

# EX LIBRIS

*The ALP Newsletter*

**THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS**

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WE WOULD LIKE TO  
EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST  
APPRECIATION TO THE  
SPONSORS OF OUR  
2002 GALA

**"AN EVENING CRUISE  
ON THE SEINE"**  
JUNE 20, 2002

THE ANNENBERG  
FOUNDATION

ROBERT AND SANDRA  
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MERRILL LYNCH PIERCE  
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MARWAIS INTERNATIONAL

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ANONYMOUS

AND OUR SPECIAL THANKS  
TO

CHANEL

INTERNATIONAL HERALD  
TRIBUNE

HENRIOT

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THE STAFF IS READING...

THE 2003 GALA, LOUIS  
AUCHINCLOSS,  
AND EDITH WHARTON WEEK

FALL FUNDRAISING DONORS

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Library Book Ball Set for April 3

April 3 is the date set for this year's Book Ball, the Library's annual fundraising gala. Space this year is extremely limited due to the venue, and reservations will be taken on a first come basis.

Cost for the event, which includes dinner, is 350 euros per person, or 7000 euros to sponsor a table (10,000 euros for Platinum Sponsors).

This year's special guest is Louis Auchincloss, who is also being honored as the Library's first Distinguished Fellow (see the letter from the Chairman, p. 4).

Mr. Auchincloss will speak on Edith Wharton, who lived in Paris for many years and was a founding Trustee of the Library. Mr. Auchincloss has achieved a sound reputation as a Wharton critic and has also written a well-received biography about her, *Edith Wharton: A Woman in her Time*, 1971. (See "Library Celebrates Edith Wharton's Life and Work" -below- for more about Wharton).

Mr. Auchincloss is a rarity in the world of letters—a serious writer and critic, recognized and lauded in literary circles, as well as a popular writer with such bestsellers as *The House of Five Talents*, *A Portrait in Brownstone*, and *The Rector of Justin*, AND he has had a successful career as a Wall Street lawyer. His first novel, *The Indifferent Children*, appeared in 1947 under the pseudonym Andrew Lee. Since then, this prolific writer has penned novels, collections of short stories, plays, literary criticism, biographies, and history. To quote one of his critics, Auchincloss's works "reflect a diversity of interests, ranging from the morality and psychology of American middle and upper-middle classes, to American Victorianism and its twentieth-century vestiges, European history from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century, and his literary forebears, among them Henry James, Edith Wharton, John O'Hara, and John P. Marquand."

For information on reservations for the Book Ball, please contact the Director or Assistant Director (ask at Circulation).

## Library Celebrates Edith Wharton's Life and Work

In conjunction with the Book Ball and the visit of Louis Auchincloss, the American Library in Paris is having an "Edith Wharton Festival" from March 31 through April 5. Wharton was an accomplished woman of letters, best known for such enduring classics as *The Age of Innocence*, *The House of Mirth*, and *Ethan Frome*, but she also wrote short stories, essays, criticism, and books on travel and history.

Auchincloss will speak about Edith Wharton on April 2 (Wednesday) at 8:00 p.m. at the Library, as part of our regular Evenings with an Author. There will also be a display portraying the different stages of Wharton's life and career, with photos, books by Edith Wharton that are held by the Library, some rare first editions, and selected works about her. A bibliography prepared by the staff will be available on the literature rack and at the reference desk.

## The Friends of the American Library in Paris

Over the last several years, the Board of Trustees has found that the Library has many people interested in helping the Library who are not interested in the existing volunteer opportunities nor in the time commitment of serving on the Board of Trustees. However, these are very talented people who genuinely want to put their skills to work for ALP.

In an effort to provide a meaningful, interesting, and responsible role for these individuals, the Library has encouraged the formation of a Friends group, which is being organized by Elizabeth Hochman (ehkparis@aol.com). The role of the Friends will be to undertake projects that will benefit the Library, either financially or in terms of visibility. Each project needs a definable start and finish and should not be so enormous as to consume the energies of the volunteers.

