

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