RESEARCH RESULTS AND INSIGHTS FROM THE MEMBER SURVEY, FALL 2002
BY BADE TOMUK

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 0.2% 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.
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 Croisset. 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 3-8):
- When I Feel Scared by Cornelia Spelman
- Hug by Jez Alborough
- All Kinds of Children by Norma Simon
- Franklyn Goes to the Hospital by Paulette Bourgeois
- The 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 9-12):
- 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 Young Children: A Book about Puberty, Mostly For Boys
- Paullette 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

Newbery Medal:
- Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi

Newbery Honor Books:
- The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
- Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff
- Hoot by Carl Hiaasen
- A Corner of the Universe by Ann M. Martin
- Caldecott Medal:
- Picture Books for ages 3-6:
  - My Friend Rabbit by Eric Rohmann
  - Caldecott Honor Books:
  - The Spider and the Fly by Mary Howitt, illustrated by Tony Di Terlizzi
  - The Coretta Scott King Award

Bronte: Maquerade by Vikki Krzysie (12+)
- The Red Rose Box by Brenda Woods (9-12)

Michael Printz Award
- Postcards from No Man’s Land by Aiden Chambers (12+)

2003 Gala a Feite to Remember

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

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

Michelle and speaker for the evening Louis Auchincloss, the Library’s first Distinguished Fellow, was introduced by Charnaine Donnelly, Chair of the Board of Trustees. Auchincoss delighted the assembly with his witty 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 APL’s Newest Friendly Face

Terri Urrutia is the newest addition to the APL staff, serving as Reference/Systems Librarian. Terri arrived in Washington from the Dallas, Texas area in August, 2001. Prior to joining our staff, her career included being a frequent law library user, gage courses and working at a series of practica, which applied to her coursework for a Mas- ter’s Degree in Library Science from Catholic University of America. She has interned at the Bibli- othèque 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 we signed up for the first Teen Movie Night that Children’s Librarian Michelle Holcher has scheduled another.

May 24th: 6:45-9:00 p.m.
Teenie Movie and Pizza Night
Come see the Truman Show, eat pizza and join our discussion of reality and "Reality TV." Sign-up necessary and written parental permission required.

The Tipping Point

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

Child Development in the 21st 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 21st 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 21st 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!

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New Fee Schedule, Effective June 1, 2003

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<td>Adult Individual</td>
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<td>Teen (12-17)</td>
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<td>Senior Individual</td>
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Special Friends
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<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
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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.*

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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!