

## 2017 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  
Peter Keller  
Sonja Manhart

The Cultural program of the year 2017 presented a very diverse and challenging set of events:

- ❖ **"Concrete Poetry, Concrete Book: Artists' Books in German-speaking Space after 1945"**: this wonderful exhibit, taking place at the University of Chicago Library includes rare Artists Books from Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Some of the Swiss artists represented are Dieter Roth, Daniel Spoerri, Warja Lavater, among others. (January)
- ❖ In February we had the rare opportunity to attend *The Triumph of Fame* based on poems by Petrarch performed by Swiss artist *Marie-Caroline Hominal* giving the audience the possibility of a special one-on-one encounter.
- ❖ In March, the **Literaturlenz Series** changed its venue and came to the Bookman's Alley in Evanston. Swiss author, Simon Froehling, read excerpts from his novel, *Lange Nächte Tag*. As usual we also heard authors from Germany and Austria.
- ❖ **La Francophonie-Mais Oui!** Switzerland is highly present in this event: there are two parts to it: the *Soirée commune* for which we serve the famous "raclette" enjoyed by all the visitors; and the *Soirée suisse*, devoted to pure Swiss happenings. This year we showed two Swiss films on immigration.
- ❖ For many years now the **Andrew Jackson Language Academy** has been organizing a European Awareness Day, and has included Switzerland in the countries they present; 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. This year it included the *Jodlerchoerli* from New Glarus. (April)
- ❖ In June, working with Asian Pop-Up-Cinema, we were pleased to present the documentary, *"The Chinese Lives of Uli Sigg"*, narrating the life of the Swiss diplomat and collector of Chinese Art.

- ❖ For the **First of August** celebration we made a contribution to the 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]
- ❖ Of course, we keep 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. Serene WISE was the Chicago artist selected this year. As a painter she came up with some very cool ideas for the City of Lucerne.

As you can see for yourselves, we had an entertaining year that attracted a lot of people, and I would like to remind you that we always announce our events so that you can attend them also. It is always enriching to see our members at our gatherings.

Many thanks to all my Committee members for helping with the decision-making, and... I'll see you soon!

Respectfully submitted,  
March 08, 2018

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