

## Two Swiss Authors at the Goethe Institut Chicago

Swiss writers **Martin R. Dean** and **Daniel Zahno** will read at the Goethe Institut Chicago on Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 6 pm. Their visit to Chicago is part of their United States tour on the occasion of the introduction of the newly published anthology *Young Swiss Writers*. The reading will be in German and English. It is organized by the Goethe Institut Chicago and the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago and is financed in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich, and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago.

**Martin R. Dean** was born in Menziken (Canton Aargau) to a father with Indian roots from Trinidad and Tobago and a Swiss mother. He spent his first years in Trinidad then attended school in Switzerland. After travelling the world, Dean completed his studies in German, ethnology and philosophy at the University of Basel in 1986. Since that time he has worked as an award winning author, journalist and essayist in Basel. His books include *“Meine Väter”* (My Fathers), *“Monsieur Fume oder das Glück der Vergesslichkeit”* (Mister Fume or the Bliss of Absentmindedness), and *“Die Ballade von Billie und Joe”* (The Ballad of Billie and Joe). He is the recipient of several literary prizes such as the *Kunstpries Berlin* in 1999 and the *Schiller Prize* of the Swiss Schiller Foundation in 2003. Dean continues to travel the world as a guest lecturer, poet-in-residence, translator and author. He will read his shortstory *“Moi.”*

**Daniel Zahno** makes his home in Basel. He is known for his light, humorous and entertaining work, which also touches subtly on deep existential



Martin R. Dean



Daniel Zahno

issues. His books *“Doktor Turban”* (Doctor Turban—a collection of short stories) and *“Im Hundumdrehen”* (In the Twinkling of an Eye—a dog story told in 77 ways) have received numerous awards, including the *Clemens-Brentano-Prize* of the City of Heidelberg. Zahno was a fellow at the International Writers Colony Ledig House, New York, and the Istituto Svizzero in Venice. He is a member of the programming commission for the Swiss Literature Days of Solothurn (Solothurner Literaturtage), arguably one of the most important events in German literature. Last year Zahno had the honor of presenting the Nobel Prize winner John Coetzee there. He will read *“Carlotti,”* a short story.

The anthology *Young Swiss Authors* has been put together by Professor Romey Sabalius, an expert in contemporary Swiss literature, at San José State University, and Professor Michael Wutz at Weber State University at Provo, Utah. It includes texts by 23 contemporary Swiss writers in the German original and in English translation. It has been published as a special edition by the bilingual journal *Dimension2* (<http://hometown.aol.com/germanlit-dimension2.html>). The production of this anthology was supported in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, and Migros, Zurich, Switzerland.

### News from Lucerne

The current resident of the Lucerne Artist Studio, Mart Meyer, will soon leave Chicago, as his residency here comes to an end. He will be followed by composer **Marie-Cécile Reber**, who is scheduled to arrive in early February. She holds a graduate degree in music theory and piano, received training in recording and audio engineering, and pursued studies in electronic music and composition. Besides building up her own music studio in Lucerne, Switzerland, Reber has taught

music at different schools in the Lucerne area and worked on numerous commissions for compositions, experimental videos, theatre and sound installations. Since 1994 she has performed her own compositions based on processed analog sounds and has played concerts of improvised and composed music with fellow musicians from Lucerne. These include former residents at the Lucerne Artist Studio Thomas Mejer and Fredy Studer. Reber will explore the vast musical landscapes in Chicago and plans to create a “quiet project in a loud city.”

## Calendar

**Martin R. Dean** and **Daniel Zahno** at Goethe-Institut, 150 North Michigan, Suite 200, Chicago. Thursday, February 15, 2007, 6:00 pm. For information, call Lisa Lux at 312-263-0472 or email: [lux@chicago.goethe.org](mailto:lux@chicago.goethe.org) or visit [www.goethe.de/ins/us/chi](http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/chi).

**Ensemble Lucidarium** at **Holy Name Cathedral**, North State Street/Superior, Chicago. Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 6:30 pm. Donations: \$10. For information, see [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org) or call 312-915-0061.

**Fermilab**, Ramsey Auditorium, Wilson Hall, Batavia, IL. Saturday, 17 March, at 8:00 pm. Tickets: \$10 (\$5 under age 18). For information and tickets, call 630-840-2787. Also visit [www.fnal.gov](http://www.fnal.gov).

**Soirée Commune** at **Francophonie** at Alliance Française, 810 North Dearborn, Chicago. Saturday, March 10, 2007, at 6:00–10:00 pm. For information, see [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org).

## Chicago Celebrates the Festival de la Francophonie



This year's Festival de la Francophonie is held from March 10 through March 25, 2007. It will again showcase the participating countries, including Switzerland, through cultural events such as films, concerts and storytelling. Most events are held at Alliance Française in Chicago (for details and additional venues, see calendar or visit [www.afchicago.org](http://www.afchicago.org)). The festival will open with the "soirée commune" on Saturday, March 10, 2007, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm, with music, a raffle and the various country kiosques with samples of the local cuisines of the Francophonie countries. Switzerland will offer the traditional Raclette and Swiss white wine. Admission to the soirée commune is \$12 per person.

On Sunday, March 18, 2007 at 6:30 pm, Switzerland will present the **Ensemble Lucidarium** with the concert "*De tout mon couer je t'exalteray*" at **Holy Name Cathedral** in Chicago (entrance at North State Street and Superior).

