



SUMMER 1994

NEW DIRECTOR HEADS AMERICAN LIBRARY

The American Library in Paris is very pleased to announce the appointment of its new Director: Kay G. Rader. Ms. Rader took over the Director's responsibilities for the main library in Paris and our five branches throughout France at the beginning of April. Her selection as Director was the culmination of an extensive search by the Library's Board of Trustees. Heading the Executive Search Committee of the Board was Mr. Jack Anderson.

Ms. Rader, a native of Missouri, was an Honors graduate in English literature at the University of Maryland, where she also received her Honors Masters in Library Science. She began her professional career as a reference librarian at the Canadian Embassy Library in Washington, then joined Costabile Associates as a Library Consultant providing expertise to the Library of Congress, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Peace Corps Library. Her public library experience includes working in children's services at the Washington, D.C. Public Library and as

Assistant Director of the Takoma Park, Maryland Library.

Heading the American Library in Paris isn't Ms. Rader's first "overseas assignment." From 1982-1986, she established and managed the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Library in Mogadishu, Somalia for the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development. She's also lived in France before: in 1976, she worked as an English tutor in Paris and in Aix-en-Provence. Since then, she's kept up her French studies at the French Cultural Center in Mogadishu and at the Alliance Française in Washington.

About her new responsibilities, Ms. Rader notes that "the American Library in Paris has a rich and illustrious history that all of its members are a part of. My goal as Director is to insure that our future will be as distinguished as our past. There couldn't be a better time to be Director -- or to be a member -- than right now."

Please join us in welcoming Kay Rader to the American Library in Paris.

COOKBOOKS, CULTURE AND CORRESPONDENCE GENEROUS GIFTS ENHANCE OUR COLLECTION

Like all libraries, ALP depends upon the kindness of its friends. That means financial support, of course. But it also means book donations that enhance the existing collection. ALP and its members are very fortunate to have the generous friends we do.

Americans come to Paris in search of many things, but few Americans achieve the success that *Gregory Usher* did. In 1989, he was awarded the Chevalier du Merite Agricole by the French government. In other words, the French themselves thought him to be an outstanding practitioner in the art of food.

Before he died in February of an AIDS-related illness, Mr Usher created the Ritz-Escoffier cooking school, and served as director of both La Varenne Ecole de Cuisine and Le Cordon Bleu de Paris.

The same qualities that made him a great teacher made him an excellent friend and though he had many serious issues to consider at the end of his life, he continued to think of others -- including the American Library.

Now, it is our hope, that our members will think of Gregory Usher when they consult among the 500-plus cookbooks that he bequeathed to the American Library. We're in the process of cataloguing these books now and are aided in our work by the many contributions that came to the Library in Mr. Usher's memory. We are very grateful for his thoughtfulness.

One of the most important services that ALP provides to Paris' English-reading public is its collection of books on American history. That collection will soon increase dramatically. Mr.

Continued on page 4

LIBRARY NEWS

Just because a library is a quiet place doesn't mean nothing's happening. At the American Library in Paris, things are going on all the time. Here's a look at what's just passed.

DISTINGUISHED GUEST. On March 30, the United States Ambassador to France, Pamela Harriman, toured the American Library in Paris. She was welcomed by John Riggs, the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Michèle Gompel, the Board's immediate past president, and our new Director, Kay Rader and was accompanied by Ms. Mary Gawronski, the Embassy's Cultural Attaché.

The Ambassador strongly supports the Library in many ways: as an honorary member of our Board of Trustees and as host every year, at the Ambassador's Residence, of our Benefit Gala.

SPEAKING OF THE GALA. This year's Gala -- our Eighth Annual Benefit -- was held on May 10. Ambassador Harriman introduced our new Director, Kay Rader, and spoke of the Library's importance to Paris' Anglophone community. Ms. Rader and Mr. Riggs also addressed the audience of more than 100 guests.

