

2020 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

2020 = Year of Covid-19 = Year depleted of events.

Fortunately we were able to organize one of the events that we had on our list, and this at the brink of the pandemic, that is on February 28.

Everything was still open on that day, and we were able to hold the "famous" raclette at the Francophonie Festival organized by the Alliance française de Chicago, ignoring totally what was going to happen next, that is: the closure of everything pertaining to culture, but especially to the necessities of life.

It was, as usual, a fun event, and we finished all the pieces of cheese we had brought ahead of closing time.

And then, it was the end... We didn't see anybody for the rest of the year. Occasionally we had a zoom meeting. Without masks!

Alas! The year 2021 doesn't seem to carry much hope, but it gives us time. Time to prepare the celebration for the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago taking place in 2022. Indeed the SBS was launched in 1872, a few months after Chicago's Great Fire. And the Board is working very hard at preparing special events for this circumstance.

All the members will be notified in due time of all the happenings occurring during this coming year, and we are looking forward to seeing you, our supporters, at one event, or two, or three.

Thus you can see that the mission of the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and its Culture Committee is still well alive and ready to share its projects with all of you, our members and followers. With your help we are looking forward to having a wonderful celebration.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my Committee members for helping to achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted,
March 9, 2021

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