



SPRING 2004

# EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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**Our appreciation to all our outstanding donors who have supported the Fall Fundraising Appeal (See page 4)**

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## Fundraising campaign in full swing

**IT'S THAT TIME** of year - the holidays are over, and we're settling into the New Year, with all those New Year's resolutions to be kept.

It's also when the Board and Library staff ask you to think about the many things ALP provides for you and your family. Our costs rise every year, and a full half are simply not covered by normal operating revenues.

### Your community

So with your New Year's resolutions, we ask that one you make and keep will be to give as generously as you can, particularly this year.

Long outdated computer equipment needs to be replaced, our online catalog requires a major upgrade, we would like to add new periodical subscriptions (not just try to maintain the ones we already have) and we'd even like to provide more member Internet stations.

### Generously

We want to continue to be the kind of Library you want for your community.

But we can only do it with your support. Please look for that pledge form you got in the mail; consider what you can afford; and give as generously as you can. **Thank you.**



## Unwanted magazines anyone?

Last year our magazine wholesaler went bankrupt and defaulted on delivery of our periodicals. Fortunately, most of the academic publishers honored the subscriptions despite not being paid, but a number of popular magazines came to a screeching halt. Kind patrons and friends gave us quite a few, but we have some gaps to fill. So, if you have your 2003 issues at home, please inquire to see if we can use them!

The good news is that we have a new dealer, he has been paid for 2004, and the magazines are arriving in a timely way. **Please note:** We do NOT need *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Review of Books*, or the *New Yorker*.



**Musical instruments**, singing, puppets, stories

- you could be a special guest at one of the Library's Saturday Special Events for children. Come and share - contact Michelle at 01 53 59 12 60. We have had a number of storytellers, musicians, artists, and performers over the years, who have enjoyed creating a special atmosphere for our Saturday Special Events. Please join us.

## CHEERS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

The Library is very fortunate to have volunteers who help with checking cards, shelving books, covering books, sending out newsletters and other Library communications, children's programs, evening programs, and circulation. January 26 was a special occasion with champagne and galette when the Library staff was able to usher in the New Year with a "thank you" to the volunteers who make our lives so much easier. Many thanks for a job well done!



## What's been happening @ your Library

Exhibits this Fall turned to art contemporary and medieval. In November, **Armelle Aymonin**, a Parisian artist who trained in the U.S., inaugurated an exhibit of her drawings. Her imaginary landscapes present organic forms that celebrate the "diffuse reality of memory and desire." Armelle is a member of the Library staff.

**Wednesday, December 10, Henri de Feraudy** presented a visual feast of stained glass. His stunning slides, taken over a 20-year period, document the finest stained glass windows in France. He discussed themes, techniques, and presented close-up detail as well as entire panels. Photos on display at the Library until February 6.

### Evenings With an Author

**January 14, 2004, Polly Platt**, discussed French and American cultural differences, taking a few leaves from her newly updated *French or Foe? The standing-room only crowd clearly appreciated her wit and the wisdom that lies beneath.*

### Programs Coming Soon!

Held in the **Dillon Reading Room**, these programs are at 8:00 p.m. and are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

#### \*\*February

**25-** Howard Grossvogel, "A Fine Romance: Woody Allen, Jacques D  my, and the Musical." Co-sponsored by the Cornell Alumni Club of France. A professor of comparative literature at Cornell and a specialist in popular culture, Grossvogel will investigate the ways in which American and French film-makers treat romantic pairs through the lens of the musical.

#### March

**3-** Catherine Masson, "George Sand: Genius Gone Mad and her Conquest of America."

Co-sponsored by the Wellesley Alumnae Club of France. 2004 is the bicentennial of George Sand and has been declared the year of

George Sand by the Minister of Culture. Masson, a tenured professor of French at Wellesley College and well-known for her works on Sand and the theatre, will describe the importance of Sand's impact on the consciousness of America and its literary community during Sand's life (1837 to 1876).

**17-** Carol Rose, "What About Letters and Know-how?" Rose, an educator and psychologist who has specialized in the study and treatment of reading disabilities, will discuss some of the reasons why children have difficulty in assimilating the "how-to" of seeing meaningful patterns in letters or words. Recent findings have yielded greater understanding of the ways to better treat learning disabilities—Rose will describe and assess these findings.

**31-** Ted Solotaroff, *Alfred Kazin's America*. Kazin was arguably the greatest American literary critic of the second half of the 20th century, who strove to find the defining characteristics of American literary tradition and to give legitimacy to its canon. His first major book, *On Native Grounds*, is still considered a landmark work of literary history sixty years after its publication. Solotaroff, himself a distinguished critic, was asked by Kazin's estate to compile and edit a book of his writings—this newly published collection, which has been widely praised by critics, is the result.

