GALA DINNER STARS

Two stars made quite a sparkle at the Gala dinner June 20, at the Hotel Bristol. Gala Chair extraordinaire, Michèle Gompel, paired the author with the consulting chef of L’education gourmande de Gustave Flaubert in a bow to French culture and cuisine. The author, media personality Gonzague St. Bris, delivered a warm and highly personal talk, linking American and French literature, books and libraries, and some of the themes of his latest book on Leonardo da Vinci. And two-star chef Eric Frechon, whose recipes grazed both the book and the dinner tables, spoke briefly about the Norman origins of his gastronomic creations that delighted the palates of the crowd of Gala attendees.

From the entrée of soupe de moulles en montgolfière, delicately encased in the lightest of pastries, to the oxtail with its artistic circle of marrow, and the stunning finish of millefeuille perfumed with orange blossom, the sumptuous dinner lived up to its stars. Mme Gompel and trustees Ishtar Méjanès and Berna Huebner, please take a bow for orchestrating another successful Gala evening!

Our thanks to volunteers David Witter, Anne Raynaud, Kim Lê Minh, and Rachel Koblic.

LIBRARY ACQUIRES SPECIAL COLLECTION IN DIPLOMATIC HISTORY

Former Ambassador John Gunther Dean spent his working life in the diplomatic corps of the United States, serving in such farflung places as Africa, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, India and Lebanon. His recollections of those years include many events of high drama and led to his recording of an oral history for the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training. Building on the concept that primary source material provides the best resources for research, Dean decided to help the American Library in Paris establish a collection of oral histories by American diplomats and to assist in obtaining additional papers from French diplomats.

As he explains it, the point of using a shared history is to learn from it, to learn how cooperation took place behind the scenes, and still does. His goal is to make available as much as possible in the way of direct experiential material to scholars, historians, journalists, and students who live, work, or study in France.

The John Gunther Dean Special Collection in Diplomatic History, which is wholly electronic, will be available for students and researchers (or just the interested public) in October, 2005. Watch for information on a special program to introduce the collection (fully indexed and searchable)—and read about some of these events from those who lived them.

The American Library in Paris is grateful to Ambassador Dean for donating these important resources to the ALP, making it the only Library on the European Continent with materials offering frank personal perspectives on recent diplomatic issues.
KIDS' AND PARENTS' KORNER

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Ages 1-3
Mother Goose Lap Sit 3:30-11:00 I Sign up is necessary! English songs, stories and rhymes. Toddlers must have a lap to sit in. Sept. 15 & 29 (exceptional scheduling) Oct. 6 & 27 Nov. 3 & 24

Ages 3-5
Wednesday’s Story Hour 3:30-11:00 and 14:00-15:30 No sign-up needed.

September 14 Back to School 21 Leap into the Library
October 28 Yummy Yummy in my Tummy

November 5 Planes, Trains & Automobiles 12 Big, Bigger, Biggest!
19 My House 26 November (Everyone wear costumes!)

December 2 Ick, I’m Sick 9 Castles, Kings, Princeses & Things 16 Native American Tales 23 Thanksgiving 30 Hat Day

***Programs and scheduling are subject to change; please check the monthly children’s program flyers. For more information, call the library at 01.53.59.12.60 or email Helen Stathopoulos at alpalert@noos.fr.

Ages 6-12

Poetry A perfect introduction for kids. Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005, 15-16h AGES 6-8

“Helen’s Favorites” Get to know the new librarian! Saturday, Sept. 17, 2005, 15-16h AGES 6-12 Special Storytelling Event Hang out on Nut Blanche at the ALP. Sat. 1 Oct. 2005, 15-16h AGES 6-12

An Afternoon with Author Gabrielle Wang Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005, Time TBA. AGES 6-12

Medieval Times Learn about how life used to be. Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005, 15-16h AGES 6-12

Special presentation by Dean Jacobs Wondrous Journey Friday, Oct. 28, 2005, 16-17h (NB: time is tentative) Slide show and stories from Jacobs’s wanderings through some of the exotic corners of the world. Ages 6 and up, plus parents are invited too!

Halloween Party Wear a costume!! Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, 15-16h AGES 6+

What is Thanksgiving? Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005, 14-15h AGES 6-12

Bookworms Book Club Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. By B. B. Bloom Saturday, November 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2005, 16-17h AGES 9-12

MUST SIGN UP BY OCT. 15 IF YOU WANT A BOOK ORDERED FOR YOU

TEENS (12+)
The Poetry Cafe Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005, 15h30-21h
Teen Night (activity TBA) Saturday, November 5, 2005, 19h30-21h

ALL AGES

Come and party! Summer Reading Celebration Come celebrate your achievements and catch up with friends after the summer. What was your favorite book? Lots of goodies, crafts and prizes. Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005, 15-16h30

OWN THE SMARTEST CARD

The Library is your key to information, to the world of books, and to fun for your family. Sign up now, and bring a friend. Join the millions worldwide who use the library to get information, to read, to study, to log on. It’s the smartest card you can have.