Under the guidelines posted by FOLUSA (the Friends of Libraries USA) at its Web site (folusa.org), the Friends organization will have no policy-making role at the Library, but a member will have a liaison role on the Board and will attend at least some of the Board meetings. It will function as an autonomous group, working with the Library Director. Hopefully, some of the projects will become annual efforts, and, as with libraries in the U.S., the Friends group will assist in many vital areas.

Please contact Elizabeth Hochman at the above e-mail address or Shirley Lambert, the Director, at s.lambert@noos.fr (01 53 59 12 63).

## French students and scholars at the ALP

Every year French students who major in English and American studies use the services and materials organized by the American Library in Paris to help them prepare for the two highly competitive exams for teacher certification—CAPES and Agrégation. For years, the ALP has answered their particular needs by ordering books on the syllabus of these exams and preparing related collections of articles and original documents.

Graduate students preparing an MA or doctorate often start their projects by exploring the Library resources. They use the reference section to prepare their bibliography and start reading extensively on their subjects. The ALP's collection of periodicals is especially useful to build their research proposal. And, in many cases, they find there the primary materials for their research. For instance, owing to the ALP collection of American magazines dating back to its foundation in the early 1920s, some excellent MA theses have been written on crucial aspects of pre-World War II American history.

## American Library Association President to Address Annual Meeting, March 18, 7:00 p.m.

Maurice (Mitch) Freedman, M.L.S., Ph.D., President of the American Library Association, will be visiting Paris the week of our Annual Meeting and has agreed to attend the annual meeting and give a brief address. Mitch is a well-known library activist; he is the Director of the Westchester (NY) Library System, publishes the U\*A\*B\*A\*S\*H\*E\*D Librarian, and has taught at both Pratt and Columbia library schools.

Betty Turock, Ph.D., Professor of library science at Rutgers University and past President of ALA, winner of the Scarecrow Press Equality Award, and the Trustee who serves as ALP's liaison with ALA, will also be on hand to address the meeting.

You, our members, can help ALP meet the future by being informed. Find out what's happening at your Library! The Annual Report will be available, members of the Board of Trustees expect your questions, so this is an ideal time to find out more about the day-to-day functioning of your Library.

(cont.) Other students and scholars have dealt with more recent subjects. The history of labor, immigration, women and African-Americans have been high priorities among students doing research for courses related to American studies programs. On all these subjects the Library has a significant collection of books, periodicals and reference materials. Scholars in American literature also find rare and precious collections for their research as well as critical studies.

Because of the extent and origin of its collections, the ALP harbors treasures in American literature and culture that cannot be found elsewhere on the Continent. The French academic community of Americanists is grateful that the American Library maintains this important center of American culture open and available to all readers.

Catherine Collomp, Pr. Université Paris VII, Vice présidente de l'Association Française d'Etudes Américaines

### Did You Know?

Book Sales are the first Saturday of each month!

Come and browse new books and classics, fiction and nonfiction—just one euro each!

# KIDS PAGES!

## The Best in Children's Books!

The many journals in the field of children's literature prepare lists each year of especially outstanding works. Many of these are found right here on ALP's shelves!

### Some recommendations:

For ages 4-6

The Empty Pot by Demi. A good tale for Chinese New Year.

Miss Bindergarten Stays Home from Kindergarten by Joseph Slate

Triss: A Tale from Redwall by Brian Jacques (NEW)

For ages 10-12

Ribbons by Lawrence Yep. For girls who love to dance!

For ages 12 and up

Growing Wings by Laurel Winter

The Greatest: Muhammad Ali by Walter Dean Myers

## Best Books of 2002

(voted the best of the year by School Library Journal and the American Library Association):



For ages 3-5

Olivia Saves the Circus by Ian Falconer

You Read to Me and I'll Read to You by Mary Ann Hoberman  
Giggle. Gille. Quack by Doreen Cronin

For ages 6-8

The Spider and the Fly by Tony DeTerlizzi (a Caldecott Honor Book)  
The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, illustrated by Christopher Bing

For ages 9-12

Love that Dog by Sharon Creech

Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac (a Native American storyteller)

