



SPRING 2005

EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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Our warmest thanks to all the major donors who contributed \$500 or more to the Fall Fundraising campaign

The American Library in Paris would like to thank these generous donors for their help this year. These gifts make it possible for us to offer programs, keep the membership fee reasonable, and add resources to the collection.

Thomas Benét

Jacques Boissonnas

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The Forbes Foundation (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forbes)

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Frances Gendlin and

Dorothy O. Weinstein

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Karen Morris

PLANNED GIVING:

Pierre Maclouf, in memory of his aunt, Rose Winkleer

The American Society of the French Legion of Honor and Mrs. Dorinda Hawkins, in memory of Roland Hawkins

For a complete donor list see p.6

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Evenings With an Expert

Volunteer in Spotlight

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FALL FUNDRAISING WINNER!

The Library's Fall Fundraising got under way with the November 9 Gala, and it has been a successful campaign so far (don't forget—it's not too late to give).

The Hotel Astor donated a certificate for two dinners to be used as a door prize for the campaign. We drew names from all those who sent in donations by the deadline of February 1, and the winner is the Levieux family, Michel and Eleanor, who have been members for approximately 40 years! Eleanor says that it is because of the Library's children's room that her daughters both learned to read in English—and now her grandchildren participate.

The Levieux family used the Library facilities extensively when their two children were growing up, but Eleanor has also used its resources for research. A translator of "about two dozen books" and author of two more (with her husband), Eleanor says the Library has always provided the essential information she needed. "I would be lost without the Library," was her comment.

One daughter, Valérie, who works with Kaplan College Test Preparation, has partnered with the Library with programs for parents and students on gaining admission to American universities. Congratulations to the Levieux family! And many thanks to the Hotel Astor (rated a superlative 24 in Zagat) for this delectable gift.

To keep the momentum going and help us with books and programs for spring, stop by or send your donation to the Library.

A great big thank you to all those who donated to the relief efforts of the South Asia earthquake and tsunami disaster. Funds have been forwarded to UNICEF.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

Join us March 22 when we report on the Library's past year—innovations in programs, acquisition of materials, membership and circulation numbers, and financial data. Add your input! What do you like best, what would you like to see changed? This is your chance to make your voice heard. Meet our Board of Trustees and share your thoughts.

Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m. in the Dillon Reading Room.

ANNUAL THEATRE EVENT

WORD

PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

We bring literature to its feet



--WORD FOR WORD--

Mark your calendars for April 13 8:00 p.m. as this famous theatre troupe from San Francisco, returns to perform "Stories from Tobias Wolff."

This year's stories are "Lady's Dream" and "Bullet in the Brain," both from *The Night in Question*, and the performances have been sell-outs in the United States. **Show Location:** Salle Adyar, 4 Square Rapp, around the corner from the Library.

Reception at the Library with the cast to follow the performance.

***Free and open to the public, but seating is limited to 375*

EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR

EVENING PROGRAMS FOCUS ON ART, LITERATURE - WITH A SPLASH OF DRAMA

January 12 ushered in the first program of 2005 with **Deborah Jenner, Ph.D.**, who discussed "Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz: The Alchemy of a Couple." Jenner, who is an art historian, presented slides on two screens so that the audience could see the similarities and themes in the work of both artists.

January 26 brought us back to literature, as **Pharos**, Paris's foremost group of poets, who publish the semi-annual literary magazine by the same name, celebrated their 10th anniversary with an hour of poetry and short fiction.

February 1, **Compagnie Aël** presented "Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin: Artists of Life" (see article this page).

February 9, Trustee **Bob Gogel** shared secrets every European CEO needs to know, as he discussed his new book *CEO: Chief European Executive*. Each chapter in the book covers a different aspect of corporate management in a European environment, an environment that is particularly complex, given the patchwork of national identities—often tricky waters for ex-pats.

