

*My Lord and my God, take from me everything that hinders me from coming to you.
 My Lord and my God, give me everything that leads me to you.
 My Lord and my God, O take me from myself and give me entirely to yourself.
 (Prayer of Brother Klaus)*

Dear relatives, friends, and acquaintances,

I begin my 2025 year in review with the prayer of Brother Klaus.

Walter and I celebrated August 1st for the third time this year in Flüeli-Ranft. On August 1st, a speech is given in Flüeli for the Swiss National Day celebration, followed by Mass at 9:30 a.m. outdoors or, in case of bad weather, in the community hall. The celebration is accompanied by two alphorn players and a yodeling choir. This year, I was amazed at how the participants sang Brother Klaus's prayer with such full voices; while the national anthem sounded rather subdued in comparison.



Flüeli-Ranft

Walter turned 85 on July 8th. On August 2nd, he invited Urs, Martha, Peter, and Doris Hodel, as well as Ruedi and Gisela Stauber, to lunch at the Paxmontana in Flüeli-Ranft. His three adopted grandchildren and their parents came from Lungern. We ate on the large veranda. Lively conversations soon arose among the relatives and with the Voglers from Lungern. The acoustics were good, and Walter was able to participate in the conversations.



Geburtstag im Paxmontana

On August 16th, we celebrated with our daughters and their families, our son and his partner, and Anni's parents-in-law at the inn above Oberschan. Anni performed a satirical song about Walter. The acoustics in the hall were poor. Walter could only understand when one person in the room was speaking or when he was addressed directly.

From April 5th to 12th, Walter and I planned a river cruise from Dresden to Berlin. Three days before departure, we received word that the MS Thurgau Chopin could only travel as far as the vicinity of Magdeburg. The Elbe River was too low. On April 5th, we travelled from Basel to Dresden by train. We spent three nights there in a hotel. On April 6th, we took a steamboat to Bad Schandau, visiting the Bastei rock formation and Pillnitz Palace. It was cold. I regretted only having a headband and no gloves with me.



Dresden Frauenkirche

In Dresden, a visit to the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), which was rebuilt in October 2005, is a must. Walter and I went down to the lower level (below the main worship space) of the church for the first time. There is a room for quiet reflection and three other rooms there. A painting, which can be seen on the dome in the church, adorns one wall of a room. I was pleased that I was able to photograph it.



Magdeburg: Hundertwasserhaus

In the afternoon, we participated in an interesting and informative guided tour of the Semperoper (Semper Opera House).

On April 8th, the bus took us to Meissen for a city tour and later to the MS Thurgau Chopin.

Walter and I explored Magdeburg without a guide. We spent a long time in the cathedral. We walked around the Hundertwasser House.

On April 11th, we drove through Berlin for two and a half hours. The guide spoke slowly and clearly. We saw remnants of the wall that once divided

East and West and drove through what were then the four sectors.

On April 12th at 8:45 p.m., we arrived back in Buchs safe and sound, full of impressions.

On October 8th, Walter and I went to Algund in South Tyrol for a week. Every day we had blue skies and sunshine. Vreni and Andy stayed in Obermais from October 4th to 11th. We visited the Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle with them. I love our walks along the Waalbach streams. This year, we each visited a church in a neighboring village of Algund. We spent a day in Oberbozen. We took the Ritten Railway from Oberbozen to Klobenstein and back twice. We traveled through colorful forests and past two ponds. In some parts, the area is very tourist-oriented. We ate in the village of Maria Himmelfahrt. We drove home from Algund via the Ofen and Flüela passes on October 15th.

At our age, it's part of life to have to say a final goodbye to relatives or friends every year.

Two members of our "Fresskränzli" (a local group of friends) passed away in 2025. In July, Walter and I drove to Samedan and walked to St. Peter, where we paid our last respects to Edith Augustin. Edith died at the age of 92.

A large group of mourners gathered in September at the cemetery in Haldenstein, followed by a church service. Hanspeter Geiger had celebrated his 80th birthday in January 2025.

