



SUMMER 2003

# EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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We would like to express our deepest appreciation to the sponsors of our  
**2003 GALA**

**AN EVENING WITH  
LOUIS AUCHINCLOSS  
APRIL 3, 2003**

**DOUBLE PLATINUM SPONSOR:  
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*and our special thanks to*  
**CHATEAU PICHON LONGUEVILLE  
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**HOTEL L'ELYSEE**

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## RESEARCH RESULTS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE MEMBER SURVEY, FALL 2002

BY BADE TOMRUK

Thanks to all the members (332) who returned their questionnaires! The results were tabulated and thoroughly studied to identify the strengths and improvement opportunities for ALP. Following are some of the findings; the next newsletter will cover responses to some of the other questions.

### Respondent Information

- Forty-seven percent of the respondents had individual memberships, 30% family, and 18% senior memberships. Only .02% indicated having a student membership.
- Fifty-five percent use the Library monthly; 26% use it weekly; and fewer than one percent use it yearly.

### Information Resources

- How do people hear about ALP? Fifty-seven percent heard about it through word-of-mouth at work, school or other cultural centers. Another 26% saw ads in the press, specifically *Fusac*, *Paris Voice*, and other anglophone media, or heard about it in a "Bloom Where You're Planted" seminar.

### Attitude toward ALP

- Eighty-seven percent of all respondents describe ALP fees as providing "good value" and being a good investment. Fewer than 1% believe the fees are too expensive for their income and use level, and only 0.06% argued that the fees are not tailored for user type.
- Seventy percent of the respondents stated that ALP meets their needs. Twenty-seven percent indicated that, while ALP provided good value and services, there are several possibilities for improvement, including updating the collection, prolonging opening hours, enriching the audiovisual collection, etc.
- ALP's physical appearance is described as being "adequate" by 63%; 35% think it's very attractive. Fewer than 1% described ALP as unattractive.

### Internet Use

- Internet use in the Library seems to be limited to 32% of the respondents. Many have an Internet connection at home; others said they didn't know how to use the Internet.
- When asked to rate the collection, 50% said it was very good, and 32% described it as being satisfactory. Twelve percent of the respondents think the collection of the Library is excellent. Only .04 percent believed it to be mediocre.

### Events

- The favorite Library event for members is "Evenings with an Author," indicated by 54% of the votes; 32% chose children's programs; and .06% chose "Word for Word."
- Almost 50% of all respondents attended author evenings in 2002.

### Activities

- Seventy-seven percent of the respondents borrow books from the Library; 13% use it for research.
- Responses about secondary activities show that 31% read periodicals, 21% borrow videos, 20% do research, 16% borrow books, and 1% attend programs.

### Staff

- Overall, the majority of respondents think highly of the ALP staff. The children's librarian and reference librarian(s) were very highly praised. Some respondents expressed concern toward the attitude of some staff members, but other comments noted improvement in the attitude of the staff in the last few months.

Because of space constraints, the next newsletter will discuss what readers like best about ALP, what they don't like, and suggestions many of you have made for programs and/or changes you would like to see implemented. Many of you made very constructive suggestions, and we hope to be able to improve our service based on your input.

# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## Go on a Reading Safari this Summer!

(With the 2003 Sizzling Summer Reading Program)

### Sign Up

- Sign up begins on May 31st and continues throughout the summer!
- Children of all ages may participate.
- Sign up at the Circulation Desk or with Michelle to receive your Reading Safari Guide
- Receive stickers for each book you read!

### Favorite Books

- Write down your favorite book on a paw print and post it on the bulletin board in the Kids' Room

### Party

- On Saturday, September 20th, there will be a party to celebrate the accomplishments of all of the children. Prizes and certificates will be awarded!



## Mother Goose Lap-Sit for 1-to 3-year-olds

The first and last Thursday of the month, from 10:30-11:00 am or 11:30-12:00 am. English rhymes, songs, and stories too. All toddlers must have an adult lap to sit in!

### Lap-Sit Schedule:

May 15th\* only one Lap-Sit in May due to holidays  
June 5th  
June 26th  
July 3rd  
There will be no Lap-Sit at the end of July or in August. Lap-Sit will resume September 4th.

## Book Suggestions from the Children's Room

Below is a selection of books donated by the Woodward Charitable Foundation in memory of Ethel Woodward de Croiset. These books have been selected from lists of the best literature for children, and many deal with feelings, situations, and problems that children face as they grow up.