FIRST THEATRE PERFORMANCE IN THE LIBRARY

by *Tiffany Aasen*

Adding "theatre space" to its already impressive list of functions, ALP welcomed **Compagnie Aël** on February 1, for an *avant-première* of their play, **Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin: Artists of Life**.



What better way to initiate our space as a venue for theatre than to bring to life the passionate letters shared between these two literary icons?

The complexity of these two important figures were brilliantly portrayed by Florence Boog and Jacques Lallié against the backdrop of the numerous books in our reading room.



SALE! SALE!



Discover and own the treasures hidden in our book sale racks.

COMING UP!

-- Wednesdays --

March 2 (20h), Cara Black *Murder in Clichy*. Popular sleuth Aimée Leduc tackles her next murder in Paris. Special sneak preview (book coming out March 15). Black's other books have received rave reviews: "Literate prose, intricate plotting." (*Library Journal*); "Evocative." (*NY Times*).

March 9 (20h), Brandt Kingsley presents, "The Art of Mexico and the Southwest United States." Artist and professor Kingsley has a particular expertise in this field and will present a lively commentary, with slides

March 23 (20h), Hal Vaughan *Doctor to the Resistance*. Riveting account of an American doctor at the American Hospital in Paris, his French wife, and their teenage son, all of whom remained in Paris during the Nazi occupation and who worked for the Resistance. Their arrest by the Gestapo and subsequent imprisonment is painfully detailed—superbly drawn characters based on research in primary documents by a long-time journalist (and Library member). ("Riveting," from Library Director Shirley Lambert).

April 13 (20h), Word for Word The exciting theatre troupe from San Francisco returns to present "Stories from Tobias Wolff," at the Salle Adyar. (See article on the front page).

April 20 (20h), Kathleen Kelley-Laine, "J.M. Barrie and *Peter Pan*." Kelley-Laine presents a frank and in-depth psychological profile of the celebrated author on this, the 100th anniversary of the publication of his enduring and endearing tale.

And...don't forget about our Evenings With An Expert Series. (See page 6)

STAFF IS READING

Kim Le Minh, Reference
Wild Meat and the Bully Burgers
—Lois-Ann Yamanaka.
Follow 12 -year-old Lovey



Nariyoshi as she tries hard to find an identity of her own in 1970's Hawaii's white-only cultural environment.

Refreshing and fun! Dialogues in pidgin (Hawaiian Creole).
F Y142 [fiction]

The Plot Against America — Philip Roth. What would have happened if Americans had elected populist, isolationist, Hitler-friendly aviation hero Charles Lindbergh? A mix of alternate history and family drama, from the point of view of fictitious young Philip Roth.
F R 7423 [New fiction]



Rachel Kobic, Children's Librarian
Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging : Confessions of Georgia Nicolson —Louise Rennison. The first book of confessions from the diary of 14-year-old Georgia Nicolson.



Hilariously funny, the entire 4-book series must be read by any teenage girl who has ever had to deal with odd family members, crazy teachers and incredibly attractive older guys!

J REN [juvenile fiction]



Shirley Lambert, Director
The Feast of Love - Charles Baxter. National Book Award finalist. Funny, touching, sad... lives of very different

people intertwine in seemingly unrelated stories told by each one. Excellent writing. F BAXTER [fiction]

Sharon Gouhier, Circulation
Power of One — Bryce Courtenay, Believe in yourself and anything is possible. Based in South Africa, during WWII, a powerful story of possibilities and how people touch our lives. F C8357 [Fiction upstairs]



Blink : The Power of Thinking without Thinking — Malcolm Gladwell About the power of that first impression—and why logic comes later. An interesting study on how we come to snap decisions with fascinating examples. By the author of *Tipping Point*, also worth reading.
Call #: 153.44 G455b [new non-fiction]

Adele Witt, Assistant Director
Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim - David Sedaris. A collection of absolutely hilarious stories based on his family and growing up. Ordinary



events become absurd and witty. I can't wait to start reading his other books.
Call #: 817 Se27d [non-fiction]

