



SPRING 2006

EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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Thanks to all who gave to the Annual Fall Fundraising. Special thanks to our Platinum, Gold and Silver donors for their generosity:

PLATINUM

Anonymous
Stuart Preston (bequest)

GOLD

Grenville and Sandra Craig
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Frances Gendlin and Dorothy Weinstein
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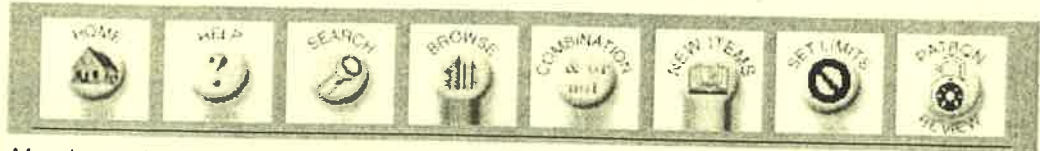
SILVER

Anonymous
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Madame Philippine de Rothschild
Amy de Rouvray
Emilie Rubatto
David Sedaris
Charlotte Sheedy

Special thanks to the Scaler Foundation for their generous grant to the general fund for 2005 and to the Woodward Charitable Foundation for their program grant for 2005.

Space does not permit us to list all our contributors; all names will appear in the Annual Report.

NEW LOOK AND NEW PERFORMANCE FOR THE LIBRARY CATALOG



Members who have searched for books on the library catalog in the past three weeks have noticed a **BIG CHANGE**. The catalog is in **color**; you can use a **mouse**; search terms are natural language, similar to Google; there are **book reviews** and book covers online; there is even a **Children's Catalog**—and a special new research tool called **AquaBrowser**.

Our reference staff will be delighted to show you how our new technology works—don't be afraid to ask. One patron, who has used the Library for years and complains that she never mastered the old system, was thrilled at the ease with which she found the book she wanted. **The catalog is also on the Internet** so you can search from home, renew your items, and sign up for programs. For those of you who prefer e-mail to communicate, you will receive notices of overdues and holds electronically.

The new system has resulted in changes behind the scenes too. Reports are automatic, and you will be able to check your own records, using a confidential PIN number, to see what books you have out and when they are due.

Our heartfelt thanks to the generous donor who provided the funding for this state-of-the-art system, and our special gratitude to volunteer Chris Daniels, whose expertise and countless hours of work on data transmittal and hardware and software configuration saved the Library thousands of dollars.

ANTONIA FRASER HONORED GUEST AT LIBRARY'S ANNUAL GALA

The Big Event for Spring! On May 23 Lady Antonia Fraser, one of the world's most respected biographers, whose biography of **Marie Antoinette** is debuting in its French edition (Flammarion), will be the Library's honored guest speaker at their 86th anniversary dinner. The filmed version of her book will soon be released as a major production, courtesy of Sofia Coppola. Lady Antonia will speak about her work "From Marie Stuart to Marie Antoinette."



The **prestigious Hotel Le Bristol** is again our stage, and will feature the superb cuisine of its 2-star restaurant chef, Eric Fréchon. The evening will begin with cocktails at 8 p.m., then a relaxed and convivial dinner, followed by remarks from Lady Antonia.

Individual tickets are 300€; please contact the Library for an invitation. **Different sponsor levels are available**, such as the Library Supporter, Library sponsor and denoting levels in the platinum, gold and silver ranges, which start at 3,000€ for a table of 10 places. **Sponsors are prominently recognized throughout the year in all library communications.** We are truly very appreciative of their participation in this annual event which reflects their commitment to this community's primary English-language library.



The Sponsors for this year's gala thus far are: The Annenberg Foundation, the Méjanès Family, Dechert, Friends of the American Library in Paris, International Herald Tribune, Sullivan and Cromwell, and Robert and Emily Pingeon,



AQUABROWSER: A WHOLE NEW WAY TO FIND BOOKS

Have you noticed how, when searching a library catalog, you're expected to know exactly what you're looking for? Most library search engines will only return results that match the terms entered by the user. "Aquabrowser" is a state-of-the-art, intelligent search mechanism that offers an alternative.