September is Library Sign-Up Month! Get Smart!

"Wow. It’s an amazing world!!" is heard from the students repeatedly. One child said, "I never dreamed I could come until you came to speak to us." Come hear Jacobs describe his adventures, Friday, October 28 at 4:30 p.m. (16h00). For children, ages 7 and up, and their families.

(NB: Time is tentative)
CHEERS TO OUR INTERNS

Every summer the American Library in Paris welcomes interns who work on various projects, either to assist the Library with its ongoing programs or to organize a special area of the collection.

Thanks to the Princeton in France Program, we had three students who worked on the dossiers for the C.A.P.E.S./Aggregation program 2005/2006. Page Cassin, Steven McCutcheon, and Morgane Pollie researched the topics, hunted down the articles, and created dossiers for the French students to use.

Elizabeth Spatz, a student in archives management for UCLA, worked for six weeks reorganizing the Library's archives and making a digital index to the available materials. Her research into the collections of photographs has provided some fascinating insights!

Raphaël Rousseau, a student from Ecole des Bibliothécaires Documentalistes, spent three months in the Circulation Department of the Library, and also compiled a list of all the videos, DVDs and children's videos by title and theme.

Sophie Caillieux, a student for Université de Paris-Nanterre/Métiers du livre, has been working on the annual reorganization of the periodicals: shifting, compiling a new list, and organizing the basement collections. Bravo to all our interns for all the hard work and help!

NEW BRITANNICA

The ALP just acquired the latest version of the Encyclopedia Britannica 2005. The updated and revised edition of the most famous reference tool comes in a 32-volume set, giving you access to 65,000 articles written by experts and renowned authors. Delve into the Micropedia (12 volumes) to acquire basic knowledge of the topic of your choice through short articles; or consult the Macropedia (17 volumes) and its longer, in-depth articles.

The Encyclopedia Britannica is also available on CD-ROM in the Research Center: make sure to stop by to check out its rich multi-media content, its atlas, timelines, magazines and much, much more! For work, school, or simply for curious people, the Britannica is THE place to go for any question.

ALP RECEIVES GRANT OF TEN COMPUTERS

As ALP moves forward to upgrade all its technology, we received the welcome news that we qualified for a grant of ten Pentium 3 computers from the World Bank through an agency called Gifts in Kind. This grant was open to nonprofits worldwide that have education as a significant part of their mission. We are very proud to have qualified, and we expect to begin our upgrade in mid-autumn. We are very grateful to Gifts in Kind for assisting us in this way, as well as to the World Bank, who made it very easy to collect the equipment! Our thanks to these generous organizations!

AND TWO MORE....

The law firm of Samuel Okoshken donated two additional Pentium 3 computers, as well as four monitors. This gift will allow us to upgrade the Internet computers used by our patrons. Many thanks to Samuel Okoshken, as well as to Elizabeth Hochman, a member of the firm, and co-chair of the Friends.

NUIT BLANCHE @ THE LIBRARY!

Even the bookworms won't be asleep on October 1, Nuit Blanche! Come to the Library for an assortment of programs, from storytelling for the youngsters, an exhibit by local artist Pauline Choi, a reading by an author, and jazz concert by the American School of Modern Music. A night for the whole family to enjoy!

Watch for announcements of times, but put the Library on your list of special places to visit. Refreshments will be served and staff will be available until midnight. No Internet or check-outs after 7 p.m. (19h00).

RECOMMENDED READING FROM U.S. LIBRARIES

1.) Native Tongue, by Carl Haasen
2.) Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula LeGuin
3.) The Beekeeper's Apprentice, by Laurie King
4.) Blue Shoe, by Anne Lamott
5.) At Home in Mitford, (first in the Mitford series), by Jan Karon
6.) Silence of the Hams, by Jill Churchill
7.) Then She Found Me, by Elinor Lipman
8.) Lunch at the Piccadilly, by Clyde Edgerton
9.) Cane River, by Lalita Tademy
10.) Devil in a Blue Dress (1990, first in the Easy Rawlins series) by Walter Mosey
11.) The Godwulf Manuscript (1973, first in the Spenser series), by Robert B. Parker
12.) Blind Justice (1994, first in the Sir John Fielding series), by Bruce Alexander
13.) The Flower Master (1999, second in the Rei Shimura series), by Sujata Massey

MIGHTY BOOK BAGS

Don't forget to show your support and pick up the one-of-a-kind ALP book bag this Fall—for just 15 euros. It's durable, spacious, multi-functional, washable and very attractive. Use it to keep your books and papers together. They're great as beach/grocery bags and much more...