Aileen Dhaou, Accounting Assistant
Bridal Bargains (6th edition) - Denise & Alan Field. A must-read guide for anyone who's involved in the wedding planning process—whether for yourself, friends or family. With high remarks from Oprah and *People* magazine, this guide is well researched and thorough in all wedding-related areas.
Call #: 395.22 F46b [new non-fiction]



JUNE GALA TO CELEBRATE ALP'S 85TH

The American Library in Paris will commemorate its 85th anniversary on June 20 at a gala dinner to be held at the prestigious Hotel Bristol in Paris. In honor of the warm welcome always accorded the Library by the French people, this year's Gala will celebrate Gustave Flaubert and his Norman origins and his devotion to its cuisine. Presenting guest will be Gonzague Saint-Bris, author of *Education Gourmande de Flaubert*, a culinary biography of the great writer.

Eric Frechon, chef de cuisine at the famous restaurant of the Hotel Bristol, a native Norman himself, provided the recipes for this biography/cookbook. He will be in charge of the preparations for the gala dinner, which will be based on these recipes.

Also on tap: two weeks of gastronomic events to savor! The American Library in Paris houses the famous Gregory Usher Culinary Collection, donated ten years ago, and this superb collection continues to circulate as more and more of our members adopt a French attitude toward cuisine. The Library has sponsored a number of culinary events in the past, and we hope this year will continue the tradition in style.

Watch for news at the Library, or contact us at alparis@noos.fr to receive the latest updates via e-mail. Help us honor the culinary heritage of this fascinating country.

Save the date: June 20, 2005, at the Hotel Bristol!

Support the Library and purchase our sturdy book bags for just 15 euros.

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR
EXCITING CHILD
DEVELOPMENT LECTURE
SERIES TOO!

(A grant funded by the
Woodward Foundation)
(See page 5)

KID'S KORNER

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FEBRUARY- APRIL

Ages 1-3, 10:30-11:00

Mother Goose Lap-Sit
English rhymes, songs & stories
Toddlers must have an adult lap
to sit on! *Sign up is necessary!*

Thursday, February 24th
Thursdays, March 3, 17 and 31
Thursdays, April 7 and 28

Ages 3-5

Wednesday Story Hours from
10:30-11:30 & 14:30-15:30

FEBRUARY

23 – Hello, My Name is...

MARCH

2 – Pyjama Party! (everyone
come wearing PJs)
9 – Where Are You From?
16 – St. Patrick's Day
23 – Easter
30 – On the Farm

APRIL

6 – Spring Has Sprung
13 – Fribbity Ribbit!
20 – A Spree in Patee
27 – My Favorite Book

Ages 6-8

SPECIAL SATURDAY STORY HOURS
Tales from Around the World
February 26 (14h-15h)

This series continues with
Children's Librarian Rachel
Koblic. We've been to America
and wandered through China—
now join us as we skip across to
Africa and head east to Russia!

Welcome to Wonderland
March 12 & 19 (14h-15h)

Come read (or reread) Lewis
Carroll's wonderful classic tale,
Alice in Wonderland and discover
what makes it such a popular
book. Come learn all sorts of
interesting new information...and
there may even be tea involved!

The Art of Origami

April 9 (14h-15h) Special
workshop on Japanese paper-
folding

Ages 9-12

HERE COMES HOLI! *The Festival of Colors*
Saturday, March 5, (15h-16h)

India is a country of several festivals, one
of which is 'Holi' the festival of colors.
Come learn about the festival's meaning
and how it is celebrated in India with
special guest, **Deepshikha Mehrotra**

**Back by popular demand:
FOLLOWING THE TRAIL**

February 26, (15h30 -16h45)

Criminologist Sabrina Henze will talk
about her training and experiences in both
the France and the US. A fascinating
hour, especially for readers who love
mysteries and detective series.

