

## 2021 REPORT OF THE CULTURE COMMITTEE

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*"Culture is what is left when everything else has been forgotten."  
(Françoise Sagan)*

Chair: Marie-Simone Pavlovich

Members: Andre Frieden  
Ursula Furrer  
Sonja Manhart

Another year of cultural depletion.

Since everybody was working from home, trying to avoid handshakes and hugs, wearing masks, we couldn't do much. Except for the use of Zoom, a word that was unknown to many and became a household benediction. Classes, meetings, friendly talks, all met on Zoom sessions. The SBS was the first to find the meetings on Zoom rather productive and great time savers: we didn't need to fight the traffic and there was no excuse to miss the meetings.

Thanks to this device, we were able to hold one event: Johannes Lustenberger and Marie-Simone Pavlovich entertained a lively demonstration of a raclette "made at home" to keep alive the Festival of the Francophonie organized by the Alliance française de Chicago. We gave a list of the ingredients indispensable to make a raclette beforehand and, while we were going through the different steps to accomplish the "feast", we told some stories and answered the questions from the participants. It definitely made for a more sedate atmosphere, but it had its parts of fun.

Despite the masks and the vaccination injections that kept us quite busy, we were able to build the program for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year: 2022. President John Paluch had plenty of ideas and established a full program of festivities for the celebration on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 with his co-chair, Marie-Simone, helped by a special Committee selected especially to prepare the celebration. Fortunately life seems to find its way again little by little and with great caution, but it gives us great hopes to be able to hold our launching of the anniversary of the SBS on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1872 the date of The Foundation of the SBS Society. (-Incorporated August 14<sup>th</sup> 1872).

You are all invited to come and celebrate; you will find all the information to register on a new website that is easily accessible and gives all the information you are looking for.

With your help we are looking forward to having a wonderful celebration.

I want to thank all my Committee members and also members of the Board at large that volunteered to help to achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted,  
March 17, 2022

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