Our new catalog will still enable you to use the standard search modes you find in most libraries—search/browse/Boolean. The added feature is the Aquabrowser function, invented by a Dutch information scientist who has created an intelligent search tool that helps widen your search strategy. Enter your search terms in the query box, and your screen will display results in 3 different ways: 'Discover,' 'Search,' and 'Refine.'

The 'Discover' feature (displayed on the left-side) maps your query in a visual way, placing your search term at the center of a constellation, linking it to related topics, as well as spelling alternatives. Click on any word in the 'cloud' so that it's now in the middle, and a new constellation appears, adding more concepts and potential search terms. This feature will be particularly useful to people who don't know where to start and how to articulate their query. Click the 'Subject' tab to see what subject heading contains your search word. This might give you some more ideas and lead you to browse other categories.

The 'Search' column (middle one) is a classic result list—like you find on any library catalog, or web search engine. You can sort the hits by relevance or other criteria (year, author...). One interesting detail is that it shows what word the engine spotted, so that you can discard records with words that aren't as close or that only sound like your search term.

The 'Refine' menu (on the right side) has proved to be a helpful tool for limiting results to a specific format or language... especially when the engine returns hundreds of hits.

Start playing with this smart new tool and get ready for a whole different experience of information retrieval!

The screenshot shows the Aquabrowser Library interface in a Mozilla browser window. The search term 'slavery' is entered in the search box. The 'Discover' feature is active, showing a constellation of related terms around 'slavery', including 'emancipation', 'hemisphere', 'abolitionist', 'states', 'freedom', 'race', 'struggle', 'society', 'south', 'become', 'negro', 'sex', 'economy', 'liberty', 'movement', 'crusade', 'abolition', 'problem', 'think', 'north', 'end', 'law', 'lincoln', 'pro-slavery', and 'pattern'. The 'Search' column shows 172 results, sorted by relevance. The first result is '1. Slavery: the many faces of a Southern institution' by Peter J. Parish, published in 1992. The second result is '2. Slavery: a problem in American institutional and intellectual life' by Stanley M. Elkins, published in 1976. The third result is '3. Slavery and anti-slavery: Reprints of economic classics' by William Goodell, published in 1970. The 'Refine' column on the right allows filtering by Format (Book, Sheet music, Sound recording), Author (Franklin, John Hope, Davis, David Brion, Diamond, Dwight Lowell), Subject (slavery, african americans, abolitionists, antislavery movements, slaves, 90 scale), Language (english, french), and Series (in american history, problems in american civilization, a galaxy book, 44 books).

NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A GIFT!

The Library's annual fundraising appeal at the end of 2005 received an enthusiastic response from many of our members and from loyal supporters here in France, as well as in the U.S. Our thanks to these generous people, whose gifts help the Library meet everyday operating costs, as well as provide for special projects.

Gifts were received for children's programs, Evenings With an Author, the technology initiative, and the John Gunther Dean Special Collection in Diplomatic History. A number of gifts in kind (notably computers from the law firm of Sam Okoshken) contributed to the success of our new online catalog (see articles, p.1 and 2). The Friends of the Library made a contribution to support the periodical subscriptions, as well as the new technology.

The total amount raised was €74,453. And it's not too late to contribute! ALP needs your support as much as ever. Checks in dollars or euros may be sent to us at 10, rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law (French or American). A recent U.S. survey on how people view the value they receive for their tax dollars showed that LIBRARIES were valued at FOUR TO FIVE TIMES their actual cost. Yet our membership fees cover just 30% of our operating costs. Please support your Library today!

THE STAFF IS READING!!

Kim - American Roots Music - 4-CD box set + 56-page booklet. (Call # : CD-A 1)



The PBS documentary series brings together an excellent selection of country, folk, blues, jazz, gospel, Cajun, zydeco, Tejano and Native American music, from Bob Dylan to B.B. King, Gene Autry to Mahalia Jackson.