The Ensemble Lucidarium is an international group of musicians specialized in medieval and Renaissance music. Each of their programs is the

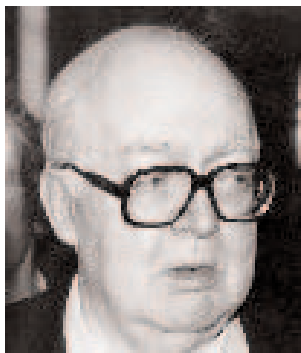
fruit of intensive research and preparation. Their performances offer a vivacious combination of voices and instruments and give evidence of solid knowledge of musical style and historical background. Their unique approach has opened up new perspectives in historical performance and brought critical acclaim to the Ensemble.

The Swiss contributions to the Semaine de la Francophonie have been made possible in part by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, the Swiss Club of Chicago, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, the Service de la Francophonie of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Berne, Switzerland, and the Consulate General of Switzerland.

The Ensemble Lucidarium will also perform at **Fermilab** at Batavia, IL, on Saturday, March 17, at 8:00 pm (see calendar). Their Batavia concert will feature "*La Istoria de Purim*," Jewish music and poetry from the Italian Renaissance. "*La Istoria de Purim*," which recounts the story of Queen Esther, was awarded first prize in 2004 by the European Association for Jewish Culture.

Literary News:

## New Dürrenmatt Translation, New Publications of Swiss Abroad and Swiss Writers on a United States Tour in Spring



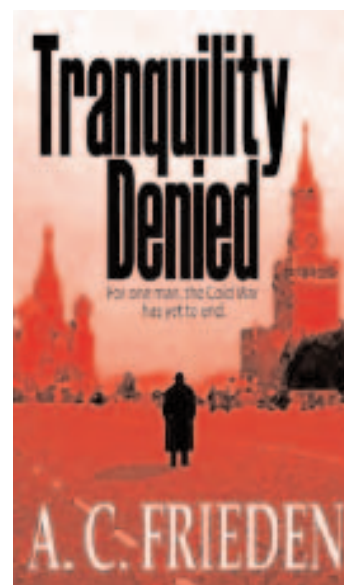
On November 2, 2006, the University of Chicago Press and the Goethe Institut Chicago introduced the new translation of *Selected Works* by Swiss writer **Friedrich Dürrenmatt** (1921–90), one of the most important literary figures of the second half of the twentieth century. With this translation, which was supported in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Dürrenmatt's writing becomes widely available to the English speaking world. Translator Joel Agee and author of the introduction Kenneth J. Northcott have brought their scholarly expertise to the English publication of the *Selected Works*. It was most fascinating to listen to them as they talked about their work on the translation at the introduction at the Goethe Institut Chicago. For more information and purchase, visit [www.press.uchicago.edu](http://www.press.uchicago.edu).

Minnesota resident **Ruth Elisabeth Schoch Knutson** published her life story in *On the Other Side of the Ocean* in the fall 2006 (Trafford Publishing; ISBN: 1-4120-9206-x, [www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)). She was born and raised in Dornach (Canton Solothurn, Switzerland) and has lived in the United States for over 40 years. In her book, Schoch looks back to her small Swiss village and describes the vagaries of life in her close-knit multi-generational family during the 1940s and 1950s. She weaves a lovely tapestry between the life she left behind and the life she created for her own family in the United States. The book is illustrated with over 50 original drawings by Shawn McCann.

Swiss writers **Katharina Geiser** and **Brigitte Schär** will be in the Midwest as part of their tours to the United States in early spring 2007. **Katharina Geiser** will read at the *Literaturlenz 2007* at the Goethe Institut Chicago (April 16) and at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, WI (April 17). Additional venues are presently under discussion. **Brigitte Schär** will present literary performances in

the Chicago area at the Lab School of the University of Chicago (April 16) and the German Language Society of Chicago and Northwestern University (April 17). There will be more information on the visits of Katharina Geiser and Brigitte Schär in the next *mosaic*.

Swiss author and Chicago resident **A. C. Frieden** delves into the cloak-and-dagger world with his latest spy thriller, *Tranquility Denied* (Aventia Publishing; ISBN: 0974793418), a fast-paced intrigue that will leave readers up all night. In his multimillion dollar trial, hotshot lawyer Jonathan Brooks catches a Navy captain lying under oath. As the case takes a series of shocking turns, he soon realizes that the trial masks a far more sinister plot veiled by the shadowy past of the Cold War. Lives and corporate empires hang in the balance as he embarks on a hunt for the truth through the sultry alleys of New Orleans to remote Scandinavian villages, and deep into Moscow's dark corridors of power. The novel is available at select bookstores and on Amazon.com.



### News from Lucerne

As in the previous year, a small group of Chicago residents (mostly drawn from the Lucerne Committee of the Sister Cities International Program) will visit the Lucerne Carnival in February 2007. They will get an insider's look into the rich Lucerne

Carnival traditions thanks to the Chicago Committee in Lucerne, the Carnival guild masters and the Noggeler Carnival Band. The latter two visited Chicago during the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival in November 2006 and brought greetings from Lucerne with their festive costumes and exciting music.

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Lucerne Noggeler Carnival Band in Chicago, November 2006



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# mosaic

Midwest Outreach for Swiss Art, Innovation and Culture

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