For ages 12 and up

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements

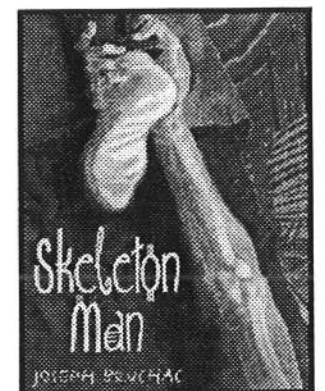
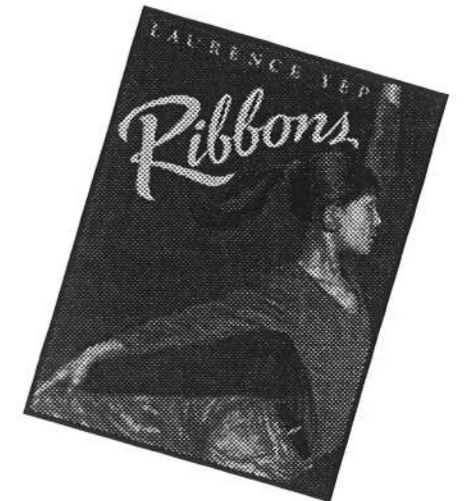
The Thief Lord by Cornelia Funke

Chill Wind by Janet McDonald

(winner of the John Steptoe Award for New Talent)

## Please Remember!!

If your membership is not a family membership and you wish to bring a child or children to a story hour, each child must have a card.



## DON'T MISS ALP'S EXCITING NEW EVENTS!

Evenings with an Author and Evenings of American Culture  
Programs begin at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted  
and are free and open to the public.

Wednesday March 19, 2003

**Herminia Ibarra, *Working Identity: Unconventional Strategies for Reinventing Your Career***  
Based on her in-depth research into how people make career transitions, Ibarra outlines a three-part process of career change. Switching careers means more than changing jobs; it means redefining ourselves. Ibarra helps us along the journey of finding out what we want to do and who we want to become.

Wednesday March 12, 2003

**The Sixteen Feet from Swarthmore College**

Men's a cappella singing group  
Fresh from a successful tour, this lively group will present a program from ballads to forties' favorites to contemporary tunes. During the past two years, the group has performed at Rockefeller Center and in venues in California, New Orleans, and Ireland. They sing to have a good time—and their audience will too!

Wednesday March 26, 2003

**Thirza Vallois, *Romantic Paris***

An invitation to both lovers and lovers of Paris to join in a round-the-clock celebration of the ultimate city of romance. Thirza Vallois, the author of the acclaimed series *Around and About Paris*, will walk you to all its beauty spots and secret corners, with charming or outrageous anecdotes and stories of the city's love life through the ages.

Wednesday, April 2, 2003

**Louis Auchincloss, *Edith Wharton: A Life in Letters***

World-renowned author Louis Auchincloss has been named the American Library's first Distinguished Fellow and will speak about the life and career of Edith Wharton, another celebrated author, one who was instrumental in the formation of the Library. Seating (and even standing room) is limited; doors will be closed when the building's legal capacity is reached, so please come early.

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

**Carolyn Lei-Ianilau, *"The Last Princess"***

Music provided by the ukulele club of Paris  
Lei-Ianilau is an award-winning Hawaiian writer who will recount the story of the life of Princess Kai'ulani, who studied in Europe and charmed heads of state across the Continent. Her narrative blends history and culture, and the music of the ukuleles and Hawaiian guitar will transport us to those beautiful islands. One of the Library's evenings of American culture that celebrates a culture and people far removed from Paris.

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Iain Pears, *The Dream of Scipio*

One of the most talked-about literary lights on the other side of the Atlantic, Iain Pears set a new standard for the historical thriller with *An Instance of the Fingerpost*. *The Dream of Scipio* is an even more ambitious, richly textured, and suspenseful novel of ideas, history, and passion. Set in Provence in the 5th, 14th, and 20th centuries, it is composed of three intertwined narratives all revolving around an ancient text. At stake are not only the outcomes of the three ardent love stories, but the competing claims of philosophy, religion, and art, and the fate of civilization itself.

