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 Long outdated computer equipment needs to be replaced, our online catalog requires a major upgrade, we would like to add new periodical subscriptions (not just try to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 and 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." Aymonin is a member of the Library staff.

Wednesday, December 10, Henri de Feraudy presented a visual feast of stained glass. His standing-rooms, 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, dressed French and American cultural differences, taking a few leaves from her newly updated French or Fait? 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**


Co-sponsored by the Cornell Club of France. A professor of comparative literature at Cornell and a specialist in popular culture, Grossvogl will investigate the ways in which American and French film-makers romanticize the lens of the musical.

March

3 - Catherine Mason, *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. Mason, a tenured professor of French at Wellesley College and well-known for her works on Sand and the theatre, will discuss the importance of Sociology in the study of consciousness and her literary career 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.

11 - 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

4 - Ysaku Deiss Helmer, *Born Confused: A young woman of multicultural parentage comes of age in England. Helder has succeeded in capturing the essence of the confusion and mixed messages received by 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, *5004. Please note that this is a theatre performance. Reception afterwards at the Library.* The famous San Francisco theatre troupe is back to present "More Than Human," by Michael Chabon, and "Communism," by Richard Ford. An humanitarian company 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 uses 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 in the current bestseller lists, but 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.*

Amélie Aymonin

Turtle Moon by Alice Hoffman. A great storyteller, Hoffman not only has a lot of strong. Her gritty characters stay in your mind. — Shirley Lambert

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

KIDS' Korner

Activities

Sign up is mandatory for ALL programs except Wednesday Story Hour. Contact Michelle Holder 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 Roses Are Red

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 be accompanied. 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 8-10
February 7 - 3:00-4:00 pm
Panace Paloza
February 28 - 3:00-4:00 pm
Seasons Change

Book WRMZ Book Club

Session II for ages 9-11 is now reading The Firewater Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman. Book club sessions are on Tuesdays this session began January 13.

Teen Talk for ages 13+
February 14 — 5:00-6:00 pm
"I Have a Dream"

For information about any of these programs, contact Michelle Holder at 05 53 59 12 60 or mholder@noos.fr or check out our website for new programs and for any changes.

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 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 up past 10 p.m.

Setting limits

On December 3, Philippe Jammeant, 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 Evrand on March 10 dealing with Normal Biological Development during Pregnancy and Infancy. Europe’s leading expert in pediatric neurolgy will describe the brain’s development, as well as disease mechanisms and other events that can affect the infant. He is Professor at the Faculté de Médecine Xavier-Bichat (Université de Paris VII, Denis-Diderot), and Chief of Service, Pediatric Neurology and Metabolic Diseases, Hôpital Robert Debré.

On May 12 Dr. Daniel Stern covers "The Infant/Mother Relationship." Through observation, experimentation, research, and clinical practice, Dr. Stern has explored the complex facets of this, the closest relationship in the human experience. Hear him describe the development of this complex interaction, 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 Cukrulin will deal with "Resilience of the Early Years." Another renowned practitioner explains the adaptability of young children, including what are normal growth and development differences.

All seminars start at 8:00 pm, will be presented in English, with a French précis available. Questions in both languages.
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

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Bierwirth, Marion
Black, Bernard
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Brinitzer, John and
Kummerfeld, Tia
Callan, Béatrice
Cantrick, Susan and Davis, Richard
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