### For Younger Readers (ages 3-6):

**When I Feel Scared** by Cornelia Spelman  
**Hug** by Jez Alborough  
**All Kinds of Children** by Norma Simon  
**Franklin Goes to The Hospital** by Paulette Bourgeois  
**Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale** by Karen Katz  
**See How I Grow** by Angela Wilkes  
**Goodbye House** by Frank Asch  
**Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge** by Mem Fox

### For Older Readers: (ages 8-12)

**Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes** by Eleanor Coerr  
**I'm a Vegetarian** by Ellen Schwartz  
**Incredibly Disgusting Drugs (series)**  
**Cultures of the World (series)**  
**Changes in You and Me: A Book about Puberty, Mostly For Boys**  
By Paulette Bourgeois  
**One World, Many Religions** by Mary Pope Osborne  
**Human Body** by Steve Parker (Eyewitness Guide)

### For Parents:

**Bad Stuff in the News: A Guide to Handling The Headlines**  
by Marc Gellman and Thomas Hartman

### Newberry Medal:

**Crispin: The Cross of Lead** by Avi (9-12)  
**Newberry Honor Books:**  
**The House of the Scorpion** by Nancy Farmer (11+)  
**Pictures of Hollis Woods** by Patricia Reilly Giff (9-12)  
**Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen (9-12)  
**A Corner of the Universe** by Ann M. Martin (12+)  
**Surviving the Applewhites** by Stephanie S. Toland (10+)

**Caldecott Medal:** (Picture Books for ages 3-6)  
**My Friend Rabbit** by Eric Rohmann  
**Caldecott Honor Books:**  
**Hondo and Fabian** by Peter McCarty  
**The Spider and the Fly** by Mary Howitt, illustrated by Tony Di Terlizzi

### The Coretta Scott King Award

**Bronx Masquerade** by Nikki Grimes (12+)  
**The Red Rose Box** by Brenda Woods (9-12)

### Michael Printz Award

**Postcards from No Man's Land** by Aiden Chambers (12+)

## Programs—Summer, 2003

**Children 3-to 5-years-old**  
**Weekly Story Hours**  
Children will love joining in the fun of stories, songs, feltboard tales, and books.

**Wednesdays**  
10:30-11:30 or 2:30 to 3:30

### May Themes

21 Mother's Day  
28 Pajama Day (wear your pajamas to Story Hour)  
**June Themes**  
4 Reading Safari (sign up for Sizzling Summer Reading!)

11 Father's Day  
18 Frogs are Fun  
25 Goin' on Vacation

### July Themes

2 July 4th Celebration  
9 Farm Day  
\*Only one Story Hour from 2:30-3:30 pm on these dates:

\*16 Teddy Bears' Picnic  
\*23 Dog Days & Cat Naps  
\*30 Terrific Tales

**No Story Hour in August**  
Story Hour will resume September 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Saturdays are Special! Programs for Older Children

Sign-up is necessary for these programs  
Tel: 01.53.59.12.60

**May 31st- 3:00-4:00pm**  
**Sizzling Summer Reading Program Kick-Off "Reading Safari"**  
For ages 6 to 10

**June 7th- 2:30 - 3:30pm**  
**Aesop's Fables**  
With Special Guest Tony Daley For ages 6 to 9

**June 14th- 3:00-4:00pm**  
**Wild Animal Discovery**  
For ages 9-12

**June 28th- 5:00-6:00pm**  
**Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? (or at least win cool prizes)** For ages 12+  
Come play this exciting game and test your knowledge!

Sign-up necessary!  
**July 5th- 3:00-4:00pm**  
**Summer Crafts**  
For ages 6-8

**July 12th-3:00-4:00pm**  
**Make a Summer Journal**  
With Guest Author/Artist Sarah Riggs  
For ages 9-12

## 2003 Gala a Fête to Remember!

The 2003 Book Ball was held at the residence of the American Ambassador, the Honorable Howard M. Leach, on April 3, 2003. Seating was at capacity, and partygoers mingled over champagne in the gracious anteroom before being ushered into the tapestried dining room for a delectable dinner of stuffed lamb, asparagus timbale, and other delights, with a very special wine provided by the Chateau Pichon Longueville Comtesse de Lalande.

Opening remarks from Ambassador Leach (a book lover himself) highlighted the Library's role in the community and its success in bridging cultural gaps.

Honored guest and speaker for the evening Louis Auchincloss, the Library's first Distinguished Fellow, was introduced by Charmaine Donnelly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Auchincloss delighted the assembly with his dry wit and anecdotal asides, as he discussed Edith Wharton's literary style and the acuity of her observations on the social classes and manners of the time.

