

2012 REPORT OF THE CULTURE COMMITTEE

“Culture is what is left when everything else has been forgotten.”

(Françoise Sagan)

Chair: Marie-Simone Pavlovich

Members: Andre Frieden
David Moresi

Ursula Furrer
Gilles Noyer

The Culture Committee is committed to offer a program as diverse as possible to the American and Swiss public. This year we take great pleasure in having been able to sponsor the following events:

- We used the balance left from the 2011 budget to support the 8th annual *Schubertiade*, a festival celebrating the music of Franz Schubert, and organized by **the *Piano Forte* Foundation**. (January)
- In February, at the Literaturlenz Series at the Goethe Institut, we had the pleasure to hear Swiss author, Monica CANTIENI, read from her new novel, *Grünschnabel*.
- 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*, [where the “raclette” stand is the most successful venue of the event] and, on Swiss Day, there was the showing of a Swiss film, *Opération Casablanca* (2010) by Laurent Nègre, a satirical comedy.
- The Andrew Jackson Language Academy has been organizing a European Awareness Day for several years, and has included Switzerland in their countries to be presented at the event; it allows students and parents to share and discover some Swiss specialties. (March)
- In May the artist from the Lucern studio, Carola Buergi, organized an exhibition at the Chicago Art Department, *Color Perception*, a very colorful and well-received show, that we were happy to subsidize.
- In May also the SBS also supported the International Chicago Amateur Piano Competition set forth by **the *Piano Forte* Foundation**.
- On July 10, we had the privilege to listen to the the Men’s Choir of Basel, *Männerstimmen Basel*, as part of the Rush Hour Concerts at St. James Cathedral: a very impressive concert given by young men.

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- In July we were able to appreciate again the talent of Lukas BAERFUSS in the play, *The Test*, organized by the International Voices Project, an organization that brings together a series of concert readings by playwrights of various origins.
- For the First of August celebration we sponsored Sam Burckardt and his musicians that performed at the reception given by Consul General, Mr. Bienz, at the Union League Club of Chicago, and we contributed the badges sold at the event organized by the Swiss Club for the First of August celebration. [July/August]
- The Trap Door Theater performed a play by Swiss playwright, Max Frisch, *The Arsonists*, and we were very happy to help out this small theater that excels in giving mostly unusual European plays.
- In November at the *European Jazz Meets Chicago 2012* taking place at the Chicago Cultural Center, we welcomed Jacques Demierre, a well established jazz musician from Geneva, Switzerland.
- Also, as we did in previous years, we sponsored the Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne, placed under the auspices of the Chicago-Sister-City International Program. This time the selection committee had a hard time deciding between two candidates who offered a very similar profile; so it decided to send both of them to Lucern. The two musicians, composers in their own rights, were: Mischa ZUPKO and Amos GILLESPIE.
- In addition, as a reminder to last year's information, 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 want to reiterate our appreciation for our close collaboration with the Swiss Consulate, and especially Margreth Trümpi, Head of Cultural Affairs .
In the hope to see you soon at forthcoming events I remain,

Respectfully submitted,
March 14, 2013

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