BOOKWORMS

Sessions will be held Tuesday evenings
from 17h to 18h – March 1, 8, 15 & 22.

The reading club resumes in March! We
will be reading Madeleine L'Engle's, *A
Wrinkle in Time*.

Sign up by FEBRUARY 12 so we can order
enough books for everyone.

***The program is free for members but each
book will cost about 5 euros.

You're a Poet & You Didn't Know it!

Special workshops on poetry

Tuesday, April 12 and 1, (17h-18h30h)

April is poetry month! Come learn about
great poets old and new, and what it is
that makes them so great. We'll read
some poetry together and even write some
of our own!

Rescheduled- FOR PARENTS

**Raising Children In France: How To
Get Through Culture Shock**

A presentation and community discussion
facilitated by Marine de Labriolle and
Laurence Sicot.

Tuesday, March 8th, 19h00

Space is limited, sign up is necessary.

All events are free to ALP members,
8 Euros for non-members.

TEENS!

Teen Jeopardy!

A quiz show night for teenagers—with
snacks and prizes! *Sign up is necessary.*
Saturday, March 12, (19h30-21h00)

Teen Theatre Series

Come do a little improv, read some
scenes, learn about the theatre, and
prepare for a fun and informal
presentation evening for parents and
friends!

Saturday April 2 and 9, (17h-18h30)

Saturday April 16th, (18h30-21h)

(presentation begins at 19h30)



EVERYONE

Spring Party!

Saturday, April 16th, (15h-16h30)

Spring Party with "Cabbages & Kings"
Primarily for children ages 3-9, but
older children welcome as well. It's
time to celebrate the return of spring!
Come enjoy a theatrical presentation,
balloon animals, juggling, games and
more, with children's entertainment
group, "Cabbages & Kings!" Sure to be
a super-fun time for all.

SIGN UP SOON, SPACE IS LIMITED

EXTRA, EXTRA! SANTA SIGHTED AT THE AMERICAN CHURCH OF PARIS!!

By Rachel Koblic

This year's holiday party was a
glue-and-glitter-filled success!
Nearly 150 children and adults
joined us at the American Church
on December 5th for a fun-filled
evening of crafts, stories, carols
and an extra special visit from
Santa Claus himself. Children
paraded their carefully crafted
tissue paper wreaths, sequin-
adorned ornaments and paper bag
reindeer, while parents enjoyed
each other's company. Everyone
lingered near one of the main
attractions – the fabulous feast
provided by the Friends of the
American Library and caterer
extraordinaire Tamara Prevost
(the frosted Christmas tree
cookies were the first to go!).



After the crafts, Christian
LeConte captured the audience's
attention with his interesting twist
on the story of Santa Claus,
suggesting that perhaps he had
once been the laziest boy on
Earth!!

Trustee Nancy Magaud led a
rousing round of carols on the
piano, and then out came Santa to
deliver each boy and girl the gift
of a book.



Thanks to the many people who
volunteered their time and effort to help
make this year's holiday party a fantastic
evening. Staff members Shirley Lambert,
Kristin Duncombe, and Rachel Koblic
worked behind the scenes and on-the-
spot. A special thank you to Sandra Craig
and Elizabeth Hochman, co-Chairs of the
Friends, for helping organize the event,
and to guest stars Bob Gogel, Christian
LeConte, Nancy Magaud, and Michael
Gogel.

The many volunteers deserve a special
thank you—Juliette Timsit, Mary
Schmeman, the Estell family, Kelley
Buchanan, Anne Raynaud, Yael Kropsky,
Rachel Forster, Ian Nelson-Roehl, Claire
Craig, Charlotte Kagan, Baltis Méjanès,
Alex Chevallier, and Kevin Galindo, as
well as Trustees Berna Huebner, Nancy
Webster, Whitney de Courcel, and Ishtar
Méjanès.



