

## 2019 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 2019 had a very busy program, as you can tell by what follows:

- ❖ In partnership with the Alliance française of Chicago, the Consulate General of Canada, the Québec Government Office in Chicago, and the SBS of Chicago, we had a guest speaker from the University of Geneva, Madame **Gabrielle Marceau**, who is the Senior Legal Advisor at the WTO at the UN in Geneva. She was able to visit several universities and the Lycée français, and gave a very lively lecture at the Alliance française for the *Soirée suisse* of the Francophonie on the topic of...the role of International Trade today.
- ❖ Over several gatherings, we had a wonderful celebration of the legacy of Swiss-American Pianist, Composer and Conductor, **Rudolph Ganz**. Indeed the **Ganz Festival** was composed of a series of three concerts that took place respectively at the Chicago College of Performing Arts of Roosevelt University (February), at the Newberry Library (March), and finally at PianoForte Hall (April). Every attendant enjoyed this transforming music offered by the artists of Roosevelt University.
- ❖ 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: as usual it met with great success, and the Swiss Team offered a superb performance.
- ❖ **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, our Swiss author, **Gianna Molinari** presented excerpts from her novel, ***Hier ist noch Alles möglich.***

- ❖ For the **First of August** celebration we contributed the music for the evening organized by the **SABC** (Swiss American Business Association) to 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]
- ❖ As in the past years we selected the artists (this time it was a couple) from Chicago to go and work at the **Chicago Artist Studio in Lucerne**, placed under the auspices of the Chicago-Sister-City International Program. Kathy WEAVER and Nelson ARMOR were the selected 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 with the purpose of reaching a maximum number of people from Switzerland, but especially Chicagoans or visitors from other regions. We feel that indeed we accomplish this objective year after year.

Many thanks to all my Committee members for helping to achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted,  
March 9, 2020

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