Theo Ott passed away in March. I had taken voluntary psychology classes with him during my final year at teacher training college. His wife, Roswitha, taught me how to apply makeup.

In July, Claudia's mother was cremated. After saying goodbye, I met the former sacristan of the church in Passugg Araschgen. Through Martha, I've once again become aware of the church life in our former hometown.

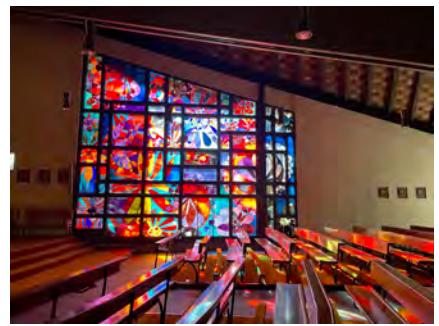
The funeral of Willy Hochstrasser, our former neighbor in Araschgen, took place in January. Nine months later, 92-year-old Margrith Hochstrasser had to say goodbye to her son, who died of cardiac arrest. Beni was 17 years older than Elisabeth. We admired his technical skills, for example, how he made one working scooter out of two broken ones.

Our annual reports were in draft form. On November 3rd, Walter received a phone call from Gaudenz Koprio. He informed him that his mother, Eva, had passed away peacefully that morning. You can learn more about Eva from Walter.

Twelve days later, Mario, Domenica's husband, was called to eternity in the palliative care unit. Mario had been diabetic for 37 years. For the past ten years, he needed oxygen at night. In the last year, he needed it mostly day and night.

Our son worked on a book entitled "Quantum" in his free time. The majority of the book consists of photographs. Ju took all the photos with my mother's Rolleiflex camera. He wrote a text in German and had it translated into English and Italian. We are delighted with his work and that the printing was successfully financed.

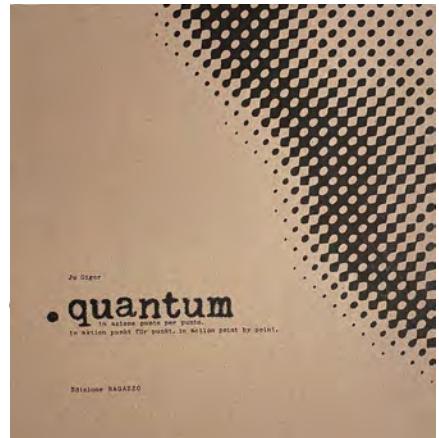
When Elisabeth and her family are on vacation in Churwalden, Walter and I are usually invited to dinner. When Elisabeth made ravioli herself, she



Neue Kirche St. Josef, Algund



Kirche Araschgen



Jus Buch



Ladina

invited us to Zurich.

Michael doesn't have as much vacation time as Ladina and Elisabeth. If he's working in Churwalden during their vacation, Elisabeth and Ladina come to Buchs for lunch once. They've also visited us in Buchs on their way home from Churwalden to Zurich.

Ladina turned nine in July. In August, she started fourth grade, which meant a change of teachers. Now she attends school with a male and a female teacher. Half of her class was combined with half of the other class. Walter received an email from Elisabeth on Saturday, June 14th. She informed us that Ladina would be participating in "Keyboard Sunday" at 3:00 p.m. Piano students from various classes would be playing on one or two grand pianos.

Ladina and two other students played three pieces six-handed on one grand piano. Other students played four-handed. In one performance, two grand pianos were pushed back-to-back. Two students played each instrument. The highlight was two music students playing together on separate grand pianos.

I really enjoyed the performances. I had never heard so many pieces played with four or more hands before.

Since August, Anni no longer works on Wednesdays. Marc has been attending upper secondary school since then. Anni and I concluded that my babysitting duties for Marc and Stella were no longer necessary. Walter and I are occasionally invited to the Haltinners' for lunch on Wednesdays. We spend the afternoon with our daughter. This way, we don't lose touch with our grandchildren. Handing over the keys made me realize how quickly 10 years have passed.

