Laure Schindler Levine Talks About Her New Book

In 1991, an extraordinary event took place in New York City: the Congress of Hidden Children, Survivors of the Holocaust, which I attended together with 1,400 other people from all over the world. Several messages resulted from this Congress, but the most important one was "that we, the children of these nightmarish years, are now the last links of the chain," that after us, only history books will tell the story of these events in a more or less distorted way, and that therefore this is the world’s last chance to hear our testimony through interviews and writings before we disappear.

I have at last written my story. It is somewhat different from others, but then every story is unique, another essential message given at this conference. My book is entitled The Last Links of the Chain: The Hidden Children.

I was born in Germany and somehow survived the war in France under the Vichy regime. On December 3, I will give a program about my book, my personal story, my individual testimony, and the conclusions I am drawing so many years later as a mature adult. (See page 2 for program details.) The program will include excerpts from my book and readings from various other sources, all having a common theme: the survival of the human spirit through the darkest period of the history of mankind.

Thank you Hewlett-Packard!

We extend our warmest thanks to Hewlett-Packard Europe for the stunning gift of a color laser printer, which will be used by much of the staff of the Library. It prints 23 pages per minute, is huge, and is our dream printer. Special thanks to Joan Baillod, Director of Corporate Development, and Ursula Berger, Grants Administrator, both of whom are at the Geneva office.

Library Kicks Off Membership Drive

The Library is seeking new members—and we would like you to help us. The membership drive will begin in November and run through February. For each new member you introduce to the Library, you will earn an additional month of membership. The new member, too, will benefit from a one-time introductory offer of an extra month of membership without charge.

Throughout the period of the drive, we will conduct get-acquainted tours of the Library for anyone who is interested. For information on arranging a tour, please contact Anne Lechardier, Development Officer, at 01 53 59 12 67, or Andrea Delunorm, Reference Librarian, at 01 53 59 12 62.
Evenings with an Author Fall Programs

Wednesday, October 1
Dr. Douglas Schwartz, "Santa Fe: Biography of a Creative Community," with a slide presentation

Dr. Schwartz, President of the School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, discusses and illustrates the unusual continuity of creativity in Santa Fe, a community of artists for over 1,000 years.

Wednesday, October 5
Diane Johnson, Le Divorce
Diane Johnson is the author of 11 previous books and a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Ms. Johnson will discuss her best-selling book Le Divorce about American in Paris, French cultural superiority, and American innocence.

Wednesday, December 3
Laure Schindler Levine
The Last Links of the Chain: The Hidden Children (pre-publication)
Ms. Levine, presently a volunteer at the American Library in Paris, will discuss her soon-to-be-published book, in which she tells the story of her childhood and adolescence in France and Germany during World War II. She will also talk about the "Hidden Children" convention which took place in New York City in 1993. (See related article on the first page.)

All Evenings with Author programs begin at 8:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Molly Wurzer Donates Award-Winning Books
On June 18, Molly Wurzer and her father, Marvin Wurzer, and ALP Trustee Catherine Cote came to the Library to present Molly’s donation of 20 award-winning books to the Children’s Room. The books are from the 1996-1999 Master List of winners for the Texas Bluebonnet Award.

Molly, an avid reader and library lover, brought the books all the way from Houston, Texas. The books are by such noted authors as Laurence Yep, Virginia Hamilton, Betsy Byars, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, and Sad Fleischman.

The Texas Bluebonnet Award is a project of the Texas Library Association. The award is designed to encourage Texas children to read more books, to explore a variety of current books, to develop powers of discrimination, and to identify their favorite books through the voting process.

Entrants must write an essay and give oral presentation to discuss why they would be good candidates for a trip to Paris.

Children’s Story Hours for Fall
Story Hours for 3- to 5-year-olds are held on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Programs include fingerplays, songs, stories, and films/trips. Parents are welcome to join in the fun! Non-members may attend one story hour to see if their children would enjoy this activity.

October
1 All About Giants
8 In the Eyes of a Cat
15 Meet Author Bruce Alan
22 Hop Abroad!
29 Halloween

November
5 Seasons Change
12 Check it Out! (Children’s Book Week)
19 Native American Tales
(November, Native American Month)
26 Thanksgiving

December
5 Winter Celebrations
10 Hanukkah
17 Christmas

Phyllis Michaux Develops American Community Archives Project

Phyllis Michaux (left), a longtime Patina, soon after, has launched the American Community Archive project at the ALP. Sponsored by the Monti Bismark Charitable Trust, the project will provide a centralized source of information on the history of the American community in France. A number of organizations will participate, including the American Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1894, and the American Cathedral, founded in 1899.

The collection will provide access to information on American non-profit groups, providing a short history of each, with a description of the organization’s historical documents.