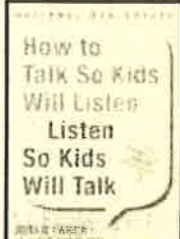
The Longest Memory - Fred D'Aguiar



This short slave narrative by Guyanese poet D'Aguiar tells a tragedy through the alternate voices of different characters: black and white, old and young, masters and slaves. Poignant. (Call # : F D1361)

Helen - How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk - Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish (Call # J PS 649.1 F112h)

A parenting classic, written in an accessible, almost folksy style. Full of truly helpful advice and examples to soothe the weary.



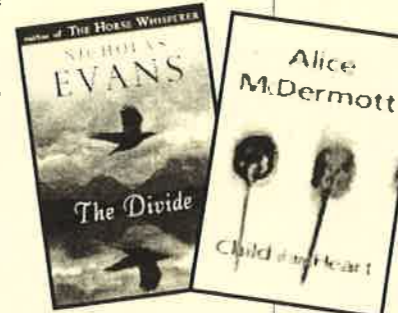
Eloise: A Book for Precocious Grown Ups - Kay Thompson

Discover or rediscover children's literature's famous, spoiled-rotten, six year-old bad-girl, Eloise. Also, *Eloise at Christmastime*, *Eloise in Paris*. (Call # EK (Children's books))



Shirley - Oryx and Crake - Margaret Atwood Set in a bleak, not-too-distant future, Atwood's tale of an Armageddon unleashed by a scientific genius is terrifying for its plausibility. (Call # F ATWOOD)

Adele - Child of my Heart - Alice McDermott Theresa reflects back to the summer of her fifteenth year. Some light-hearted moments—not too realistic, which makes it an enjoyable book. (Call # M143 [New Fiction])



The Divide - Nick Evans The story of a family faced by a devastating change, and how each member of the family deals with this crisis. Evans goes into great detail illustrating the complexity of life for each of his characters.

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS RECEIVES BEQUEST FROM THE ESTATE OF ART CRITIC STUART PRESTON

BY ROBERT PINGEON

The American Library in Paris is pleased to announce a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of **American art critic Stuart Preston**, who died in France, February 9, 2005.

Mr. Preston was a friend and habitué of the American Library since 1944, when he was posted in Paris by the U.S. Army to assist in efforts to locate and identify art work in Europe stolen by the Nazis. For his efforts in this area, Sergeant Preston was awarded the Croix de Guerre by General de Gaulle.

After the war and a stint in London, Stuart Preston returned to America to become the senior and celebrated art critic for the *New York Times*. Known for his urbane reporting, he worked there for twenty-five years and acquired a reputation as a distinguished man of letters and art connoisseur. He also wrote several books and ghosted the autobiography of his friend Consuela Vanderbilt, *The Glitter and the Gold*. During his lifetime, Stuart was also a friend of Evelyn Waugh, Stephen Spender, and Nancy Mitford.

In 1976, Stuart Preston returned to Paris where he lived until his death this past year. He described the American Library as his "second home," and could be found there browsing through the shelves several times a week.

The American Library in Paris has established a **memorial fund in the name of Stuart Preston** and invites friends and admirers to consider a gift in memory of this talented and loyal friend of the Library.

AUTHOR EVENINGS and EVENINGS OF AMERICAN CULTURE

April 26 – 8:00 p.m. (20h00)
Bruce Rodgers, *The Gravity of Honey*. Award-winning playwright presents a reading of his work—witty and poignant.

April 27 – 7:00 p.m. (19h00)
Mary Niles Maack. "Between Two Worlds: The American Library in Paris during the War, Occupation, and Liberation: 1939-1945." A fascinating story of an institution's ability to adapt and survive one of history's darkest periods. Maack, a Professor in the UCLA Department of Information Studies, will share the results of her extensive research that shows how the determination and courage of a few people kept the Library open and preserved it for us today.

**Note earlier time and that this is a Thursday evening program.*

May 3 – 8:00 p.m. (20h00)
Rody Hall, *A River Echoes in my Ministry*. Spiritual memoir by a woman who was ordained an Episcopal priest at age 60, and who formerly served as Canon at the American Cathedral of Paris. Co-sponsored by the Smith College Club of France.