... On Walter's birthday, Ju gave his camera to Marc, who took all the photos of the party. Marc loves to wrestle with our son. He climbs all over him, slides down his back, etc. Marc plays floorball and is the goalie. He practices twice a week. Marc is also a Boy Scout.

We visited Stella at the Boy Scout camp. Unfortunately, we walked in the wrong direction for 40 minutes. Thanks to our cell phones, the mistake was cleared up, and we finally made it to the camp.

Stella plays the flute. She goes riding on Saturday mornings and every other Wednesday afternoon.

My nephew Carlo completed his pilot training in 2024. He applied to EasyJet. He had to complete a six-week course with exams. Since mid-March, he has been a co-pilot and is happy in his job.

In June, the Haltinners had to have their ten-year-old cat, who had kidney tumors, put down. A gray British Shorthair from an animal shelter in Zurich became Kira's successor.

In September, we celebrated Andy Wegmüller's 70th birthday in Thun. At the end of November, we are invited to Martha Hodel's 80th birthday celebration in Olten.

I conclude my report with wishes for a reflective Advent season, a peaceful Christmas, and God's blessing every day in the new year.

Franca

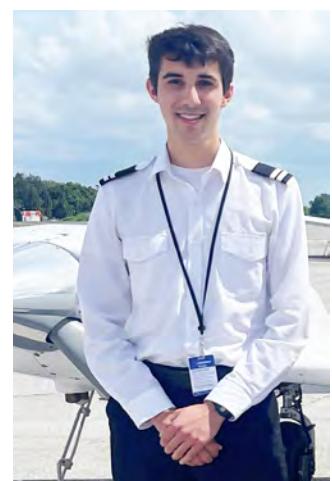
Franca



Ju und Marc



Stella auf dem Thron des Majestix



Carlo

*Faut-il nous quitter sans espoir
Sans espoir de retour ?
Faut-il nous quitter sans espoir
De nous revoir un jour ?*

*Ce n'est qu'un au revoir, mes frères,
Ce n'est qu'un au revoir,
Oui nous nous reverrons, mes frères,
Ce n'est qu'un au revoir !*

*Must we part without hope
Without hope of return?
Must we part without hope
Of ever seeing each other again?*

*It's only goodbye, my brothers,
It's only goodbye,
Yes, we will see each other again,
my brothers,
It's only goodbye!*



Im "Aufstieg"

Annual Report 2025 (Walter)

My horizons are shrinking. Looking at my 2025 photo collection, it might not seem that way. But the destinations were often closer, easier to reach, and involved less hiking. Things move more slowly, and I often need walking sticks. Longer trips are becoming more arduous. Yes, after all, I celebrated my 85th birthday! Celebrated, not on a grand scale, but in two stages. The more people get together, the less I can participate, hearing aids or not. So, on August 2nd, a small group of friends and relatives gathered at the Paxmontana in Flüeli-Ranft. It was so lovely to see familiar faces again in the old, but beautifully renovated and restored building. We also stayed closer to home with my immediate family on August 16th at the "Aufstieg" above Oberschan, an old spa hotel with a working farm. My grandson Marc documented the celebration with Uncle Ju's camera! The latter invited us to the pre-launch of his book QUANTUM, for which he had devoted his precious free time. Our daughters and their families frequently invited us to Zurich or to their holiday apartments in Churwalden.

Community

Were we less socially active than in other years? My hearing impairment compels me to avoid gatherings with large groups. Nevertheless, there were quite a few get-togethers: the Grütli Choir every month and the Chur pensioners' meeting at the Va Bene. Then there were the class reunions! A still considerable group of 40-year-olds meets for lunch on Corpus Christi (for purely practical reasons; it's less likely to be forgotten!) at the Buchserhof, and the 1959 commercial graduating classes from St. Gallen met at the invitation of Hans Zuberbühler at the Lokremise near St. Gallen main station.

