2016 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
Ursula Furrer
Peter Keller
Sonja Manhart

The Culture Committee tries to present a variety of programs appealing to all ages, and especially wants people (I should add: American people) to know that there is indeed a Swiss culture that has something to say. So here are the venues that we sponsored this year:

❖ March was a very busy month: first we had writer, Sibylle BERG reading at the Literaturlenz Series of the Goethe Institut. The Institut presents once a year authors from the three German-speaking countries in Europe, that is Germany, Austria and Switzerland, often in partnership with the University of Wisconsin in Madison, the UIC, and de Paul University.

❖ Then we had Francophonie at the Alliance française, which gave way to the celebration of the French language. For the Soirée commune, we organized the famous "raclette" that attracts all the visitors thanks to the smell that permeates the place. (ca. 300 people)

❖ As for the Soirée suisse, we had the unique opportunity to have a recital presented by Soprano Nathalie Colas accompanied at the piano by Eugenie Cheng. Musica, musika & musique was performed in the four languages of Switzerland: a real feat. Both events led to memorable evenings.

❖ 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 is a great way to expose students and parents to the discovery of a new culture and at the same time to try some Swiss specialties. (April)

❖ For the Swiss National Day Celebration we made a contribution to the SABC, the Swiss American Business Association for their musical interlude.

❖ We also contributed the badges sold at the event organized by the Swiss Club for the First of August celebration. [July/August]

❖ We were also able to contribute to the enchanting music generated by the International Piano Competition organized by pianoforte of Chicago.
In December Chicago welcomed a Swiss composer, Juerg Frey, whose work was performed at the Constellation Studio.

As usual, as we have done it for several years now, we sponsored the Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne, placed under the auspices of the Chicago-Sister-City International Program. We were lucky to find a great and very dynamic Chicago artist, Carron Little, who had a great interaction with the Lucerne population.

Since we had some money left in our budget, we applied it to a new exhibit taking place at the University of Chicago Library entitled Concrete Poetry, Concrete Book: Artists’ Books in German Speaking Space After 1945, consisting of rare books by artists from Austria, Germany and Switzerland. A real must see exhibit. (January 17-March 17, 2017)

In closing I want to thank all my Committee members for helping with the decision-making.

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

Respectfully submitted, 
March 6, 2017

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