ME TALK PRETTY ONE DAY DAVID SEDARIS

May 17 – 8:00 p.m. (20h00)
Michèle Respaut, "Doctor's Malady: A Fascination with Bodies." Wellesley professor discusses the literary context of medicine through the centuries. Co-sponsored by the Wellesley College Club of France.

May 31 – 8:00 p.m. (20h00)
 "Your MBA in the USA." Kaplan, the college test prep company presents strategies for taking the GMAT and other requirements for gaining admission to U.S. MBA programs.

June 7 – 8:00 p.m. (20h00)
Mia de Laire, *And the Truth Shall be Told*. Novel based on author's experience married to a CIA undercover agent, their years in the Congo during independence, and his assassination.

June 8 – 7:15 p.m. (19h15)
 Join the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators for a workshop featuring award winner Juanita Havill, author of 19 children's books and the Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award Winner. Please register at: erzsi@kidbookpros.com.

DON'T MISS FRIENDS' CHAMPAGNE LUNCH MAY 5!!

Celebrated author and business leader extraordinaire **Mireille Guillano** (*French Women Don't Get Fat*) will be the keynote speaker May 5, 12:30, at the Marriott Champs-Élysées. The champagne is compliments of Veuve Clicquot, where Guillano is CEO.

The **luncheon**, organized by the Friends of the Library, and co-sponsored by Marriott Vacation Club International, is the second in the Friends' series of author presentations for 2006. Tickets are 50€. Please send checks to the Library, to the attention of Emmy Slatni, Communications. A magnum of Veuve Clicquot will be raffled off, and books—autographed by the author—will be available to purchase.



DAVID SEDARIS EVENT SEPT 21 A SELL-OUT

They laughed and they applauded—those fortunate 125 fans who packed the Reading Room to hear author and media personality **David Sedaris** read from his work. There is no question about the popularity of his hilarious personality—with every chair in use and a few borrowed, there were just a few spots left to stand. Some reserved their places in mid-August, as soon as word leaked out. The **Friends of the American Library**, who organized this fundraising event, also provided a delectable cocktail spread for fans as they waited for their autographed copies of Sedaris's bestsellers.



ME TALK PRETTY ONE DAY DAVID SEDARIS

MAUREEN DOWD DRAWS CROWD

Standing room only for another Friends of the Library event! An evening of quips and criticism, as one might expect from **the celebrated columnist**, drew a capacity crowd for the first of the Friends' events for 2006. Dowd read from her new book, *Are Men Necessary?* and answered questions for nearly an hour afterward. During the cocktail party, she signed books for dozens of her admirers. Special thanks to Karen Gaines for her help in organizing such a successful event.



PACKED AUDIENCE AT THE WORD FOR WORD PERFORMANCE OF AMY TAN'S "IMMORTAL HEART"

April 7 marked the 11th year that the acclaimed San Francisco theatre troupe, **Word for Word**, has performed their literary works, precisely "word for word" in Paris. This year, their production of **Tan's "Immortal Heart,"** which has received rave reviews from critics, again packed the Salle Adyar theatre—over 400 fans waited in line for the theatre doors to open. **Special guest was Amy Tan** herself, who also attended the reception along with the cast at the Library for the signing of her new book, *Saving Fish from Drowning*.



LOVE IN A BOX

ALP participated again this year in collecting books in French for holiday gifts for needy children. **Ecole d'Aujourd'hui** collected seven huge boxes, and **L'Hermitage** again opened the project to their entire student body, and donated nearly 1,000 books! Other members and friends donated more, and we were able to send over 1,150 books to the American Cathedral for packing for the holidays. Thanks to everyone who participated—your generosity has made a big difference to a lot of children.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY WELCOMES SANTA

In a command performance, Santa had a book for every child at the Holiday Party, December 4, held at the American Church. Christmas carols with Nancy Magaud, fun crafts with the Girl Scouts, stories by storyteller Christian Leconte, and fabulous food from Verres à la Fête and Tamara Prevost made the festivities even more fun. Thanks to the **Friends of the Library** for their superb organization, beautiful decorations, and delicious food.