And then there were the visits to the Voglers in Lungern! They mean a great deal to me. I arrive at eleven and say goodbye at five. And all the while, I enjoy Pia and Ruedi's hospitality. And even the birthdays of their (now grown-up) children! Thank you so much!

Travel

We did venture beyond the borders, and not just to the Ruggeller Riet nature reserve with its irises and storks. In April, a kind of continuation of last year's river trip was planned, this time from Dresden to Berlin. The Elbe's water level thwarted our plans; we were transported by road as far as the Magdeburg waterway junction. However, we once again enjoyed Dresden's magnificent architecture, including, of course, the Frauenkirche and, for the first time, the Semperoper opera house, during a guided tour. Fortunately, the water level was high enough for a trip on one of the Elbe steamers (DS Meissen) to Bad Schandau. On this occasion, we were able to revisit the Bastei rock formations (Saxon Switzerland). What was new to us was Pillnitz Palace, built by Augustus the Strong (or rather, his mistress, Countess Cosel), and what the Saxon Elector or his architects envisioned as Chinese aesthetics. Highly recommended!

In autumn, we continued our traditions from previous years. Due to a railway line closure, we drove over the mountain passes to Algund in South Tyrol and stayed at the Hotel Laurin. The hiking trails were shorter this



Paxmontana: Hotel und Stauber



Paxmontana: Bettina und Jolanda



Semperoper Dresden



DS Meissen von der Bastei gesehen



Wasserstrassenkreuz Magdeburg: Trogbrücke

year, but we hiked the Algund Waalweg (irrigation channel path) in both directions, visited the magnificent gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle with Vreni and Andy Wegmüller (highly recommended in autumn as well), took the dizzying cable car from Bolzano up to the panoramic Ritten plateau, traveled the entire route twice on the Ritten Railway, and had lunch at the rustic Gasthof Schluff in Maria Himmelfahrt. At the hotel, I was usually able to enjoy the small indoor pool all to myself (!). The vibrant colors of autumn made both the drive over the mountain passes and our stay in the Vinschgau Valley worthwhile. Not all the apples had been picked yet; their red blossoms stood out against the dark green leaves. Seventies architecture isn't exactly my cup of tea, but the church in Algund, with its stained-glass windows and pointed spire, is worth a visit. On Sunday, we attended a Mass during which ten new altar servers were inducted into the parish. If we were going to church, we were going to do it properly: We visited (presumably) all the churches in the scattered municipality of Algund (on foot!), the old Church of St. Hippolytus and Erhard in the village center, St. Magdalene in Gratsch, St. Ulrich in Oberplars, and, of course, the parish church of St. Joseph in the new town center.

The cable car and the church remind me of Maria Rickenbach in the Engelberg Valley, the small but charming pilgrimage site in Nidwalden, which is only accessible by cable car (and, of course, on foot) and which I stumbled upon quite by chance this year. I don't know much about Nidwalden, the cable car accepts the GA travelcard, so off we went! As expected, the small village with its Benedictine convent and pilgrimage church is situated on a magnificent, scenic plateau. It's not overrun with tourists (though the local tourism board would probably like to attract a few more visitors) and serves as a starting point for many hikes. The pilgrims' destination is the statue of Mary in the church, which, according to legend, was rescued from iconoclasts by a shepherd boy on the nearby Bernese side of the mountains, thus prompting the church's construction. The local pilgrim's hostel, the only inn, offers far more than just basic fare and is highly recommended. However, the old building appears to be in need of a major renovation, at least as far as the guest wing is concerned.

Sports: Hikes become more like strolls: In Liechtenstein's Saminatal valley to the Valüna alpine pasture; Around Lake Voralpsee, from Buchserberg to Alp Valspus (almost on the border... right, Franca?), a visit to the summer camp near Vättis (with a detour towards Kunkels!), from Matt to Elm, Buchserberg (Vorderberg) - upper Tobelbrugg, yes, just little hikes like that (some with surprises).