## Join Us in Welcoming ALP's Newest Friendly Face

**Terri Urrutia** is the newest addition to the ALP staff, serving as **Reference/Systems Librarian**. Terri arrived in Paris from the Washington, D.C. area in August, 2001. Prior to joining our staff, her time in Paris was spent taking French language courses and working at a series of *practica*, which applied to her coursework for a Master in Library Science degree from Catholic University of America. She has interned at the Bibliothèque Publique d'Information at the Centre Georges Pompidou, where she tested multimedia software and installed it on the network for access by protected workstations.

Terri holds a B.A. degree in Political Science from the College of William and Mary and has worked for companies such as ITT Industries, Institute for Defense Analyses, and the Advisory Board Company. Terri loves French wine and cuisine, so she is taking full advantage of her time here in France!

## First Teen Movie Night Gets Rave Reviews—A Second Movie Night Scheduled for May 24

Munching pizza and dissecting *The Matrix* appealed so much to the young adults who signed up for the first Teen Movie Night that Children's Librarian Michelle Holder has scheduled another!

**May 24th- 6:45-9:00pm**  
**Teen Movie and Pizza Night**  
Come watch *The Truman Show*, eat pizza and join our discussion of reality and "Reality TV." Sign-up necessary and written parent or guardian permission required.

## Evenings With an Author

Cooking came to the Library with the delectable presentation of *Saveurs Américaines*, May 14, 2003. Authors **Connie Borde** and **Sheila Malovany-Chevallier** provided three samplings of the recipes in their eye-catching tome on regional American cooking. The story of their trek across America in search of authenticity turned out to be the **real** story, which they shared with humor and enthusiasm

The display in the **Florence Gould Exhibit Area** showcases American and regional cuisines. The exhibit was conceived and executed by the Library's volunteer curator, **Cheryl Bolden**.

### Upcoming Events:

Don't miss the annual **Pharos** poetry reading!!  
**Wednesday, June 4, 8:00 p.m.**

Contributors to the Paris literary magazine **Pharos** will present a group reading of poetry and fiction. It publishes the work of both international and Paris-based writers. The following members will read their work: **Sarah Petlin, Amanda Bay, Norrie Blaquart, Elizabeth Venant, Eriq Rutherford, Paul Hunter, Ruth Herold,** and, if circumstances permit, **Alice Notley.**

**June 5, 2003, 8:00 p.m.**

**AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas)** kicks off their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with a *vernissage* showcasing their history. Following remarks by several members of AARO, including president **Tom Rose**, the featured guest speaker will be **William Pfaff**, who has written a syndicated column since 1978 on international affairs and American foreign relations for the *International Herald Tribune*. He will speak on "European-American Tensions: Present and Future."

Mr. Pfaff was also a political essayist for *The New Yorker* from 1971 until 1992, and his book *Barbarian Sentiments: America in the New Century* (Hill & Wang, 2000) was a National Book Award nominee. *Bullet's Song*, dealing with 20<sup>th</sup> century European political romanticism, will be published at the end of this year.

**July 1, 2003, 7:30 p.m.**

**WICE Writer's Workshop Presentation**  
WICE's internationally renowned summer writers' conference will present readings by **Carol Allen, John Baxter, Alice Mattison, and Adam Zagajewski.**

*Please note that Evenings With an Author will resume in September. The first scheduled program is September 24 at 8:00 p.m., co-sponsored by the Cornell Club.*

**Didn't You Used to be Depardieu?** by **Howard Grossvogel** is a contemporary look at American cinema's roots in French film.

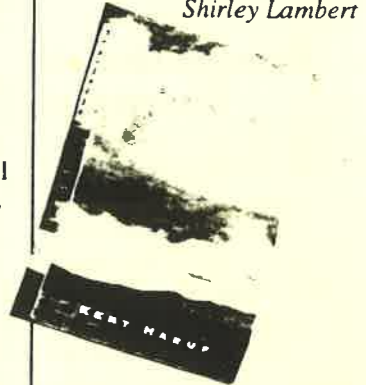
*The Library and the many patrons who attend Evenings With an Author would like to thank the Annenberg Foundation for their generous sponsorship.*

## The Staff Is READING:

### Plainsong (F H26)

by **Kent Haruf**

National Book Award finalist. A quiet story about ordinary people, set in a small, dusty Colorado town. Themes of loneliness and abandonment ring true, but salvation can be found in the kindness of others. I couldn't put it down. — *Shirley Lambert*



### Spies (new fiction F F868)

by **Michael Frayn**

Two boys in a village in England during World War II suspect the mother of one of the boys to be a German spy. They spy on her, with devastating consequences. — *Anne Lechartier*

### Bel Canto (new fiction F P271)

by **Ann Patchett**

A group of diplomats and businessmen being entertained by a world-class soprano at a dinner in Peru are taken hostage and held for months. Terrorists and hostages form unexpected bonds, until...—*Anne Lechartier*