Saturday, May 13th, 19h30 to 21h



***Want to be on the teen mailing list? Contact Helen at alpteens@myway.com.*

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (APRIL - JUNE 2006)

Ages 1-3

Mother Goose Lap Sit
 10:30-11:00
Sign up is necessary!



April 6 & 27
 May 4 & 18
 June 1 & 29

English songs, stories & rhymes. Toddlers must have a lap to sit in!

Ages 3-5

Wednesday's Story Hour
 10h30-11h30 & 14h30-15h30
No sign-up needed.

April

5 The Moon, the Night
 12 Under the Sea
 19 I Love Bears!
 26 Froggy Fun

May

3 Wild Things!
 10 Mother's Day is Coming
 17 Outer Space
 24 Dogs and Puppies

June

7 Marvelous Music
 14 Father's Day is Coming
 21 Chinese Tales
 28 Traveling and Vacations

****Programs are subject to change; please check the monthly children's program flyers. For more information, contact 01.53.59.12.60 or email Helen Stathopoulos at hstath@noos.fr*

AGES 6-12

Saturday programs & exceptional events require sign-up.

Boggle Bonanza!

Learn to play, or improve your Boggle skills!
 April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 15h30-16h30 (Ages 9-12)

A Story, a Story

Join storyteller Christian LeConte for classic stories and riddles. (Ages 6-12)
 Saturday April 29, 14h-15h

Animal Tales from Aesop

Stories/activities based on these famous animal tales.
 Saturday May 6, 15h-16h (Ages 6-12)

Movement and Dance Workshop conducted by Brook Desnoes, director of the

Académie Américaine de Danse de Paris. (Ages 5-8)

**Exceptional: May 12, 18h-19h*

Create Your Own World! Tales with Laura Choffrut (Ages 8-12)

You provide the ideas, Laura creates the story! Hear ideas and images woven into one-of-a-kind tale, with storyteller and teacher Laura Choffrut.
 Saturday May 20, 15h-16h

Drumming Workshop

Welcome musicians Ronnie Malley and Neill Porteous. Clap, drum, and feel the rhythm!
 (Ages 6-12)
 Saturday May 27, 15h-16h

A Story, a Story

Come join us and enjoy a good story with Christian LeConte.
 (Ages 6-12)

Saturday, June 3, 15h-16h

Art History & Creation for Kids

Jamileh Talebizadeh, children's literature and art expert from *La Huppe Jeunesse*, will show new ways to create art. (Ages 8-12)
 Saturday, June 10, 15h-16h

China: Facts, Film and Fun

Come learn a bit about Chinese history and culture.
 Saturday, June 17, 15h-16h (Ages 6-12)

The Little Prince
 Celebrate Antoine de St. Exupéry's birthday with readings and activities of *The Little Prince*. (Ages 6-12)



Kids' Book sale! Starting Saturday, May 13th at the Library. Most books are only one euro.

ALL AGES

The ABC's of Motherhood in Paris: The Almost-Mothers'-Day Book Launch and Tea

The children's department is pleased to host a book launch of *The ABC's of Motherhood in Paris*, 5th edition. Join the MESSAGE group, and interested moms/dads for tea and a book presentation. Copies of the book will be on sale. Children welcome. Mother's Day crafts for young ones! *No sign up necessary.*

Saturday May 13, 16-17h



BECOMING THE PARENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE!

The founder of **PARENTS FORUM®**, Eve Sullivan, will lead a discussion of several key questions that can help you become comfortable with the day-to-day challenges, as well as the big transitions you face as a parent.

The program's light-hearted yet practical approach, based on developing your emotional awareness, is relevant to parents of any age child, pre-school to young adult.