My electric mountain bike is both a sports and leisure vehicle. For exercise, I ride to places like Trübbach or Sargans, along the Rhine dike or the railway path; you're usually not alone, but not crowded either. Or, if I want to go further: Grabserberg - Gamserberg with a pleasant gradient and beautiful views in all directions; Valcupp - St. Ulrich - Oberschan is another option. The SBB/SOB/RhB railways offer even more assistance with their bicycle transport service: In Heinzenberg, at the Urmein church, I visited the new exhibition by the Caviezel and Heinzenberg women's groups, "Colorful Dance of Letters, Poetry Takes Shape," where pictures tell stories. Another time, I started at Altstätten station, climbed the Ruppen Pass, and cycled via Trogen and Speicher to St. Gallen. The Vorsiez alpine pasture in the Weisstannental valley, with its cozy little inn, was also a destination.

Swimming is still one of my favorite pastimes, although my swims in the old Rhine are becoming shorter. I've also been using the outdoor pool, or rather the inflatable dome, in Chur much less frequently, and when I have, it's always involved a car ride. The wonderful half-hourly service of the new timetable requires a transfer in Sargans, which is quite inconvenient and



Rittnerbahn (Fahrzeuge ex Togneri Bahn)



Dolomiten



Gasthof Schluff, Maria Himmelfahrt



Gärten Schloss Trauttmansdorff



Niederrickenbach: Die gerettete Figur



Urmein: Herrr vom Ribbeck



time-consuming, especially with a bicycle.

Culture

The Obwalden Folk Culture Festival was once again on our annual program. As usual, Swiss folk music met music from another country, this time Cuba. The reviews were full of praise. For me, the Swiss were definitely shortchanged this time, pushed to the sidelines. We went to the Tonhalle Zurich twice: once for the Romantic Gala Concert with the virtuoso young pianist Sergey Tanin, who comes from the remotest part of Siberia, and then for the Mozart Summer Concert with the Capriccio Baroque Orchestra. Not to forget: the Vaduz Operetta Stage 2025 with "The Bird Seller," the region's most popular cultural event! We were also invited to the Zurich Music School concert, where Ladina performed a six-hand piano piece! In 2024, we attended the Advent Singing at the Salzburg Festival Hall. If nothing unforeseen happens, the Salzburg trip will be repeated in 2025.

Farewell

The ranks of those connected to us are thinning. In 2024, our dear neighbor from Araschgen, the affable and proactive Willy Hochstrasser, former head of marketing for the Rhaetian Railway (RhB) and co-founder of RhB Historic, passed away; later that year, his son Benedikt, the gifted technician, also died. Two long-time members of our "Fresschränzli" (a local social club) also left us. There was Edith Augustin, a specialist in Russian language and culture, who, at that time, outwitted the Soviets (and the Swiss secret police!) on many occasions, however harmless she may have seemed! Hanspeter Geiger, a classical philologist with diverse interests and a good sense of humor, passed away after a long illness borne with great patience. And today (November 3, 2025), I received the sad news from Gaudenz Koprio, my godson, that his mother, Eva Koprio-Hitz, died at the age of 82. I had known her since I took up my post at the cantonal school in Chur, so for 57 years – a long history indeed... Her last years weren't easy, but for me she always remained the young, uncomplicated woman you could have gone on a wild adventure with; I was close to her, to her and then to her family. Now, memories remain...

...and finally, sadness and joy were often close together this year. That's life... as you get older, you become increasingly aware of this duality. All the more reason to wish you another year full of joy and cheerful spirit! The tougher times will come on their own eventually...

Have a great 2026!

Walter

*Car Dieu qui nous voit tous ensemble
Et qui va nous bénir,
Car Dieu qui nous voit tous ensemble
Saura nous réunir.
(frz. Pfadfinderlied)*

*God, who sees us all together,
And who will bless us,
For God, who sees us all together,
Will know how to reunite us.*

(French Scout Song)



Am Grabserberg



Sergey Tanin, der virtuose junge Pianist



Hanspeter Geiger - Schmid (1945 - 2025)



Edith Augustin (1931 - 2025)



Eva Koprio - Hitz (1944 - 2025)