### The Tipping Point (302 G455t)

by **Malcolm Gladwell**

"The best way to understand the dramatic transformation of unknown books into bestsellers, or the mysterious changes that mark everyday life," writes Gladwell, "is to think of them as epidemics. Ideas and products and messages and behaviors spread just like viruses do." — *Anne Lechartier*

## SUMMER HOURS:

The Library will be open regular hours during June and July (Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

August hours are: Noon to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday

## Friends Group Chartered

The official Friends of the American Library in Paris is in the process of drafting their by-laws under the leadership of **Elizabeth Hochman**. After assisting with the very successful 2003 Library Gala, the Friends are now concentrating on expanding their membership. They will be responsible for certain fundraising activities during the year, as well as several social activities, including the popular year-end Holiday Party.

Creative, energetic Friends are needed! Please contact Elizabeth Hochman at [ehkparis@aol.com](mailto:ehkparis@aol.com)!

## Child Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### New Seminar Series on Children and Mental Health Sponsored by the Woodward Charitable Foundation

An exciting series of seminars on the emotional and psychological development of children will be presented by leading European pediatricians and mental health specialists at the **American Library in Paris**. Sponsored by a grant from the Woodward Charitable Foundation, these outstanding speakers will address issues of concern to parents, beginning with the mental and emotional growth and development of the newborn through the turbulent teen years. Issues of abnormal psychology and emotional problems will also be covered.

The problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are completely different from those faced a century or even 25 years ago. What is normal emotional development, and how can parents provide a supportive environment? How does a parent recognize problem behavior and deal with it? What can parents do to foster a secure and stable child?

**Dr. Julien Cohen-Solal, May 21, 2003, 8:00 p.m.**

### Early Childhood (Infancy to Three) Development for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Dr. Julien Cohen-Solal, a pediatrician in private practice in Paris, is a Consulting Physician in the Neuro-Pediatric Unit of the Hôpital Robert Debré, Paris. He is the author of more than fifty scientific books and journal articles. Dr. Cohen-Solal is a strong advocate for environments that promote emotional stability in children and believes it is the physician's job to help parents provide that environment.

**Dr. Bernard Golse, June 11, 2003, 8:00 p.m.**  
**The Child from Three to Six: Normal Development and Problems**

Dr. Golse is the Head of the Department of Child Psychiatry at Hôpital Necker Enfants Malades, Paris, and Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University René Descartes (Paris V). He will discuss the enigmas of a child's emotional development from the age of 3 to 6 (the oedipal period), a time of deceptive tranquility from the parents' point of view.

This is a unique opportunity provided by the generous assistance of the **Woodward Charitable Foundation**. Audiences will hear recognized medical authorities on topics of immense importance to parents—doctors who are accustomed to speaking to an audience of thousands at medical conferences—but with the added benefit of individual questions and answers with the speaker. Parents, tell your friends, but be sure to come early!

## Membership Fee Increases Go into Effect June 1

ALP has not had a fee increase in nearly ten years, but our costs keep rising. Our members have benefited from our efforts to keep our fees very low, but with the cost of everything from insurance to utility prices going up every year, we must, with great reluctance, institute an across-the-board increase.

Memberships and other charges used to bring in 40% of our operating revenues; that amount is now down to less than 30%, yet we have more members! This is due to constantly increasing prices in France (social charges, heat, maintenance, insurance) and the dramatic increases in book and journal prices in the U.S.

We hope that our members understand our desire to keep our fees within bounds and will also sympathize with the reasons behind this increase. Your ALP membership is **still** the best deal in town!

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Fee Schedule, Effective June 1, 2003

Adult Individual	96E
Family	150E
Student (18-25)	75E
Teen (12-17)	65E
*Child (under 12)	45E
4 month	45E
6 month	62E
Senior Individual	77E
Unemployed	75E

### Special Friends

First Edition	400E
Sustaining	250E

### Daily use rates remain the same.

\*Every child must have a membership or be covered by a family membership in order to attend story hours and other children's activities.

Please note also that no complimentary memberships will be given.

\*\*\*\*\*

We do understand that higher fees are difficult for everyone, but think about what you get for your membership in ALP:

- a selection of more than 111,000 books
- 300 periodical titles
- free Internet access
- videos and CDs to borrow
- reference assistance (friendly)
- children's programs galore
- Evenings With an Author
- musical and cultural evenings
- a quiet place to read or reflect
- reference materials in English

All this for eight (8) euros a month for an individual membership, which is less than the cost of three hardcover books or one subscription to the *Economist*.

**New rates effective June 1, so renew early and save!**