Our special thanks go to Gala supporters MATIF S.A., Gemini Consulting, Marwais International, Merrill Lynch and Price Waterhouse. Gala Chairmen Michèle Gompel and Charmaine Donnelly-Pfauwadel deserve kudos for a very successful event.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BEST. Volunteers are the heart and soul of every non-profit organization. The ALP is no exception. We can't say thank you enough, but we can try.

THANKS TO...

Information desk volunteers Renée Barjavel, Cobi Camberlein, Tim Connolly, Ghislaine Elliott, Suzie Forissier, Gloria Knight, Simone Leary, Erma Manoncourt, Janet Pappani, Susan Parrish, Anne Reymond, Edgar Rubin, Pat Skinner, Irena Skyrokomla, and Alice Temesvary. **Technical services volunteers** Susan Barker, Anne Dennerly, Adrienne Hervé and Irena Skyrokomla. **Circulation desk volunteers** Janine Beneviste, Karim Elawar, Nicole Ravier, Daniel Sussner and Maggie Villa. **Children's department volunteers** Elizabeth Garver, Sabrina Henze and Janet Pappani. **Research Center volunteer** Laura Levine. **Director's Office & Development Office volunteers** Diane Huntley, Kelly Roughton and Arlene

Wherrett. **Book Sale volunteers** Anne Dennerly, Winnie Falcon, Susan & Paul Frosch, Rob Howe, Diane Huntley, Gloria & Loy Knight, Simone Leary, Margaux Murray, Janet Pappani, Nadia Pazolis, Nicole Ravier, Anne Reymond, Barbara Schwarz, Pat Skinner, Birthe Stein, the Sussner Family (Daniel, Heiner, Julia and Resa), Angela Walker and Andrea Zellner-Vittoz. In addition, ALP staff members Jean-François Giraudeau, Chris Daniels, Adele Witt and Kay Rader gave generously of their time, as did Trustee Whitney de Courcel.

SPEAKING OF THE BOOK SALE. On May 22, we held our 1994 Open House & Book Sale, AKA the Sale du Siècle. If we do say so ourselves, the event was a huge success. The line to get in began before we opened the doors for members only at Noon and continued throughout the day. At one point, the line extended from the front door all the way down to Avenue Rapp! We sold more than 4,000 books (all books were 5FF, although considerable discounts were given at the end of the day), earned almost 25,000FF and made hundreds of new friends.

On the subject of friends: When you're shopping for your favorite American food products or really excellent coffee, don't forget The Real McCoy (194, rue de Grenelle, 75007) and J.B. Loucks Coffee Company (131, rue du Cherche-Midi, 75015). These two wonderful companies provided complimentary refreshments for the Book Sale. Next time you're in their shops, say thanks again for us.

KIDS 'R' US. Under the direction of Circulation staffer Michèle Bodelin, the children's services of the American Library in Paris are growing just like kids do -- by leaps and bounds. During March, April and May, more than 300 children attended special events such as Dr. Seuss's Birthday Party, Hans Christian Andersen Day and an Easter egg hunt. Michèle, a talented artist, creates all the materials for the programs. These include flannelboard stories and crafts such as masks, bookmarks and miniature books. She also shares from her own private puppet collection.

Michèle also arranged for a special book signing for the kids. On June 15, British author-illustrator Biddy Strevens personalized copies of her *Toto's Travel Series* books.

NEW BOARD MEETS, "RETREATS"

On March 22, the Board of Trustees of the American Library in Paris met to elect a new Chairman of the Board and new officers and members of the Executive Committee. In addition, two members of the Board did not seek reelection and two members were elected to replace them.

The new officers and members of the Executive Committee are Mr. John H. Riggs, Jr., Chairman; Mr. Robert Gogel, Vice Chairman; Mr. Warren Bierwirth, Treasurer; Mrs. Nancy Willard Magaud, Secretary; and Mr. Frederick H.S. Allen, Mrs. Whitney de Courcel and Mr. Steve von Steen. The two newly elected members of the Board are Mr. Christopher J. Mesnooh and Mr. Robert Pigeon.