Wednesday, April 16, 2003

Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker, *The Architecture of Delano and Aldrich*

The premier architects of New York clubhouses, mansions, and important government buildings, including the American Embassy in Paris, the firm of Delano and Aldrich were, according to Tom Wolfe, part of the "most exciting phase of modern architecture in America: the Stripped Classicism era, 1920-1940."

Wednesday, April 23, 2003

This performance will be held at the Salle Adyar, 4, square Rapp (located near the Library). Reception at the Library will follow the performance.

WORD FOR WORD: San Francisco Theater Troupe *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs*, by Tobias Wolff

This acclaimed professional theater company brings literature life—literally—with simple and elegant theatricality, performing well-known works of fiction in their entirety, word for word.

**This program is made possible through a grant from The Florence Gould Foundation and with the support of Air France. The Library's participation is made possible through a grant from the Annenberg Foundation.**

Bring  
a friend!

## THE STAFF IS READING...



**The Doctor's House by Ann Beattie (F BEATTI)**

The story describes a trouble relationship between Nina, a freelance copy-editor and her older brother, Andrew, who is a womanizer. Nina describes her dysfunctional family. Then her alcoholic mother gives the middle narrative on the family followed by Andrew, who describes his unhappy family life. Each narrative contradicts the other, but all three portray the father as extremely cruel. One feels that the children could only turn out as they do because of the parents.—Adele Witt



**Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende (F ALLENDE)**

An intricately woven tale of unforgettable characters, set in San Francisco and Chile in the late 1800s. The political events in Chile are the backdrop for the later action in the tale, but the threads of family history and several tumultuous love stories anchor this fast-moving, provocative narrative. As always with Allende, mesmerizing.—Shirley Lambert

**Dream of Scipio by Iain Pears (M PEARS)**

Three men, three stories, and three different epochs. All based in Provence. The men are faced with their failing civilization: 5<sup>th</sup> century and the declining Roman Empire; 14<sup>th</sup> century and the Black Death; and Nazi Europe in modern

times. Their stories center on their efforts to save their worlds and the complications that follow the "Dream of Scipio" down the ages. A book to make you think about history, how it can be preserved, perverted, or lost.—Sharon Gouhier

**Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (F C427)**

The imagined story behind Vermeer's painting, with wonderful detail of 17<sup>th</sup> century Delft and life in the household of this great painter. Told from the new maid's perspective, we can imagine, with Gret, how she is transformed by her meeting Vermeer, her life in the household, and the artist's world.—Sharon Gouhier

**Dark Materials Trilogy by Philip Pulman (J PUL) Young Adult**

This trilogy (*Northern Lights*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*) tells the stories of Lyra and Will and all the characters, good and bad, whom they encounter on their travels through different parallel worlds. Originally written for children, some say the stories cover topics too vast for a young mind. However, these stories should appeal to all ages. For the young adult there is fantasy and truth, good and evil, friends and foes. For adults there are imaginative plots, thought-provoking philosophies and poignant questions on divinity and faith and love.—Michelle Holder



**The Power of the Dog by Thomas Savage (on order; will be F Sa93)**

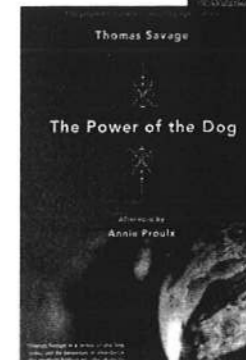
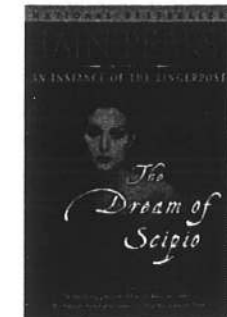
The Burbanks, a successful ranching family in 1920s Montana, have, in Phil's eyes, a most satisfactory and profitable lifestyle. When his brother (and business partner) decides to marry a widow from town, bringing both the woman and her son to live on the ranch, Phil takes it upon himself to destroy the marriage—and his new sister-in-law. Savage's writing is tight and efficient, and the ending comes like a slap in the face.—Lindsay Coles

