

HAUS Event
May 1, 2011

The Spring weather was fair on Sunday May, 1, with some afternoon showers, but was the perfect opportunity to spend a few hours with Heidelberg friends and colleagues in the cozy basement of our gracious host, Dr. Simin Redjali in Vienna, VA. A few were delayed because of accidents on 95, due to the rain, and the lecture was delayed a bit; however, that gave everyone some more time to introduce themselves and talk. After the lecture, a small buffet of meat, salad, desserts, beer, wine was set up. The menu was pot-luck. Twelve alumni attended, and there were three guests. A summary of Dr. Dunkelberg's lecture, which was in English, follows below, and the meeting minutes are summarized thereafter.

**A Summary of Dr. Gerd Dunkelberg's
Lecture on 20th Century German Cinema**

The piano-forte was noticeably covered and silent—Dr. Simin Redjali's husband was unfortunately not in attendance for this event. Nevertheless, Dr. Gerd Dunkelberg entertained the group with a poignant lecture regarding 20th Century German Cinema. Starting with the German connection to the birth of film in the late 19th century, Dr. Dunkelberg described the time-line of German film from the beginning of the 20th Century through to the 1960s, touching briefly on some present day films as well. He led us through the robust German silent film era and through the post war Weimar years when film matured and developed its own language, e.g., the role of camera movement and the logic of "the cut". Lubitsch, Lang and Murnau became world famous for their direction during this time. He continued, explaining the German expressionist film movement and made his way through the film of the pre-war Third Reich, describing heavy-handed cinematic craftsmanship used as a propaganda tool. (Dr. Dunkelberg added later that the Third Reich didn't necessarily like Leni Reifenstahl, the talented female director of *The Triumph of the Will*. His encyclopedic knowledge was full of fascinating tidbits like this.) The role of film as escapism, during the war years, was discussed, as well how Germans seem, to this day, to still like low-brow, slap-stick comedies. Due to the brevity of time, he took us quickly through the next few decades of German cinema, mentioning Romy Schneider then skipping ahead to the provocative films of Fassbinder and the recently worldwide success of *Run, Lola, Run*.

And so that was the art of 20th German Century film, from Dr. Dunkelberg, for now. He pointed out it was only part of the lecture, and normally, he said, he shows portions of the films as visual aides to the lecture. Everyone enjoyed the lecture and afterward there was time to ask Dr. Dunkelberg questions. I'm sure in the future there will be many more questions about German film (and theatre) that Dr. Dunkelberg can certainly answer. Maybe we can have him come back and present the second half of the lecture with added film clips, if there is enough interest. Just an idea.

A few films of note that were mentioned (no particular order):

Die Feuerzangenbowle

Die Bruecke

Metropolis

Die Ehe der Maria Braun

Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari

Meeting Minutes
Heidelberg University Alumni International Club
Washington, D.C.
May 1, 2011

Rada and Franz called the meeting to order about 5:15 p.m. Those in attendance were: Karen Vaucrosson; Franz Stuppard, Stephanie Cabell, Dr. Simin Redjali, Paul Heimer, Rada Carmichael, Susan Alexander, and Humaira Haider

- The first order of business was to discuss the purpose of the club going forward. It was discussed that the concept of the club is in development and should be discussed again at the next meeting; however, the format of the meetings so far, an event joined with socializing, followed by a business meeting, is so far enjoyable and workable. It was also mentioned that the club could serve as the following; to nurture memories of Heidelberg; to stay connected and network; to serve as a resource to those interested in Heidelberg University particularly students; and to mentor others about Heidelberg.
- The officers list is currently as follows: Dr. Simin Redjali (advisor, non-functional role); Rada Carmichael (Chair); Franz Stuppard (co-chair); Paul Heimer (Secretary).
- A two year time limit for officers was set.

- It was determined that there would be no need for a treasurer at this time, and the Washington, D.C. chapter of HAUS could apply some applicable by-laws from the New York City Chapter by-laws, if necessary.
- Possible future meeting locations were discussed, e.g, *The German Institute*, *Café Berlin*, etc., but no location was determined for the next meeting which will take place in August or September.
- The group decided to meet four times per year.
- The meeting adjourned around 5:30, and everyone stayed until around 6:00 for food, drinks and socializing.
- And, finally, a fond thank you to Dr. Redjali for opening her house up to us again. Very much appreciated.