Just a few weeks later, the new Board



Library Trustees and Director Kay Rader at their Euro Disneyland retreat over the weekend of April 30 - May 1.

MAKING OUR COMPUTERS USER-FRIENDLY

Most people (computer geniuses excepted) feel mixed emotions about advances in computer technology. The good news is computers make things easier. The bad news is that there can be a lot of frustration in the learning process. At the American Library, we understand that. We want to help our members gain the most from our technology while suffering the least frustration. That's why we've revised our Information Sheets to explain how to use the new functions that we added to our VTLS system this spring.

What exactly are these functions? They're commands that make it easier to find titles when you don't know the author's name, authors when you don't know the title or even titles and authors when you only know one word or even just the subject of the book.

held a very successful "retreat" at Euro Disneyland.

The main purpose of the retreat, which was attended by sixteen Trustees, Director Kay Rader and organizational consultant Kay Sprinkel Grace, was to focus on the Library's future and, in particular,

to make plans for the Library's 75th anniversary in 1995.

Assisted by Ms. Grace, the Trustees reached a broad consensus on the needs of the Library and a program to improve the facilities in Paris, following a fundraising program, so as to double the reading spaces, expand the children's room, substantially increase book storage and facilitate staff services.

Stay tuned for future bulletins about our 75th anniversary plans.

For example, you can now search the database via a keyword. If you want to know all the books which have the word "stars" in the description, you type the command W/stars (179 entries). Or you can search several words by leaving a space between words. W/stars night, for example, will give you a list of all the books with the words stars and night in the notice (8 entries).

Other new features will help you move more easily through a search if, for example, the author was prolific and you don't have time to read through a lengthy listing. It's also now easier to correct a command or make it more detailed.

Take a moment to read the new Information Sheets, but don't hesitate to ask for help from our staff if you find your frustration level rising. That's what we're here for.

A MID-SUMMER NIGHT'S POETRY READING

Join us to hear award-winning poet and children's book author **Mary Jo Salter** read from her work on **Wednesday, July 20 at 8:00 PM.**

Ms. Salter is the author of three books of poetry, *Henry Purcell in Japan*, *Unfinished Painting* and *Sunday Skaters*, as well as the children's book, *The Moon Comes Home*. *Unfinished Painting* was the 1988 Lamont Poetry Selection, which is awarded by the American Academy of Poets for the year's most distinguished second volume of poems.

Ms. Salter's other awards include the Witter Bynner Prize for Poetry and fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Ingram Merrill Foundation. Her poems have appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*, *The Southwest Review* and *The Yale Review*. She is currently on leave from Mount Holyoke College as a Guggenheim Fellow in poetry.

We hope you can join us for this special addition to our 1993-94 Lecture Series season.

COLLECTIONS Continued from page 1

Paul Goodman, professor of history at the University of California at Davis, is donating his professional library of more than 5,000 volumes.

Mr. Goodman became aware of ALP though his French friend and colleague, Madame Mariane debouzy. She helped him to understand "how valuable the Library is to French scholars and others interested in American culture." The collection includes most of the important books published on American history in the last forty years with emphasis on the early settlements to the Civil War and in political history. We thank both Professor Goodman and Madame debouzy.

Finally, we want to thank a special member of long-standing (and former Board of Trustees member), **Olivia DeHavilland**, for her donation of letters from such authors as James Jones, Irwin Shaw, Anaïs Nin, Malcolm Cowley and others.

The letters represent a record of a special project ALP organized, with Miss DeHavilland's help, more than 20 years ago. At that time, we asked American writers living in Paris for signed books of theirs that we did not have. Now, thanks to Miss DeHavilland, the project is complete.

IT'S SUMMER TIME AND THE HOURS ARE SHORTER

August hours for ALP will be Noon -6:00 PM Tuesday through Friday and 10:00 AM -2:00 PM on Saturdays. The American University Library will be open (starting June 13) Monday through Thursday 1:00 - 7:00 PM and Sundays 2:00 - 7:00 PM. It will be closed Fridays and Saturdays, July 4 and 14, and from July 22 through September 4.

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