CAMPAIGN 2000:
A Plan to Meet the Needs of the 21st Century

As the American Library in Paris approaches the year 2000, it remains a vital gathering place for families, students, our French and American neighbors, leaders in business and education, literary giants, and struggling young writers. Our collection and membership continue to grow. In a continuing effort to provide the best service to our members, we have initiated CAMPAIGN 2000, an ambitious plan to improve our facility and strengthen our collections.

Recent surveys and conversations have shown that patrons place special emphasis on educational materials, children’s and young adult services, and professional expertise. In response, we envision a renovated facility that will include improvements in the children’s and young adult room, the reading room, our mezzanine, along with a new audiovisual facility and a multipurpose meeting room. We are also planning upgrades to our on-line public access catalogs as well as the installation of a public Internet access terminal.

To accomplish these and other goals, a Development Committee for CAMPAIGN 2000, headed by Trustees Tom Rose and Robert Pingeon has begun to explore all aspects of this initiative. An estimated one million dollars will be needed for the renovation of our current space. In addition, they estimate that two million dollars is needed to increase the library’s endowment to the level needed to carry out improvements to our collection and computer system. Included in this figure are estimates for additional staffing needed to accomplish our goals.

CAMPAIGN 2000 is a unique opportunity for everyone to participate in the creation of a strong and dynamic library designed to meet the challenges of the next century. We encourage you to come in and spend some time looking at the architect’s model currently on display in the lobby. We will be happy to give anyone interested in this effort a tour and a more detailed summary of our plans for the American Library in Paris. Please call Kay Rader, Director, for more information.

DID YOU KNOW?
- 1995 attendance at the Weekly Children’s Story Hour totaled almost 1,000 children.
- The Sunday edition of the New York Times is available on Monday at the Circulation Desk.
- Thanks to a gift of the International Herald Tribune, we have daily issues of the New York Times on microfilm dating back to 1991.
An Update on Reference Services

Since October 1995, the reference desk has been staffed full-time by professional librarians. ALA/SLA Library Fellow Bonita G. Carlfield and Reference Librarian Andrea Delmonico are currently working on a project to improve reference services and the reference collection.

The first steps in this process are an extensive weeding of the reference collection, with the help of volunteer librarian Laura Levine-Livett and the establishment of a ready reference collection behind the reference desk. If you need help in using the library and its resources or have any other questions, please ask an aide in the Development from the reference librarian on duty. If in your opinion there are other reference tools that the AIP should have, please fill out a suggestion form.

Children's Story Hours in February, March and April

All Children's Story Hours are held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 until 3:30.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 21st George Washington's Birthday
Feb. 28th Dr. Seuss' Birthday

African-American Stories will be read throughout the month of February in celebration of "Black History Month."

MARCH

Mar. 6th Old Favorites
Mar. 13th St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 20th First Day of Spring
Mar. 27th April Fool's Day

APRIL

Apr. 3rd Easter

The Chemistry of Cheese

March 29th, 7:00 P.M.

Cheese is more than milk and know-how. Sister Noella Mascellino has been working for years on the relationship between the microscopic world and the cheeses we eat. She will share her knowledge of the cheese-making facilities of a French Saint Nectaire dairy in Connecticut. Join us for a discussion of her research sponsored by the American Chemical Society and Food Science.

A cheese tasting is included. 100 FL for AIP members, 120 FL for non-AIP members.

A Sampling of New Reference Books

Since October 1995, the reference desk has been staffed full-time by professional librarians. ALA/SLA Library Fellow Bonita G. Carlfield and Reference Librarian Andrea Delmonico are currently working on a project to improve reference services and the reference collection. The McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Economics offers a comprehensive, up-to-date overview of the entire field of economics, from the economic principle to zero population growths.

International trade: where they are, how to get them by Eric Kocher provides a wealth of information about job opportunities around the world. It is an up-to-date and comprehensive resource.

Science Fiction: the illustrated encyclopedia by John Clute presents a decade-by-decade overview of every aspect of science fiction, from books and comics to film and television.

The Encyclopaedia of Victorian Literature by Mary Ellen Snodgrass is intended to guide the impossibly vast and unimaginary titles from the 19th century B.C. to the present.

Mark your calendars for an "Evening with an Author"

Wednesday, February 21, 8:00 PM
Maria Donovan, Direct of "The New York Times' obituaries"

Maria Donovan is a Hungarian-born journalist-writer-painter. Mrs. Donovan has written cooking and travel books and was a regular contributor to Gourmet magazine until she got fed up with 5-star luxury and took to painting instead. She is the author of the recently republished It's a Square World.

