

2013 REPORT OF THE CULTURE COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Marie-Simone Pavlovich

Members: Kim Diehnelt
Andre Frieden
Ursula Furrer

The Culture Committee is committed to offer a program as diverse as possible to the American and Swiss public. This year we sponsored the following events;

- ❖ As in previous years we supported the *9th* 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, Ulrike ULRICH, read from her first novel, *fern bleiben* (2010).
- ❖ We also had the pleasure to explore a totally new experience with a performance by La Ribot, untitled “*Laughing Hole*”, an exhibition of Art in Action that took place at the Chicago Cultural Center. (February)
- ❖ 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 documentary, *Hiver nomade* (2012).
- ❖ We collaborated with the **2013 International Voices Project** by presenting a project written by Swiss writer, **Reto FINGER**, *Dog Paddle* (2005); the event took place at the Victory Gardens Theater. (March)
- ❖ 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)
- ❖ For the **First of August** celebration we sponsored singer, Elaine AMHERD, who 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]

- ❖ In November at the *European Jazz Meets Chicago 2013* taking place at the Chicago Cultural Center, we welcomed Christoph ERB, a saxophone and clarinet player, as well as a composer.
- ❖ 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. The Chicago artist, Mary-Ellen CROTEAU, was selected to spend a month there.
- ❖ 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 extends 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. A collaboration that we are sorry to lose as the Swiss Consulate will close in June 2014.

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

Respectfully submitted,
March 13, 2014

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