‘TIS THE SEASON—
TO SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY!

This year’s Gala has given the Library a
good beginning for its annual Fall Fundrais-
ing, as contributions from seven major spon-
sors, nine supporters, and many individuals
helped bring revenues to over 50,000 Euros.
(See article, page 3). We will soon be mov-
ing into the next phase of the annual cam-
paign, with our fall fundraising letter solicit-
ing support from the Library community.

We are delighted to announce that we have
received a leadership matching grant from
the Irving Berlin Charitable Trust
for $25,000. This grant has been pledged to upgrade our technol-
gy and equipment services,
and must be matched by other
funds for this purpose to fulfill
the terms of the grant. Every
dollar or euro received from
other donors for this initiative
brings us closer to our overall
goal of $50,000, which will put us
well on our way to technology enhancement.

With the rapid changes in technology, li-
brary services have seen an enormous range
of innovations that make cataloging, library
reference, renewals on line, browsing for
favorite books, and library holds as simple as
a stroke on the keyboard.

The Library has received proposals from
various vendors, and we are eager to put
these exciting new capacities to work for our
patrons. With the new systems, patrons will
be able to enjoy the following services, with
simple, easy-to-use commands, either in the
Library or all from your home computer:

- review our entire catalog of holdings on line
- search for a favorite book or author
- do research using simple key word com-
mands
- renew books on line
- read reviews of many of the books that we
- put a hold on a book you are ea-
ger to check out

This is something that every-
one can enjoy, and that will en-
hance your Library experience.

Special Prize Offered
The Hotel Astor (11, rue
d’Astorg, Paris 8e) has offered a
gift certificate for two free dinners,
good until September 2005. If you make a
donation to the Library by the deadline of
February 1, 2005, your name will be entered
into a drawing for this special gift. Only one
entry per person. So be on the look-out for
more information about how you can give,
and please give generously, to ensure that the
Library continues to offer the best and latest
in all that makes a great Library!

Gala Contributors

M. et Mme Jean Paul Angles
Mme Suzanne de Brantes
Mme Urve Landers
M. Juan de Bestegui
Mlle Alexandra Hughes
Mme Anne Raynaud
Mme la Baronne Philippine de Rothschild
Mme Edmond de la Haye Jousselin
Mr. Perry Culley
Mr. Thomas Upton Sisson
Mrs. Sybil Sever
Ms. Nancy Clift Gillespie
Ms. Anne Conover Carson
Ms. Emily Kolb-Rubatto
M. Jacques Maisonnouge
Mr. George B. Dornblaser, Jr.
Ms. Pamela K. Hull
J.N. Cimino
The Arthur Loeb Foundation

Special thanks to:
Lynn Kelley,
Gala Chairman
Cocktail Fundraiser with Alan Furst

By Gail Byske

Better luck next time for those who couldn’t make Alan Furst’s reading on October 6; you missed the author whose novels were described by one critic as the next best thing to War and Peace: bianca for the first time. Library Director Shirley Lambert had a tribute of her own—in memory of one of Alan’s books caused her to miss her bus stop! Alan was as enthusiastic about the American Library in Paris as his fans are about him. His first two books and a good portion of his third were written “out of” the library, as he put it. Although Alan actually wrote the book in his apartments in the Marais, the American Library proved of "astonishing value" in stimulating him with books he never even knew he wanted: books acquired by European eyes and with European taste. Alan praised the Library’s open stacks policy, which allows felicitous book discoveries, and admonished us not to "let anything happen" to the Library, “a rare and beautiful thing.” After reading passages from his latest novel, Dark Voyage, Alan explained the major role that details play in his work. He is a self-described “hoover” for facts, both large and small, that can add to the atmosphere he creates in his novels. He even revealed that the 1938 Brown’s Nautical Almanac is a prized possession! After a brief question and answer session, all adjourned to the front of the Library to mingle and enjoy the lavish cocktail buffet prepared by the Friends of the Library. Proceeds from the event will support the Library’s programs.

