



Fall 1993

## AUTHOR, AUTHOR

The Library's 1993-94 **Lecture Series** is off to a sterling start. On October 19, we hosted an evening devoted to Professor **Daniel Shanahan** and a discussion of his book, *Toward a Genealogy of Individualism*. Professor Shanahan's talk encompassed philosophy, religion, political science, sociology and more. It was instructive, entertaining, and an excellent reminder that we need libraries because there's always so much more to learn.

On November 2, the Library hosted a reading by author **Marsha Hunt**. Writing novels is Ms. Hunt's latest creative endeavor but far from her first. She starred in the original London cast of the landmark musical *Hair*, was a member of both the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, enjoyed a flourishing modeling career, success as a disc jockey and some hit records.

Ms. Hunt's novels *Free* and *Joy* depict in historical and contemporary terms the tensions created by racial divisiveness in American society. She divides her time between homes in France and England and has just completed her fourth book.

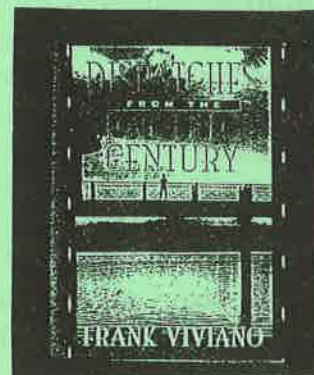
Coming up soon -- on December 7 at 8:00 PM -- will be a talk by **Carol Pratl**, co-editor of *Life Into Art: Isadora Duncan and Her World*.

The discovery of a trunk that had belonged to the creator of modern dance and was filled with her memorabilia led Ms. Pratl and her co-editors on a six-year odyssey that

culminated in the publication of the book in October. Isadora Duncan was, without doubt, one of the most fascinating and influential women of the 20th century. If her life or her art interests you, you won't want to miss Ms. Pratl's talk.



The first event on the **1994 American Library in Paris calendar** will be an evening of discussion about the Far East with **Frank Viviano** on **Wednesday, January 19 at 8:00 PM**. Mr. Viviano's recently published book, *Dispatches from the Pacific Century*, looks at the effects of rapid change on the lives of the people of the nations of Asia.



Currently the European correspondent for *The San Francisco Chronicle*, Mr. Viviano knows the Far East well from his 12 years covering the region for the *Chronicle* and others. He wrote his book, in part, because journalism, while demanding facts and figures, often doesn't have room for the human drama behind the headlines. If you're planning a trip to Asia or if you enjoy a good storyteller, don't miss Frank Viviano's talk.

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### LIBRARY NEWS BRIEFS

This summer the Library invested in a new HP937LX Spectrum computer. All Library members will notice the change in the response time when searching for information on the OPACs. The next step is the migration to the new VTLS-92 system which is planned for early 1994. The new version of VTLS is more user friendly.

**Robert Grattan, III**, former Director of the American Library in Paris, moved back to Virginia at the end of July. **Adele D. Witt** has been named Acting Director. The Board of Trustees is actively interviewing candidates to be the new Director. (continued on page 2)

Meet the ALP Trustees

**KANDICE VETTIER & STEVE VON STEEN:  
WORKING TO RAISE AND MANAGE THE LIBRARY'S FUNDS**

In the management of the American Library in Paris there are innumerable areas of responsibility. All are important and many are crucial. Without a doubt, the job of fundraising is among the most critical. The Library is very fortunate to have as a member of its Board of Trustees an individual who brings professional expertise in fundraising to the Development Committee: **Kandice Blakely Vettier**.

Ms. Vettier has served as a member of the ALP Board since 1980, serving some of this time as Secretary of the Executive Committee. In addition to fundraising, she's been involved with the Library's public relations efforts and with publicizing the Library's annual Benefit Gala.

Currently, the Director of Development for the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet, Ms. Vettier has studied the history of the art of the Far East at the Ecole du Louvre. In addition, she recently completed a course for professionals at Indiana University in the art and science of fundraising. All the Library's members will profit from her increased knowledge.

Ms. Vettier has lived in France for 25 years, arriving shortly after her graduation from the University of Southern California. During her years here, she has traveled extensively throughout Europe and participated in archeological digs in Asia and on safaris in Africa.

Ms. Vettier has two children and they are the reasons she became involved with the Library in the first place. "I didn't want my children to lose their American roots. I wanted them to know everything possible about the U.S." She appreciates what the Library did for them. And we appreciate what Kandice Vettier does for the Library today.

As important as raising money for the Library is so is monitoring how the money is spent. That job falls, in part, to **Steve von Steen**, who serves as Assistant Treasurer to the Board.

Born in Nebraska and educated at the University of Arkansas, Mr. von Steen admits to a lifetime of involvement in extracurricular activities.

Indeed, as the President of the University of Arkansas Student Government in 1980, he served on the Education Advisory Committee established by the state's then newly elected young governor. You guessed it -- Bill Clinton.

A trip around the world in the early '80s preceded his arrival in Paris, where, like so many of us, he was hooked instantly. He found the City of Light "a mind opening experience that touched all the senses" and came quickly to the conclusion that since one has to live somewhere, "why not the most wonderful city in the world?"

Today Mr. von Steen, a Vice President at Merrill Lynch, indulges in his love of opera and contributes his time and energy to the Democrats Abroad as well as on behalf of the Library, where in addition to his work as Assistant Treasurer, he served this year he as co-chairman of the Library's Annual Benefit Gala.

