

2018 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 Cultural program of the year 2018 presented, as usual, a diverse array of events:

- ❖ In March, we participated in the ...***Mais oui! la Francophonie!*** First in the ***Soirée commune*** with the **raclette** that took place in the kitchen of the Alliance française: it met with great success.
- ❖ Then we had the ***Soirée suisse*** that created a real buzz with the presentation on the Art of Swiss Watchmaking by *Watch Idiot Savant* and best selling author, Gary Shteyngart . During the reception that followed everybody was bragging about their individual Rolexes, Patek Philippe, IWC, etc.
- ❖ **Literaturlenz** under the auspices of the Goethe Institute organizes every year a "salon" presenting writers of the German language. This time, sharing the space with German and Austrian authors, it was Swiss author, Ursula Fricker who read excerpts from her novel, ***Luegen von Gestern & Heute - Past and Present Lies.***
- ❖ For the **First of August** celebration we made a contribution to the **SABC** (Swiss American Business Association) linked with the *Celebration of the Swiss National Day*. We also contributed the badges sold at the event organized by the **Swiss Club** for the First of August celebration, as well as some wine bottles for their outdoor festivities. [July/August]
- ❖ Also for the past ten years we have been sponsoring an artist from Chicago to go and work at the **Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne**, placed under the auspices of the Chicago-Sister-City International Program. Rene ARCEO was the Chicago artist selected this year. Lucerne inspired very interesting prints to this printmaker. We hope that, in a near future, we will be able to show some of the work produced by the successive "Lucerne" artists.

The mission of the Culture Committee of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago is to be a platform for projects that reflect the contemporary artistic ideal of Switzerland and that will reach a maximum number of people from Switzerland, but especially Chicagoans or visitors from other regions. We feel that indeed we reach this objective year after year.

Warm thank yous to all my Committee members for helping to achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted,
March 21, 2019

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