**A Distant Episode: The Selected Stories by Paul Bowles (F BOWLES)**

Bowles spent most of his life abroad, largely in Morocco, but also in South America and Asia. His short stories explore the power of myth, superstition, and karma (though he never calls it that) in shaping the lives of the locals, as well as American or European visitors. Among his best themes are how cultural miscommunication can have disastrous (or even deadly) consequences, but the traveler rarely recognizes the fault as his. It makes a timely commentary on how Westerners are ignorant of Arabs and their customs, especially given current international events.—Lindsay Coles

**The Escher Twist by Jane Langton (M LANGTON)**

Leonard Sheldrake visits an Escher exhibit at a gallery in Cambridge. While at the gallery he meets Frieda, who also is enthralled by the Escher exhibit. But she rushes off leaving Leonard who wants to find her but knows nothing about her. Homer and Mary Kelly offer to help him find her in the Escher labyrinth, where they encounter past murders, fortune-tellers and ghosts of the Mount Auburn Cemetery. It's quick, fun reading.—Adele Witt





# KIDS PAGES!

## Children's Programs By Popular Demand!

### Mother Goose Lap-Sit Doubles Its Programs

The Mother Goose Lap-Sit, held the first and last Thursday of every month for children between the ages of one and three years, has proven so popular that there are now two sessions on the first and last Thursdays of the month. The first session is 10:30 to 11:00 and the second is 11:30 to noon. Sign up is required! Space is limited!

English rhymes, songs, and stories too. All toddlers must have an adult lap to sit in!

Dates for March and April are:

March 6, March 27, April 3, April 24, May dates to be announced

### Wednesday Story Hour

Held both Wednesday morning and afternoon, Story Hour is for 3-5 year-olds. You may choose either the 10:30-11:30 session or the 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. session.

Children will be entertained and will love joining in the fun! Songs, rhymes, and books, AND puppets, filmstrips and feltboard stories too!

### March Schedule and Themes

5. Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss
12. St. Patrick's Day
19. Feeling Better
26. Tiny Tales

### April Schedule and Themes

2. Grandparents are Great
9. Mice Are Nice
16. Bunnies and Eggs
23. Favorite Tales
30. Monkey See, Monkey Do



## KIDS' BOOK SALE

Saturday April 5th  
Beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Childre's Room

Many books for just ONE EURO!

Picture Books Juvenile Fiction

Teen Fiction

Selected Nonfiction



### Thanks to our Fall Fundraising Donors:

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Ms. Lisbeth Aschenbrenner  
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Mr. Charles Hoots  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Home



### SPECIAL OFFER TO MEMBERS OF ALP

Marriott's Village Ile-de-France is pleased to offer members of the American Library in Paris a special program designed exclusively for them. This brand-new resort is still under construction, but the first phase is scheduled to open in June 2003. Located just minutes from the Disneyland Paris theme parks and adjacent to the golf course, it epitomises Marriott's commitment to quality and provides a glimpse of what luxurious vacations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be.

This new resort is the first Marriott Vacation Club International project in France and, when complete, will consist of 190 villas, with 44 opening in the first phase (June 7, 2003). Villas are spacious (sleep 6) and fully equipped, with two floors, two bedrooms, and two and a half baths. Exclusive to club members, the resort will also feature:

- Clubhouse
- Health club
- Sauna, steam baths
- Indoor and outdoor pools
- Children's centre with activities
- Bar and a restaurant.

Members have the option of enjoying the comforts of any of Marriott's resorts world-wide, or they may opt for an exchange within an international system of luxury accommodations—from idyllic Caribbean beaches to world class skiing to golf courses in every corner of the world.

