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 Sponsor, 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.
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 those 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 Okoshkin) 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! All needs your support as much as ever. Checks in dollars or euros may be sent to 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 13)

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'Aguilar

This short slave narrative by Guyanese poet D'Aguilar tells a tragedy through the alternate voices of different characters: black and white, old and young, masters and slaves. Poignant. (Call #: F D1356)

Helen - How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk - Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish (Call #: 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 unaided by a scientific genius is terrifying for its plausibility. (Call #: F ATWOD)

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 Consuelo 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.
KIDS' AND PARENTS' CORNER

LOVE IN A BOX

All participated again in this year in collecting books in French for holiday gifts for needy children. A special hour-long collection was held on May 5, 12:30, at the Marriott Champlain, Elysees. The champagne is complimentary of Veuve Clicquot, where Guillon 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 2004. Tickets are 50$. Please send checks to the Library, to the attention of Emily Slatki, Communications. A magnum of Veuve Clicquot will be raffled off, and books—autographed by the author—will be available to purchase.

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 in 2004. 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 TRANSMISSION

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

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (APRIL - JUNE 2006)

Wednesday's Story Hour
10:30-11:00 & 14:30-15:30
No sign-up needed.

April 8 & 27
May 4 & 18
June 1 & 29

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

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

ALL AGES

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


Saturday May 13, 16-17h

TEENS (12+) Writing down the Bones for teens, Part 2

Let's do it again: less talk, more writing! In March, brave teens wrote fearlessly during a three-night evening workshop, using some of the writing exercises made famous in the classic book Writing Down the Bones. So hush your inner critics, dig deep, and let yourself write.

*/

SUN:
May 13
16h
21h

VENUE

March 5
U11

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

Celebrated author and business leader extraordinaire Mireille Guillon (French Woman Don't Get Fat) will be the keynote speaker May 5, 12:30, at the Marriott Champs Elysees. The champagne is compliments of Veuve Clicquot, where Guillon 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 Emily Slatki, Communications. A magnum of Veuve Clicquot will be raffled off, and books—autographed by the author—will be available to purchase.
IN MEMORY OF ADELAIDE D'EUDENVILLE

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.


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

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