Mr. von Steen became involved with the Library because he "wants to make sure we preserve our American heritage in Paris." Now he's especially committed to working "to make the Library a dynamic and culturally vibrant gathering place" and urges all members to make the Library's Lecture Series a regular date on their social calendar.

Everyone who uses and enjoys the Library benefits from Steve Von Steen's energy and enthusiasm.

**Library News Briefs** *continued*

**Stephanie Grenier**, the CIEE student in the Circulation Department, has returned to Canada to complete her Library Science course. She has been replaced by **Bernard Devlin**, a student at Bard College (NY). He will be with us until January at which time he will return to complete his studies.

**Diane Huntley**, a new part-time volunteer, has been donating a great deal of time to the Library coordinating the Lecture Series and this newsletter. We all want to thank her for her time and energy.

**DECEMBER 1 OPENING PLANNED FOR ANGERS BRANCH**

The official opening of the new ALP branch in Western France will take place December 1, 1993, in the presence of the mayor of Angers, the president of the Conseil Général of the Maine et Loire department, the president of the state university, the rector of the Catholic University, the Cultural Attaché of the United States Embassy in Paris, and the Chairman of the ALP Board of Trustees.

After almost two years of storage, since the closing of the branch in Nantes, the largest collection of English language books in the west of France (20,000 volumes) will again be available to university students and professors of English. This new American Library in Angers, financed by local government and university funds, will be open to the public: school children, high-school students, business school students, all those who enjoy English language writing will be able to consult and check out books.

A very central location -- near the Place de la République in downtown Angers -- will make the Library easily accessible to the people of Angers

and of neighboring cities.

**Mrs. Phoebe Marshall-Raimbeau**, a young American mother of two Franco-American children, will be the Librarian. Her husband Bertrand and all his family are from Angers, so the move to Angers will be a homecoming for the family. She has been working in Paris as a buyer for Brentano's since 1985. Mrs. Marshall-Raimbeau plans to launch a story telling program for little children on Wednesdays in order to acquaint the families of Angers with all the Library has to offer.

Two people have been the major players in the establishment of an innovation agreement among the Conseil Général of the Maine et Loire department, the city of Angers, the Catholic University of the West, and the American Library in Paris: M. le Doyen **Philippe Séjourné** in Angers and ALP Trustee **Virginia Pilpoul**, Delegate to the ALP Branches.

We want to thank them very much for all their hard work and wish the best of luck to our new librarian!



*The American Library in Paris  
Cordially Invites You to Attend  
Our Christmas Caroling Party*

*At The American Church "Theatre"  
65, Quai D'Orsay  
75007, Paris*

*Friday, December 17, 1993  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM*

*Cocktails \*\*\* Singalong\*\*\* Santa Claus*

*Tickets: 100F for Adults  
50F for Children Under 12*

*Please clip and return this invitation before  
December 13, 1993, to:*

*American Library in Paris --PARTY  
10, rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris*

*Please list, by name, all those in your party who  
plan to attend and (to help guide Santa) the ages  
and the gender of the children.*

*Name(s)*  
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*Enclosed please find my check to the American  
Library in Paris for .....F.*

## ***LIBRARY BEGINS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DRIVE***

The Library is launching its annual Fall fund-raising campaign. In these times of financial difficulties, people reflect seriously before giving money to support not-for-profit institutions. Ask yourself why you should give money to a library, in particular, the American Library in Paris.

A Library is not a basic need, it is not a hospital or a school nor a police force or fire department, all basic needs in a well-organized society. It is a repository for knowledge, cultural identities and memories, a place where ideas can be freely exchanged, where information about anything is available to anyone. A library is a place where knowledge is preserved and disseminated and -- in a modern, well-run library - - where it is preserved in an accessible form and can be disseminated in a matter of seconds. A library is also a center for cultural activities, children's programs, volunteer community service, community information exchange and relaxation in recreational reading.

The American Library in Paris is even more. It is a "foreign" institution in a "foreign" land and thus it also serves as a cultural bridge between the American culture and the French. It has been recognized officially as being part of the French cultural patrimony and, as most of you know, nearly half of its members are French. Not all of the rest of the membership is American either, there are many nationalities represented. So it is in its purest form a truly multicultural institution. It is a reflection of the community it

serves. In order for that community to continue to have the best library possible to meet its extraordinary needs, extraordinary support is needed.

This support is an investment in our collective future. As we move more and more rapidly to becoming an information-oriented society, libraries must move even more rapidly in order to be equipped and ready to serve the needs of this society. The American Library in Paris is doing so. We recently invested in an upgrade of our computer hardware and will soon upgrade the VTLS software program which the American Library in Paris uses. This has already resulted in a much faster response time on the terminals for the public as well as more efficient maintenance for the staff. So far we have been able to maintain the Library's many services at a relatively low cost with no cutbacks. We are striving to maintain this high level of performance.

As you reflect upon all this, please keep in mind that the American Library in Paris receives no regular government subsidies and relies on donations for a good part of its operating costs. It is a private, not-for-profit institution. Your support is even more important in that light. Please give generously to the American Library in Paris. It is an investment of which you will be the beneficiary.

Thank you.

*Michèle Gompel*  
*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

**AMERICAN  
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