#### April

**7-** Tanuja Desai Hidier, *Born Confused*. A young woman of multicultural parentage comes of age in England. Hidier has succeeded in capturing the essence of the confusion and mixed messages received by children growing up with a foot in several cultures. Widely praised, her work aims at teens and young adults—an outstanding presentation of the conflicts inherent in a multicultural society.

**15-** **Word for Word** makes a triumphant return to Paris and will perform at the Salle Adyar, 4 Square Rapp, 75007. Please note that this is a theatre performance. Reception afterwards at the Library. The famed San Francisco theatre troupe is back to present "More Than Human," by Michael Chabon, and "Communist," by Richard Ford. The theatre company's visit is made possible by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation and with the support of Air France.

**28-** Nick Morgan, *Working the Room*. A speech remains the most powerful way of connecting with an audience - but most people hate giving a speech, and most don't do it well. Renowned coach to corporations worldwide, Morgan offers an audience-centered approach that engages the audience on every level: intellectual, emotional, and physical. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Cornell and Princeton Alumni Clubs of France. Space limited, and there is a charge to participate.



## Staff is reading...

In this column members of our team share memories of some "good reads." These books are often not from current bestseller lists, as we are always discovering some goodies that we have somehow missed before. So, the staff recommends...



*Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder* by Lawrence Weschler. A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist. Witty, provocative, charming, and very well-written. —Armelle Aymonin

*Turtle Moon* by Alice Hoffman. A great storyteller, Hoffman's prose is clear and strong. Her gritty characters stay in your mind. — Shirley Lambert

*Unless* by Carol Shields. Terrific use of language. *Fall on Your Knees* by Ann-Marie MacDonald. Good juicy saga. Both recommendations — Michelle Holder



*The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*, *Tears of the Giraffe* and *Morality for Beautiful Girls* are all by Alexander McCall Smith and in the same series. The adventures of Botswana's only female detective agency, unconventional—need we say more? Great fun! — Sharon Gouhier

## Kids' Korner

### Activities

*Sign up is mandatory for ALL programs except Wednesday Story Hour. Contact Michelle or sign at the front desk.*

**STORY HOUR** for children ages 3-5, Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 or 2:30-3:30.

#### February Themes

4 Moon Tales  
11 Valentine's Day  
18 African Tales  
25 Noses Are Neat

#### March Themes

3 Feeling Better  
10 Pets I Wouldn't Pick  
17 St. Patrick's Day  
24 Favorite Tales  
31 Just Buggy

**The Mother Goose Lap-Sit** takes place the first and last Thursday of the month.

Time: 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. for children ages 1-3. All toddlers must have a lap to sit in.

*Sign-up is essential!*

Lap-Sit programs feature English songs, rhymes, and simple stories.

February 5

February 26

March 4

March 25

April 1

April 22\* (not the last

Thursday)

#### Saturday Special Events

For ages 6-8:

February 7 — 3:00-4:00pm --

Pancake Palooza

February 28 — 3:00-4:00pm --

Seasons Change

#### Book WRMZ Book Club

Session II for ages 9-11 is reading

*The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman.

Book club sessions are on

Tuesdays this session began

January 13.

#### Teen Talk for ages 13+

February 14 — 5:00-6:00pm

"I Have a Dream"

For information on any of these

programs, contact Michelle

Holder at 01 53 59 12 60 or

mholder@noos.fr or check our

web site for new programs and

for any changes

## RICH FLAVOR OF HOLIDAY PARTY

Elves and Santa turned out to clown around with the kids at our fabulous holiday party.

The upstairs of the American Church was beautifully decorated to receive 175 guests and volunteers who joyously faced the cookies, cakes, sandwiches, breads and muffins expertly crafted by caterer Charlotte Puckette — all washed down with soft drinks donated by Sandra Craig. Wine for the grown-ups was provided by Chair of the Friends, Elizabeth Hochman.

### Creativity

Fun aplenty came from professional clown, Tony Daley, while well-known country and blues singer Rebecca Venture, ably accompanied by ALP worker Vickie Hopson, gathered the audience around for enthusiastic renditions of popular carols.

Christian Leconte in the guise of Santa gave every child a book and was supported by elves handing out candy canes.

Lending a touch of creativity were five tables run by a troop of Girl Scouts to provide materials for the children to express their artistic talents with everything from pictures to holiday decorations. This popular feature was organized by Michelle Holder and Library volunteer, Alex Chevallier.



## Lectures continue into summer

**THE WOODWARD LECTURE** Series continues in the New Year featuring prominent European psychologists and psychiatrists, who discuss normal emotional and mental development in children, as well as problems and conditions that need treatment.

The October 8 lecture by Dr. Bertrand Cramer had a capacity crowd. Cramer discussed the school-age child (6 to 12), delivering his lecture in English but answering questions in both languages. The enthusiastic audience kept him until after 10 p.m.