Authors of Wine and War a Hit—and Five Generous Winemakers Help Support the Library

October 13 was the scene of the Library’s first wine tasting soirée, coupled with a presentation by Don and Pétie Kladstrup on their book Wine and War. The rapt attention paid throughout to tales of close calls, secret hiding places, and ways the vigneron found to outwit the Nazi occupying force was testimony to the power of the Kladstrups’ narrative. Their light-hearted asides were devoted to memories of sublime wines shared with new friends, as their research for the book took them to chateaux and caves.

Five of the winemakers who figure prominently in the book generously donated selected bottles of their wines for the wine tasting afterward, and all proceeds from the event will go to support Library operating expenses. Our sincere thanks to these generous Library sponsors. The houses and the wines they contributed are:

- **Laurent Perrier**: Champagne (brut)
- **Domaine Huët**: Le Mont Vosvayr 2002 (semisec)
- **Maison Joseph Drouhin**: Beaujolais Clos des Mouches, 2002, and Chambolle-Musigny, 1er Cru 2002
- **Maison Louis Latour**: Aloxe-Corton Les Chaillots, 1999
- **Château Coufran**: Château Coufran Haut-Médoc, 1999 Cru Bourgeois Supérieur

STAFF IS READING

Shirley Lambert: *The Book of Illusions*, by Paul Auster—having a celebrity author as a guest for this year’s gala is a good spur to all of us to read his books. Shirley illustrates Auster’s remarkable talent for slowly drawing the reader into the layers of his disappearances immersing the other characters. A mesmerizing novel, complete in its narrative. Kim Le Minh: *A Little Bit of the Boondocks Treasury*, by Andrew McGuire, foreword by Michael Moore—Two inner-city kids’ insightful perspective on American society, politics, and much more... The most controversial comic strip ever! Song of the Exile, by Kiana Davenport—An epic novel about two young Hawaiians—a jazz musician and his Korean lover, caught in the madness of WWII. The reader travels from Honolulu to New Orleans to Paris and Shanghai, and from the 1930s to Hawaii’s statehood in 1959.

Kristin Duncombe: The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint: A Novel, by Brady Udall—The incredibly moving and at times funny story of the life of Edgar Mint, a young Apache boy, whose near-death at age seven sets the course for a life of survival and creative suffering. Udall’s story is written so gracefully that the attachment to the characters in the book, Edgar in particular, is impossible to avoid. *Adelle Wite: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon—Nominated by Christina L. Thorpe; Boone who isSimon and has Asperger’s form of autism. He finds the neighbor’s dog wandered and sets out on a quest to solve the mystery. The character of Christopher, which Haddon has developed, is very realistic and moving. Armelle Aymoyn: *Ignorance*, by Milan Kundera—A short novel about Czech émigrés visiting their native Prague after a 10-year absence. A subtle, often poetic depiction of the rift between those who felt they had to leave and those who stayed and their impossible dialogue. One of Kundera’s most perceptive works.

Rachel Kobic: *White Teeth*, by Zadie Smith—A John Irving-esque look at different cultures, friendship and love over the course of three generations. For anyone with London in their blood, this book will make you cry laughing.

Sharon Gouhier: *1421: The Year China Discovers the World*, by Gavin Menzies—A real—but almost alternative—history, world discovery, and might-have-been. The Rule of Four, by Ian Caldwell & Daniel Thomsen—Unusual Ecco’s The Name of the Rose meets Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code.

Annual Gala Sold Out: Over 50,000€ Raised!!

This year’s Gala on November 9th kicked off the ALP’s fall fundraising season with a bang! With over 150 people in attendance, the Automobile Club of France sparkled with the lively chatter of library supporters—some of whom were seen toting their well-worn copies of books written by Gala guest of honor, Paul Auster.

