

2011 REPORT OF THE CULTURE COMMITTEE

*“Culture is what is left
when everything else has been forgotten.”
(Françoise Sagan)*

Chair: Marie-Simone Pavlovich, Ph.D.
Members: Ursula Furrer, Gilles Noyer

This year was a very exciting one for the Culture Committee as it was able to fund a great variety of projects; some were in the budget, and others came up in a very unexpected way, but were nonetheless thrilling. Here is the list:

- ❖ In February, at the Literaturlenz Series at the Goethe Institut, we had the pleasure to hear Swiss author, Dorothy ELMIGER, read from her work *Einladung an die Waghalsigen*.
- ❖ As usual, we worked in close collaboration with the Alliance française, and the Swiss Consulate to be very present at the *Journées de la Francophonie* [March]: first at the *soirée commune*, and, on Swiss Day, there was the showing of a Swiss film, ***Déchaînés*** (2009) by Raymond Vouillamoz, a movie that had won multiple awards.
- ❖ The Andrew Jackson Language Academy, as it was organizing a European Awareness Day, asked us to contribute to the event so that students and parents would be able to share and discover some Swiss specialties. (March)
- ❖ Fulcrum Point New Music Project, that works with the mission to introduce music as well as musical instruments to young students in the CPS of Chicago, had contacted us because they had worked on the coordination of a program of Swiss music to that effect. The Education and Culture Committees joined their efforts to support the undertaking presented [May].
- ❖ The Committee also supported a young Swiss pianist, Béatrice BERRUT, who performed at Ravinia's atelier and at **PianoForte** [June].
- ❖ In June the International Voices Project that brings together a series of concert readings by playwrights of various origins, put forward *OIL* by Lukas BAERFUSS; the performance was very successful all the more that it was Baerfuss' second visit to Chicago.
- ❖ On July 5, we took part in the Rush Hour Concerts at St. James Cathedral; the greatest portion of the program was devoted to Swiss music and to the performance of Swiss tubist, Rex Martin.
- ❖ For the First of August celebration we sponsored the New Glarus Yodeler/Folklore Group that performed at the reception given by Consul General, Mr. Bienz, and we contributed the badges sold at the event organized by the Swiss Club. [July/August]
- ❖ In November *European Jazz Meets Chicago 2011* took place at the Chicago Cultural Center; we welcomed Mr. PFAMMATTER, a young Jazz pianist who came with his trio.

- ❖ In December a desperate student from UIC ,who had been working in Lucerne with a local art professor, needed to go back to Lucerne in order to perfect her art piece to present it in an international competition; so we paid for her trip there, and it was a very successful endeavor since Katrina WOLF qualified to participate in the international show that took place in Lucerne in January.
- ❖ Also, as we did in previous years, we showed our support for the Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne, placed under the auspices of the Chicago-Sister-City International Program. This time the selection committee chose a well established artist couple [*Luftwerk*], Petra BACHMAIER and Sean GALLERO, to be inspired by what Lucerne had to offer.
- ❖ In addition, we committed to have some Swiss books [French, German, Italian, Romansch] translated under the care of Dalkey Archive Press. This commitment will extend over a period of 4 years for the translation of 2 books. The first one, *Why the Child is cooking in the Polenta* by Aglaja VETERANYI, has been translated and is available. It is an endeavor we are very proud of.

In closing we hope to continue our close collaboration with the Swiss Consulate, and especially Margreth Trûmpi, Head of Cultural Affairs, while being open to suggestions and impromptu requests.

In the hope to see you soon at forthcoming events I remain,

Respectfully submitted,
February 21, 2012

Marie-Simone Pavlovich Ph.D.
Chair, Culture Committee

(Image 3)