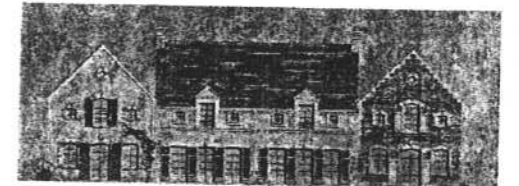
Special offer: Marriott is offering ALP members a visit to Marriott's Village d'Ile-de-France, including a tour of the beautifully designed show home, a preview of the resort and facilities plus an interesting and informative presentation on the unique benefits and privileges of Marriott. Please note: if married, both husband and wife must attend together.

As an appreciation of your visit, you will receive a choice of a complimentary family meal at a local restaurant or a free one-night stay at a nearby hotel. Come and tour the resort, either in the morning or afternoon—for every tour taken by our members, Marriott will also donate 100 Euros to the Library!

When you reserve, you must identify yourself as a member of the American Library in Paris. Please note: this offer expires June 1, 2003.

Make your reservation today! Treat yourself to a getaway, an enjoyable visit, and help your Library at the same time! Contact Margaret Moody for details and reservation at 01 60 42 15 15

The terms offered at Marriott's Village d'Ile-de-France may be obtained at the following address: Allée de l'Orme-Rond, Bailly-Romainvilliers (77700)



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## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2003 promises to be an exciting year! It has gotten under way with the arrival of our new director, Shirley Lambert, who comes from a background in libraries and publishing and has already energetically tackled some of the many projects and initiatives she has in mind for the Library. We hope that you will all welcome her when you are next at the ALP.

The Library Holiday Party, which many of you attended, was a great success. The newly constituted Friends Group is now turning their attention and enthusiasm to new tasks such as the upcoming Book Ball on April 3, 2003, chaired by Robert Gogel, Vice-Chairman of the Board. Let us know if you are interested in learning more about their activities by contacting Elizabeth Kagan at ehkparis@aol.com or Shirley Lambert at the Library.

As mentioned on page 1, world-renowned author Louis Auchincloss, will be the featured guest speaker at the Library's Book Ball on April 3. Mr. Auchincloss will also lead a talk about Edith Wharton on April 2, Wednesday, at the Library, and this event is open to the public. In conjunction with these events, the Library will host an "Edith Wharton Festival" from March 31 through April 5, in which her works and contributions will be highlighted. And we are delighted to announce Mr. Auchincloss as the first Distinguished Fellow of the American Library, a year-long honorary position that celebrates the Fellow's body of work and during which the Fellow works closely with the Library on literary and cultural issues.

Thank you to all for the high level of response to our members' survey. We are tabulating the results, and these will be published in our next newsletter. Thank you also to all those of you who participated in our Fall Fundraising Campaign. Since we receive no public or government subsidies and in order to keep our membership fees affordable for as many people as possible, it is important that our fundraising efforts meet with the kind of enthusiastic response we have received this year.

Last, our Annual Meeting is Tuesday March 18 at 7:00 p.m. Our special guest that evening will be Maurice (Mitch) Freedman, President of the American Library Association, who will give a brief presentation. All ALP members are invited to attend so that they may ask questions, make suggestions, offer help or raise any issues they may have. We welcome your attendance and participation!

Charmaine Donnelly

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It still seems like yesterday that I arrived in Paris and found my way to the Library! My first impression was of the welcoming entrance, the reference desk right in the middle of the room (and therefore easy to find), and the comfortable browsing area with magazines and new books so accessible. Then I realized what an amazing amount of material this building houses! The richness and depth of the collection, especially in our areas of concentration, are equivalent (and frequently surpass) similar collections in major libraries in the U.S.

It's obvious that this Library has had staff, trustees, and patrons over many years who have cared deeply about maintaining this large and diverse collection—both for their users of that period and for all of us who would come in the future. I am still finding my way around, because it seems each day there is something new to discover.

One of the most delightful discoveries has been you—our members. I have met quite a few of you, and all have made me feel most welcome. Please continue to seek me out and introduce yourselves. It makes our community more real somehow to have faces and names to put together. Thank you to every one of you for your welcoming words, your helpful comments, and for your suggestions. I hope to meet many more of you in the weeks to come.

Shirley Lambert