Guests began filtering into the club’s library for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres around 7:30 p.m., greeting friends old and new, and eagerly anticipating meeting Auster. The Tuesday night atmosphere was festive, as Gala guests unwound from work with champagne and canapés, and the crowd’s diversity was a testimony to both the Library’s and Auster’s broad fan base.

Auster, who lived in France for a number of years and was known as a translator before being recognized for his superb novels, critical works, and poetry, commented on the cultural exchange that has long existed between France and the United States. He shared his praise of the American Library for establishing itself as an organization intent on promoting this international exchange, and expressed his hope that the bond would remain strong well into the future. When asked why he had left France to return to the U.S., he said simply, “The language. I needed to live in English in order to write.”

Hungry, the crowd moved upstairs to the lavish dining room, to find each table named after one of Auster’s works. Those who were affably indulgent in being labeled Leviathan or Ghosts were soon appeared with their very own bottle of Alise perfume or cologne—generously donated by Chanel as a gift for each guest. It was a pleasure to see so many of the library’s supporters clearly enjoying other company’s, as well as the beautiful setting.

The Board of Trustees at the American Library, as well as the library staff, extend their thanks to everyone who attended the Gala, our major fundraising event of the year. We particularly wish to thank Lynn Kelley, Gala Chairman, whose superb organization of the event left nothing to chance. We are also grateful to our sponsors and supporters, all of whom have provided such generous financial contributions to the Library. Thanks also go to Paul Auster, whose presence certainly contributed to the success of the event (the Library raised over 50,000 €). The funds raised will contribute to our core mission, that of encouraging and enriching the exchange of culture and friendship between the United States and France.

Sponsors: The Waas Family, The Amenberg Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Weinberger, The Craig Family, Mr. And Mrs. Mejanes, Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith, Judith Pillsbury, Xchanging.


Businesses Large and Small Support the Library

Hotel Astor, 11 rue d’Astorg, Paris 8e, 01 53 05 05 05, www.hotel-aster.net

The Hotel Astor has generously contributed two dinners at the Restaurant Astor for the winner of the prize drawing February 1, 2005. For details, see the article on how you can support your Library, p.0. The Astor is well-known for its superb cuisine, and the Library thanks them for their welcome support.

Chateau Saint-Jean d’Auveres, route de Montpellier, 34150 Gignac, 04 67 57 23 49, www.auimieres.com

Proprietor Paul Tori, a graduate of Georgetown University, and with an MBA from Columbia University, left a career in international banking to follow in the footsteps of his winemaking grandfather from Italy. Paul’s Chateau is in Languedoc, and the Library is extremely grateful for his “in-kind” support. As you lift your glass at a Library event, do pick up one of Paul’s brochures. He is a delight to deal with!

Proxi Super, 39 rue de Bourgogne, Paris 7e, 01 45 55 18 07

The staff of the Library used to race to the local grocery store for supplies for every evening With an Author—no more. Proxi buys and delivers all our party wares in bulk. We love their service, and we are sure you will too. We also thank them for their generous support.
Kids' and Parents' Korner

Mother Goose Lap-Sit for Ages 1-3
First and last Thursday of the month.
(Nov 25, Dec 2 & 16, Jan 6 & 27)
10:30-11:00AM
English rhymes, songs and stories—puppets too! All toddlers must have an adult lap to sit on. Sign up is necessary!
01 53 59 12 60 or alparis@noos.fr

Story Hour for Ages 3 to 5
Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30AM or 2:30-3:30PM
December
All Things Big and Small
8 Hannukah (with storyteller Sandy Gogol)
15 Planes, Trains and Automobiles
22 Christmas is Coming!
29 NO STORY HOUR
January 2005
3 Winter Wonderland
12 Grandparents are Great!
19 The Moon is Shining
26 Groundhog Day