PARENTS FORUM website is:
<http://www.parentsforum.org>

Thursday, 18 May 2006, 16h-17h, in the children's room

WHAT A DEAL!! MONTHLY BOOK SALE



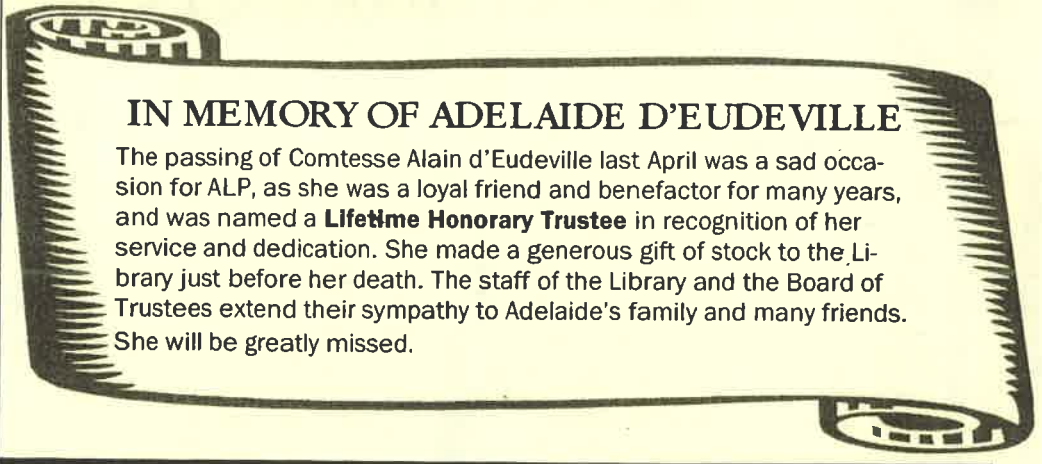
Don't miss out on the large selection of books at our highly prized monthly book sale! Most books are new or in very good condition. The best part of the deal is that the books are at an **unbeatable price of only one to three euros**. Sales begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp. So, come early!

Next sale dates (usually the first Saturday of each month):

May 6, 2006

June 3, 2006

July 1, 2006



IN MEMORY OF ADELAIDE D'EUDEVILLE

The passing of Comtesse Alain d'Eudeville last April was a sad occasion for ALP, as she was a loyal friend and benefactor for many years, and was named a **Lifetime Honorary Trustee** in recognition of her service and dedication. She made a generous gift of stock to the Library just before her death. The staff of the Library and the Board of Trustees extend their sympathy to Adelaide's family and many friends. She will be greatly missed.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE LIBRARY

More than 40 people contribute their time and skills to the ALP. The ALP staff and our members would like to express our sincere thanks to each of them for their dedicated efforts. Volunteers play an important role as partners in the Library's mission to serve clients. Working together, volunteers and the library staff help meet increased demands, despite a limited budget.

Volunteers come from all walks of life. Whether you are an adult, student, or senior citizen, employed or retired, an individual or part of a group, you will be a welcome addition to the library team. Most volunteers provide 4-5 hours of support a week, but events and projects are alternatives for more flexible hours.

A vast range of skills and knowledge are needed to support the library. Special effort is made to match the interests of volunteers with their work assignments.

Administrative Tasks: Assisting the Library staff with maintaining the collection, such as filing, typing, shelving, mending books and materials, labeling, emptying book drops and answering phones.

Events: Assisting with organization and hosting of events; introducing speakers; organizing and maintaining community bulletin boards; handouts and brochures.

Facilities/Environment: Minor repairs and maintenance of facilities both inside and outside.

Professional Services: Professionals who donate their services, (e.g. graphic artists, internet web masters, grant writers, network administrators and companies or organizations which donate their services).

Welcome Services: Explaining the types of memberships and member benefits, providing directional assistance in the library by giving customers tours of the library, pointing out where all materials are located and referring people to the reference librarian for bibliographic help.

Youth Services: Assisting with children's programs, craft preparation, story time and book preparation.

Volunteers who contribute over 40 hours / month are eligible for exclusive library privileges. And you will meet interesting people who share your love of books and have the satisfaction of contributing to lifelong learning and literacy. Finally, you will receive sincere and frequent expressions of appreciation from both the clients and the library staff.

Everyone benefits when you volunteer!

To find out more about being a volunteer at the ALP contact: Adele Witt
01.53.59.12.65