### Setting limits

On December 3, Philippe Jeammet, France's foremost expert on teens, described characteristic adolescent behavior and the reasons behind it all. His tips on setting limits, family time, and communication, as well as his descriptions of problems that can become serious, were welcomed eagerly by the audience. On January 28, Marcel Rufo, an expert on sexuality and children, talked about the stages of sexual development, normal and abnormal behavior, and what parents can do to help their child develop normally.

### Don't miss

Dr. Philippe Evrard on **March 10** dealing with "Normal and Abnormal Brain Development during Pregnancy and Infancy." Europe's leading expert in pediatric neurology will describe the brain's development, as well as disease mechanisms and other events that can affect the infant. He is Professor at the Facult   de M  decine Xavier-Bichat (Universit   de Paris VII, Denis-Diderot), and Chief of Service, Pediatric Neurology and Metabolic Diseases, H  pital Robert Debr  .

On **May 12** Dr. Daniel Stern covers "The Infant/Mother Relationship." Through observation, experimentation, research, and clinical practice, Dr. Stern has explored the many complex facets of this, the closest relationship in the human experience. Hear him describe the development of this complex interconnection, as well as what is normal and what is not. Dr. Stern trained at Harvard University, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bellevue Hospital, the National Institutes of Health, and other prestigious centers. He is the author of six books.

For the **June 2** lecture Dr. Boris Cyrulnik will deal with "Resilience of the Early Years." Another renowned practitioner explains the adaptability of young children, including what aids normal growth and development.

**All seminars start at 8.00 pm, will be presented in English, with a French pr  cis available. Questions in both languages.**



## BOOKS GALORE

After seeing a poster in the Library about "Love-in-a-Box," an organization set up 14 years ago to give toys, books, and sweets to needy children in Paris and Strasbourg, an amazing 839 children's books in French were collected by students attending L'Ermitage, an international school in Maisons-Laffitte. This year for the first time, ALP was involved in collecting books, alongside local charities like the American Cathedral and Salvation Army.

Library members added another 80 titles to those collected by the students, who had spent a week making posters to publicize their appeal. The students then brought the books from their book drive to the Library in boxes specially decorated with messages of joy and Christmas cheer for the youngsters for whom they were intended.

**Our thanks for their hard work and generosity.**

## BATHROOM REFURB

Renovation of the Library bathrooms in Spring will please both members and staff.

The work is being funded through the generosity of the Irving Berlin Trust and features replacement toilets, sinks and faucets, plus a repaint. The ladies' facilities will also receive a new tiled floor and baby changing table, and the men's upgraded lighting. In addition, hot water will be provided. We will report progress regularly. Meanwhile, heartfelt thanks to the Trust!

## Generous hearts...



### Special Gifts:

Irving Berlin Charitable Trust - \$25,000 for the renovation of the Library bathrooms  
Annenberg Foundation - \$10,000 in memory of Norman F. Best

### From our members and friends:

Anderegg, Hans and Catherine  
Anonymous  
Asthalter, Richard  
de Beistegui, Juan  
Benét, Thomas C.  
Bierwirth, Marion  
Black, Bernard  
Bosquet, Norma Bisk  
Brinitzer, John and  
Kummerfeld, Tia  
Callan, Bénédicte  
Cantrick, Susan and Davis, Richard  
Cariddi, Mee, Rué  
Carson, Anne Conover  
Cassavetti, Francis  
Ceusters, Benedictus  
Deverel, Warren and Mary

Culley, Perry H.  
Cumming, Edward and Patricia  
Dickinson, Charles C., III  
Donaldson, John and  
Margarethe  
Donnelly, Charmaine and  
Pfauwadel, Gérard  
Dowski, Julian  
Fainsilber, Adrian and Julia  
François-Poncet, Bernard and Sarah  
Friedman, Alan and Mickey  
de Gaudemar, Belinda  
Gendlin, Frances  
Gerbaud, Colette  
Glaser, Robert L.  
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JLM Benevolent Fund  
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Le Guilly, Jean-Pierre  
Leconte, Maurice and Patricia  
de Lencquesaing, Sarah  
Letrou-Guyomar, Janine  
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Douglas  
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McAdam, Paul  
Middlebrook, Diane  
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Oakes, Dennis/Aetna (matching gift)  
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Pingeon, Robert  
Pollack, Russell and Lydia  
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Richardson, Jacques  
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Robinson, Fern  
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Rubatto, Emilie  
Schneikert, Harold  
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Seymour, Roger  
Simonard, Stephanie  
Smith, Damon and Patricia  
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Vaughan-Nguyen, Hal and  
Phuong  
de Villaine, Pamela F.  
Warner, Burrage  
Webster, Nancy and Michael  
Wolfram, Steven L.  
Wormser, Marcel and Vicky

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