For Children Ages 5-8
"The Night Before Christmas" and other favorite holiday stories
December 18, 2004, 2:00-2:30PM (14.00-14.30h). AGES 5-7
Christmas is coming! The goose is getting fat! Come and spend a festive half hour hearing some of the holiday classics!
Tales from Around the World, Special Saturday Story Hours
January 8 and 22, 2005, 2:00-3:00PM (14.00-15.00h). AGES 6 to 8
Send those cold January afternoons with Children's librarian Rachel Kohlic, listening to stories from all corners of the globe.
Warmth in the Winter, Dreaming with watercolors
January 22, 2005, 2:00-3:15PM (14.00h-15.15h). AGES 5-7
Drawing from the inspiration of Frederick the mouse (creation of famous illustrator Lio Lioni), who stores warm colors in his head to get through the long winter, kids will experiment with paint techniques and color blending. Led by Mary Schmemann and Kristin Dancombe.
Illustrating the African Savannah, A hands-on exploration with illustrator Bridget Stevens-Marzo
January 29, 2005, 3:30-5:00PM (15.30-17.00h). AGES 5-8
Illustrator-author Bridget Stevens-Marzo will talk to kids about the process of illustrating a book, centering the discussion around her recent best-selling picture book, "Kis, Kis!"

Kids' and Parents' Korner

For Children Ages 7-12
"The Language of the Giraffe," A communication workshop guaranteed to produce magical results
December 7, 2004 6:00-7:15PM (18.00-19.15h). AGES 7-10
Would you like to communicate better with your teachers, friends, parents, brother and sisters? Learn to speak the language of the giraffe: four secret and simple tools to produce amazing results at home, school, and with your friends.
Clinical psychologist Judith Collignon will teach you how!
"The Truth About Santa Claus"
December 18, 2004 2:45-3:30PM (14.45-15.30h). AGES 8-12
Did you know that the first Santa Claus recorded in history lived in Asia Minor more than 1600 years ago? And that he was orphaned at the age of twelve? Come spend a fascinating hour learning about the history of Santa Claus, how his legend began and what it has evolved into today.
"Miracle on 34th Street" Movie Night
18 December 2004, 7:00-9:30PM (19.00-21.30h). AGES 9-12
School's out! Come enjoy a wonderful movie and some snacks to get the holiday season started right! One Euro for members, nine euros for non-members.
"How Did You Know What to Draw?" An illustrator talks about researching her work
January 22nd, 2005, 4:00-5:00PM (16.00-17.00h). AGES 8 to 10
Acclaimed illustrator Mary Morgan will tell how she gathered the background information needed to accurately illustrate three of her popular works: Buba Leah, Bloomers, and The Tiger Has a Toothache.
"Fly Away Home" Movie Night
22 January 2005, 7:00-9:30PM (19.00-21.30h). AGES 9-12
Get together with your friends again after the holidays and watch another great movie...with snacks of course! One Euro for members, nine euros for non-members.
SPEAK UP! A workshop on public speaking
Saturday, January 29th, 2005, 2:00-3:30PM (14.00-15.30h). AGES 9-12
From book reports and classroom presentations to talking to grown-up friends of the parents, kids dread speaking in public. Marc Porter, communications consultant and Toastmaster extraordinaire will work with kids on organization of thought, preparing a speech and/or report, and tactics to overcome fear when standing in front of a group.

Children's Holiday Christmas Party!
December 5, 2004, 5:00-7:00PM (17.00-19.00h)
At the American Church, 65 Quai d'Orsay, 7th arrondissement
Holiday refreshments, caroling, arts and crafts, Santa Claus in person, and a special gift book for each child.
Space is limited. Please reserve
Volunteers needed—sign up at the front desk.