Wednesday, March 27, 7:30 PM
Word for Word

A poetry and theater company dedicated to bringing literature to its feet. Word For Word performs well-known works of short fiction in their entirety, using a theater-in-the-round approach in presenting the work as it is written, word for word. The evening's program includes Blanche by Edgar Allen Poe and The Standard of Living by Dorothy Parker.

Wednesday, April 3, 8:00 PM
Alien Encounters

Paris: Birthplace of the USA

Authors of a recently published Paris guidebook for the American patriot will introduce you to the places in Paris where famous Americans such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Paul Jones and others, secured the independence of the American colonies.

ALP creates Memorial Fund for author and playwright Paul LaFelle

A woman of singular importance to the American community died last fall at the age of 53. Paul LaFelle was an author and playwright who was known for his commitment to humanism and a French teacher who persevered in his work nearly to his dying day, it is said, that through his novels to remember her would do so in the form of support for her library. In keeping with this particularity, we are creating the Paul LaFelle Memorial Fund.

Up until very recently Miss LaFelle received the 30 books from her small apartment on the rue de l'Universite to Chargu de Mars, taking off all the library to her books or to find a book she needed. She also donated her two novels to the library collection. We will miss her.

We asked Emily Lodge, one of her students, and the author of numerous articles, speeches and documentaries, to contribute this segment to the newsletter. Paul LaFelle left behind a rich legacy both in her written work and in the knowledge he imparted as a teacher and philosopher. I was her student for eight years. If you went to her to learn French, you stayed to learn about life. A formidable presence for her diminutive size, Paul LaFelle gently, winningly, and with a quiet observer of human kind. If the ultimate wisdom is tolerance, this was one of her gifts, and her compassion was humanity. Paul had this greatness and this wisdom.

Americans were her life; she loved their generosity of spirit, their eagerness to learn. Having begun teaching French to supplement her income as a writer at the end of World War II, Paul knew literally thousands of Americans. In addition to her two novels, the more successful of which was La Requete de Galatea, she co-authored with Shirley Kennedy six plays, one of whose premieres was forced last September in Long Island, N.Y. It is appropriate that this "Renaissance woman"—a close collaborator of Carlos Navarro's History of European Literature—would want a memorial fund created in a place she did not choose to live. Actors, ambassadors, and other American friends of France were devoted to her. Her method of translating English classics line-by-line was obvious to those fortunate to watch her teaching. A teacher, an educator, a Frenchmam, a woman—"Les Huguenots," among others—her fame grew and American firms such as IBM and Ford, with many other companies, to her death. Her life-long ambition was to be an actress played out itself in her spectacular reading of the plays. But ultimately, the greatest tribute to her insights into "la comédie humaine.""
Library introduces new Corporate Readership Program

The American Library in Paris has created a special introductory membership to corporations for all employees and their immediate families. The new program gives employees and their families personalized membership cards for six months.

The Corporate Readership Program entitles members to borrowing privileges, access to over 90,000 books, including children's materials, reference books, and an excellent adult collection which covers all subjects. Families with children are invited to attend the Library's weekly Story Hour and Holiday Celebration on Wednesday afternoons.

In addition, members will be able to use over 350 periodical subscriptions in the library's state-of-the-art Research Center. Professional reference librarians are always on hand to assist our members.

Corporate employees may take advantage of this program with a corporate donation of 5,000FF to the American Library in Paris. There is no limit to the number of employees who may use the program within six months of the company's donation.

Employees are asked to bring a letter of identification stating that they are associated with the company. They will also need to bring a current photograph and proof of address in the form of a bill from France Télécom or EDF/GDF.

For additional information on the Corporate Readership Program, please contact Andrea Zellner, Development Officer.

Volunteer Detective searches through ALP archives

Catharine P. Reynolds is on the prowl, wandering the stacks of the American Library in Paris in search of the Library's own history. Armed with a notebook computer, she delves through the Library's basement archives, juxtaposing the letters and minutes there against photographs and events in the wider world in an effort to amplify the record of the Library's past and chronicle those associated with it.

Mrs. Reynolds, a contributing editor of Gourmet magazine who has devoted most of her professional career to wading through dusty archives, is to be heard crowing and cackling as she pieces together our momentous history. She would heartily appreciate any insights members can offer, either exhumed from their own memories or uncovered in their reading.

Contact Mrs. Reynolds through the Library's administrative office at 45.51.76.84.