. For several decades he enjoyed playing in a string quartet in the Washington area and later in Switzerland. Playing music brought him many long term valuable friendships. This included friendships with his violin teachers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Throughout his life, listening to Bach Cantatas was seldom missing from his Sundays. In Switzerland, after breakfast, he put on his cosy Bach Cantata pants, sat down on the living room couch at home with his headphones, and then he was prepared to listen to the wonderful music.

Even in early years Peter enjoyed taking naps and retreating with a good book. A piece of chocolate and a sip of cognac was also seldom missing. He particularly enjoyed authors such as Marcel Proust, Thomas Mann, and Adalbert Stifter. During his time in Switzerland he developed a small reading circle with his wife Lisa and his friend Urs. After taking turns reading out loud, the small group would enjoy a glass of wine and good conversation.

Yes, Peter savored good cuisine. He liked to spoil his guests with his hospitality, which included a fine meal and a bottle of special wine from the cellar. Likewise he was delighted with having fine meals at friends houses to which he and Lisa were invited. On these evenings there was also often much laughter. Peter's humor was contagious. A recurring topic of conversation in these evenings was culture and the arts. Even as a young person he was already passionate about theater, opera, concerts and movies – and these were interests he pursued throughout his life. His creativity was expressed in his photography – and for several years he and Lisa sold his photo cards at an outdoor craft market in Bern.

Unfortunately Peter's life also contained several sad fates. One was the death of his first wife Irene in the year 1978. A further very sad event in his life was the loss of his son Micha, who died in March of 2013 after a two year battle with cancer. After the death of Irene, a difficult time followed for Peter and his children, but somehow life had to go on.

In the summer of 1980 he traveled with his daughter Petra to the Greek Island of Rhodos where he met his second wife Lisa. Out of this relationship resulted many wonderful trips that the two of them took to the Greek Islands over the years.

After marrying Lisa in 1982 the family remained in Washington for another 4 years. However, Peter and Lisa were drawn back to Europe to be closer to their families of origin. This move back to Europe would enable Peter to invest more time into the relationships with his parents and sisters, which was close his heart.

So in 1986 the family moved to Switzerland to the village of Gunten on the Lake of Thun. This location too was a fortunate choice, as he expressed it in his own words in his memoir. He loved the lake and the mountains. Old friends from the U.S. visited him in his new home. But in this new location he and Lisa also found many new friendships. His open and enthusiastic personality was valued by family and friends. Peter and Lisa continued to enjoy traveling out into the world. But they always enjoyed returning back to their beloved Chalet Waldheim.