Who Carves the Pumpkins?
A traditional part of the Library’s celebration of Halloween is the costume party and parade through the Library. This year the participants showed their usual creativity and flair for the dramatic.
Another popular tradition is the lottery for the carved pumpkin—a lucky child in each story hour takes home an intricately carved Jack-o'-Lantern. Last year, Alex Chevalier lent his skills to the task and crafted some remarkably wicked faces. This year, Children’s Librarian Rachel Kohlic and volunteer Ian Nelson-Roehl were found wielding knife and spoon, as they sculpted scary faces on the pumpkins grown in Burgundy by Charmaine Donnelly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

TEENAGERS
Here, Now...
December 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (19h00-21h00)
Workshop for ages 13 and up
Tap into the unity of mind and body to improve performance and concentration. Alexis Nikis, Alexander Technique teacher, will help teens re-discover their innate ability to be present in everything they do. The tools are easily applicable to improving study habits, test-taking, and ability to focus in general.
Free for members, 8€ for non-members.

PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS INTERESTED IN KIDS’ LIVES
TUESDAY TALKS
Community Forums for Parents and Other Adults Interested in Kids’ Lives
Raising Children in France—Coping with Culture Shock
December 7, 7:30-9:00PM (19.30-21.00h)
The challenges of expatriation as it affects children—speakers will offer valuable tools for bridging the gap between cultures. Marine de Labriolle, anthropologist, parent educator and licensed nurse, works as a counselor for global families. Laurence Sicot, anthropologist, intercultural consultant, and specialist in intercultural communication, works with expatriate families, helping prepare them for overseas assignments.
Tuesday Talks will resume in February, 2005!
Evening With an Expert Set to Debut in January 2005
By Drew Shagrin
Do you work in business? Law? Or do you simply have an inquiring mind that seeks to understand the world around us? Then come to the Library to learn and enjoy at our new monthly program, An Evening With An Expert. Free and open to the public, each Evening With An Expert will feature one of Europe’s prominent experts on a topic of general interest. The format will be a moderator and principal speaker, with questions afterwards from the audience. All sessions will be moderated by Drew Shagrin. Programs will be Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m., beginning with January 11.


February 8, “International Dispute Resolution.” A primer for non-lawyers. The expert is Alex Blumrosen, a Paris-based partner at the law firm Bernard-Hertz-Bejot.

March 15, “Corporate Social Responsibility: How Europeans and Americans Understand This Term Differently.” The expert is Kate Fish, the Paris representative of the San Francisco-based consultancy Business for Social Responsibility.

April 19, “Killer of the Modern World: The Mortality Effect of Climate Change (A Case Study of the 2003 Canicule).” The expert is Magali Barbieri, a Paris-based researcher at the Institut national d’études démographiques.

May 24, “The Eurocratized Union.” How is it governed now, what would the proposed constitution change, and how is the ratification process going to unfold? The expert is Peter Linton, the Brussels-based European Chairman of BRSH (the worldwide government relations division of Burson-Marsteller).

June 14, “EU Competition Law.” What are the rules, what are the grey areas, what are the battles, and how does all of that affect us? The expert is Pierre Kirch, Paris-Brussels-based head of the EU law/competition law practice group of Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker.

Evenings With an Author
Fall resumed our popular Evenings with an Author, and we note with pride that our audiences are more varied than ever! An especially popular program was Asma Hasan’s presentation of her book Why I Am a Muslim. This intelligent young American explained that many of the practices that we Westerners associate with Islam are not only outdated but also only practiced in today’s societies, but are actually due to their native cultural context rather than the religion.

Another huge crowd greeted the authors of Wine and War (see article), but the largest program (135 people) was the after-theatre party October 7 for Improvfastival, a week-long theatre festival and the first international gathering of improvisational performers ever held in Paris.

To recap:
September 8 — Kaplan, the college admissions test prep company, “The New SAT and the College Admissions Process.”
September 15 — Vincent Chenille with Pierre Rodrier, “Ian Fleming and James Bond: 40 Years Later.”
September 22 — Janet McDonald, Brother Hood.
September 29 — Asma Hasan, Why I Am a Muslim.
October 6 — Alan Furst, Dark Voyage and cocktail soirée hosted by the Friends group.
October 7 — Reception for Improvfastival.
October 11 — Mark Shaw, “How to Become a Published Author or Poet.”
October 13 — Don and Ketie Kladstrup, Wine and War and special wine tasting event.
October 20 — Claude Bourguignon, Betsy Bonaparte: The Belle of Baltimore.
November 9 — Annual Gala, special guest Paul Auster.
November 24 — Alan Schom, “Revising History: The Story of The Eagle and the Rising Sun: The Japanese-American War 1941-1945, Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal.” Dr. Schom’s remarkable research and quotes from primary sources illuminated factual evidence and brought substance to many of the personalities involved. In certain instances his evidence contradicted popularly held belief—provoking both questions and discussion.