**To ensure space
availability, don't
forget to sign up for
the toddlers' Mother
Goose Lap-Sit
program.**

EVENINGS ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT WITH WELL-KNOWN EUROPEAN SPECIALISTS

Sponsored by the Woodward foundation

On January 19, Dr. Bénédicte de
Boyssou-Bardies presented an engross-
ing account of the cognitive functions
required to learn to speak. At a pre-
sentation on February 16, which was
attended by many non-parents, Dr.
Michel Morange, a preeminent expert
on genes and heredity, discussed how
genes transmit capabilities rather than
specific well-defined behaviors.

Upcoming Lectures

March 16 (20h) Dr. Alain Braconnier
Psychological Problems of Puberty

Puberty is certainly the most challeng-
ing age for parents to deal with, but it is
also difficult for the child. Rebellious
behavior, problems in school—what is
normal, and what is not?

In French, questions in either language.
Dr. Braconnier is one of the leading French
experts in adolescent behavior.

April 6 (20h) Dr. Paul Czernikow
Physical Problems of Puberty

Puberty does not just bring ups and
downs in emotional behavior—it is a
time when certain physical problems
manifest themselves. What are these
problems? What should parents do?

In English, questions in either language.
*Dr. Czernikow is Professor of Endo-
crinology at the Robert Debré Hospital.*

May 18 (20h) Prof. René Frydman
Alternative Ways of Making Babies

From test tube to human being...there
are now many alternatives for infertile
couples, but each presents its own set of
problems. An expert will discuss the
issues, probabilities and provide insight
into making informed choices.

In English, questions in either language.
Dr. Frydman practices gynecology and
obstetrics at the Hôpital Antoine Becler.

SPRING HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Extended Hours: Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(Except during school vacations)

Our appreciation to all our outstanding donors who supported the Fall Fundraising appeal

M. et Mme Jean-Louis Aguer
Hans and Catherine Anderegg
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Paul Pietri

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M. et Mme Jacques Richardson

M. Andrew Shagrin & Mme. S. Finet
Mr. & Mrs. Damon Smith

John Stutesman
Margot Tondou

ALP VOLUNTEER FEATURED IN BOSTON GLOBE

David Witter, *primo* volunteer at the circulation desk and loyal ALP supporter, was profiled in the January 13 edition of the *Boston Globe*, as the American who gives classes in wine tasting in Paris! David, whose career in wine sales in the U.S. spanned 25 years, has developed classes for anglophones over the past year and a half, and he must have impressed the *Globe* reporter as much as he impresses his students! So, if you are looking for a recommendation on wine from a pro, stop by on a Wednesday!

WICE HOLDS CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND FINANCE

Join WICE and the American University of Paris for a one-day conference designed for globally mobile women who want to better understand their current financial situations and learn how to intelligently plan for their futures. The conference will be held March 15, 2005, at AUP, 6 rue Colonel Combes, 75007.

WICE members: 75 euros; non-members: 100 euros. Registration includes keynote speaker, panels, coffee breaks, luncheon, and networking cocktail at the South African Embassy.

Sign up now! For more information, visit:

www.moneymattersforwomen.org

GET PUBLISHED!!!

Want to share your thoughts about a particular book you enjoyed reading from the library? Why not recommend it to others by filling out a "Book Review" form available at the front desk. We will post your review on our website to be shared.

EVENINGS WITH AN EXPERT

Featuring Europe's prominent experts on a topic of general interest, Evenings With An Expert is free and open to the public. Programs are Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. The format will be a moderator, Drew Shagrin, and a principal speaker, with questions afterwards from the audience.

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 Morality Effect of Climate Change (A Case Study of 2003 Canicule)." The expert is Magali Barbieri, a Paris-based researcher at the Institut national d'études démographiques.

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

June 4. "EU Competition Law." What are the rules, what are the gray areas, what are the battles, and how does all of that affect us? The expert is Pierre Kirch, Paris- and Brussels-based head of the EU law/competition law practice group of Paul Hastings, Janofsky & Walker.