...THAT PERFECT TRANQUILITY OF LIFE, WHICH WE HAVE TO FIND BUT IN A RETREAT, A FAITHFUL FRIEND, AND A GOOD LIBRARY.
—Apollinaire (1880)

I Want to Be...
Stephanie Maze of Washington, D.C. has donated four of her books from the I Want to Be series published by Harcourt Brace & Company. These beautifully illustrated books are written to help young people make career decisions.

I Want to Be... an Engineer... an Astronaut... a Dancer... or... a Veterinarian

Visitors from Maine
For the second year in a row, the American Section of the Lycée International has hosted the winners of a French-American exchange contest sponsored by the Willard School in Sanford, Maine. The contest was conceived and organized by former Willard School Principal Robert A. Snow, former American Section Director and ALP Trustee Nancy Willard-Magnus, after whose parents the school was named.

Entrants must write an essay and give oral presentation about why they would be good candidates for a trip to Paris.

On March 19, this year’s three sixth-grade winners (above), Jennifer Gagner, Christine Bowdle, and Brianna Baker, each received a library of books in honor of the Willard School. A copy of Ice Country. Our Boy’s Adventure in the Arctic with Commander Donald MacMillan by Maurice author Mary Morton Cowan.

Homework Helpers
HISTORY
The Whose Founding Fathers? by Steven Kalta
Life during the Revolution by E. Burden and B. Stewart
(940.44 3490)
Hill Fighters: African American Soldiers of the Civil War by Michael L. Cooper
(940.1 27860)

GEOGRAPHY
The Young People’s Atlas of the United States by James Harrison and Hecaton Van Zan
(Reference: J 912.73 8246)
Everything You Need to Know About Geography by Anne Sezmic and Kate Kelly
(910 76)
The World Almanac for Kids, 1997
World Almanac Books
(Reference: J 031 9896)

ART
Black Artists in Photography, 1860-1940 by George Sullivan
(797 7053)
History of Art for Young People by E.W. Janson and Anthony F. Janson
(Reference: J 700 1270)

SCIENCE
Guide to Microslide by Kenneth G. Raines and Bruce J. Raus
(Reference: J 576 8159)
The Story of Oxygen by Karen Fitzgerald
(546.72 1576)
Black Holes by Heather Cooper and Nagel
(529.8 8926)

ENGLISH
Checking Your Grammar by Marvin Teurn
(428.4 1277)
Punching the Clock: Fantasy Action Idioms by Marvin Teurn
(428.4 1277)
The Scholarly Rhyming Dictionary by Sue Young
(Reference: J 425.1 9507)
From the Reference Department

1997 USER SURVEY: THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

In January 1997, Reference Librarian Andrea Delumeau (left) conducted a general satisfaction survey among ALP members. The survey was developed by Julie Bockenstedt, a graduate student at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa.

The response rate was very high: 80% of the Library members who received the survey responded. The survey showed that the most common activity was searching for books (83.5%), followed by returning items to the Library (45.9%), a literature search by computer (45.3%), browsing (42.9%), and asking a reference question (32.3%).

Over 80% of Library members found the Library easy or very easy to use, and 80% were satisfied or very satisfied with their visit to the Library. Many participants used the opportunity to express individual comments or concerns regarding the Library. These were carefully read and evaluated, and some of the suggestions have already been implemented.

NEW RESEARCH GUIDE

Thanks to Annie Prunet, an intern from the Institut National des Techniques de la Documentation, the Library has a new research guide entitled Ethnic Diversity in the United States. In addition to giving access to the Library’s holdings on ethnic diversity, the guide includes a list of useful Internet sites on the subject.

CAPES/AGREGATION DOSSIERS ARE READY!

Every year the Reference Department compiles bibliographies and dossiers of critical articles for the CAPES/Aggregation exams. During the summer months, Smith College interns Amy Pieck and Kathryn Rotondo helped on this project.

The dossiers for the 1998 exams cover the following authors and civilization subjects:
- Daniel Defoe: Moll Flanders
- George Herbert: The Temple
- Hanif Kureishi: The Buddha of Suburbia
- Katherine Mansfield: Selected Short Stories
- N. Scott Momaday: House of Daem
- William Shakespeare: As You Like It
- Jean Toomer: Cane
- Mass Media in the United States since 1945

The dossiers from previous years are still available and can be requested at the Circulation Desk.

If you would like to have an in-depth tour of the Research Center and the Reference Collection, please call Andrea Delumeau at 01 53 59 12 65.

AT THE LIBRARY SHOP

LIBRARY BOOKBAG 40FF
PIERRE LE-TAN POSTER 50FF

IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE CAN IMPROVE LIBRARY SERVICES...

Please leave a note in the suggestions box located near the Welcome Desk or call Library Director Kay Rader at 01 53 59 12 63 or Assistant Director Adele Witt at 01 53 59 12 65.