Coming next:
Wednesday, January 12, 8:00PM (20.00h) — Deborah Jenner, “O’Keefe and Stiegltiz: The Alchemy of a Couple.” Deborah Jenner is an art historian who has worked with the Maple d’Orsay on the current Stiegltiz exhibit. Rare insights into the lives of this unusual couple. Slides.

Friday, January 26, 8:00PM (20.00h) — Pharaoh. The literary magazine Pharaoh presents its annual evening of poetry.

Woodward Lecture Series to Begin in the New Year
Topics such as “Primary School in France,” “Siblings,” “The Acquisition of Language,” “Genes and the Environment,” “The Problems of Puberty,” and other subjects of great import to all parents will be covered by preeminent medical specialists. Free and open to the public.

Watch for upcoming announcements!!

Sponsored by the Woodward Charitable Foundation

Book Bags as Stocking Stuffers
What to get for that someone who has everything—how about an ALP book bag? Just 15 euros, these sturdy bags keep your books together, are ideal for hauling papers around, and even work as extra grocery bags. Super strong, attractive, and washable. Your friends and family will thank you!
A Multi-Functional Staff

The staff at any library must be able to pinch-hit for each other, and with the 35 hour work week and efforts to keep library membership affordable by keeping our staff numbers as low as possible, our dedicated team has learned how to be incredibly well-versed in a number of areas, often stretching their knowledge and involvement to areas that go beyond their specific areas of expertise.

Circulation
Sharon Gouhier (Head), Armelle Aymonin, Carol Leimroth, and Kristina Roudiy. Our public service team handles the reception area, memberships, the circulation and shelving of materials, cards for copying, and book sales. Not only can they recommend excellent titles, but their in-depth knowledge of Paris shopping, restaurants, the transportation system, and a whole range of “where-to-find-what” basics is monumental.

Children’s and Youth Services
Rachel Koblic (Children’s Librarian) and Kristin Duncombe (YA Librarian). Rachel does the Lap-sit and 3- to 5-year-old story programs, as well as the Saturday tales for 6-to 8-year-olds. She also staffs Circulation half time. Kristin organizes workshops and programs for kids 8 to 12, the Tag Team, Teen Talk programs, and parent forums. Both work to select materials best suited to our young members.

Reference
Most of the Library staff can help patrons find materials they need, but Kim LeMinh is our official expert. Even when not at the reference desk, Kim is likely to be found searching the Internet for useful sites for students. She is also our official webmaster and systems expert. She is backed up at reference by Simon Gallo and Adele Witt.

Acquisitions and Technical Services
Simon Gallo, the Library Collection Manager, has been here for 34 years! He handles adult book selection, all book donations, cataloging, book preservation, coordinates the book sales, and prepares books for the shelves. He has also organized all the shelving areas and rearranges them as necessary. A lot goes on behind the scenes!

Administration
Shirley Lambert, Director, Adele Witt, Assistant Director, Aileen Dhaou, Accounting Assistant. Adele recruits and trains volunteers, manages our online catalog system, subscriptions, and the office; serves as liaison for universities and schools; and staffs the reference desk part time. Aileen handles all bank functions, updates financial spreadsheets, and assists with Library communications. Shirley manages fundraising, the physical plant, financial planning and reporting, Library communications, evening programs, and is the liaison with the Board of Trustees.

Happy Holidays to all of our Patrons!