



EX LIBRIS

THE ALP NEWSLETTER

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www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Library Hours

Tuesday—Saturday
10:00 AM—7:00 PM

The Library Will Be Closed

December 25th, 26th, 30th
January 1st



Donations & Support

The Staff, Members, and Board of Trustees are grateful to have the ongoing support of the Annenberg Foundation for popular adult programs like Evenings With An Author, dedicated Children's Library programs and funding for staff leadership.

Established in 1989 as the successor corporation to the Annenberg School at Radnor, Pennsylvania and founded by the distinguished publisher, broadcaster, diplomat and philanthropist Ambassador Walter H Annenberg, the foundation exists to advance the public well-being through improved communication.

Since 1994 Annenberg's educational mission has allowed for support of the ALP via uninterrupted grants for programs that amplify and extend the "visual image, written word and human voice."

Watch your mailbox for our 2007 Fundraising Campaign information.



HOLIDAY SEASON AT THE ALP

La gratitude est la mémoire du cœur/Gratitude is the heart's memory — French Proverb

Despite reports in recent French newspapers that "Halloween is Dead" in Paris, the Children's Library Halloween party was a ghoulishly good time and more successful than ever. Ghosts, goblins and this year's scariest costume winner, Felicity Pons the lion (who came in roaring), paraded for prizes. Helen and her volunteers welcomed guest author Maryann Macdonald who read from her new book, *The Costume Copycat*. Everyone was impressed with the authentic jack-o-lanterns artfully carved in the ALP's own kitchen and lending their perfume to the stacks all weekend. Special thanks to the marketing interns from ESLSCA.

In coordination with the French national release of Flammarion's illustrated work *Ghosthunter—A Journey Through Haunted France*, our adults shared in a photographic expedition through French châteaux, cemeteries, abandoned ruins and forests. For an exceptionally large audience, writer/photographer Sir Simon Marsden unveiled France's darkest secrets and most terrifying legends. An old-school dark room treatment of his personal photographs detailing France's most gothic and historic sites made for a slide-show to remember. (The book is now available at The Red Wheelbarrow).



Joanne Harris honored the Library with an evening discussion of her latest novel, *Gentleman and Players*, on October 13th. The author of *Chocolat* shared her insight on school politics and intrigued a full Friday night audience with her stories of unruly school boys and their teachers. A professor for many years, Harris generously exchanged campus experiences with students. She also divulged her serious love for chocolate with fans of the film (starring Johnny Depp) based on her famous book. The ALP bunch were complimented for their thought-provoking questions and were noted to have been the first group not to obsess on the non-literary, "What did you wear to the Oscars?" We are so proud! Thanks to The Village Voice Bookshop for supporting the book signing.

American Thanksgiving was November 23rd, and the ALP shared history, crafts and fun with members who attended the "Thankful for Thanksgiving" Children's programs on Nov 18th, 22nd and 23rd. Several local schools coordinated field trips to the ALP for Thanksgiving story time and crafts. Adults have been reserving cookbooks from our important cookbook collection, donated by the late creator of the Ritz Escoffier cooking school. Circulation Manager Sharon Gouhier made New Zealand pumpkin pie with Dutch spices!



The Diplomatic History Collection

On September 25th former U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean introduced the ALP's Diplomatic History Collection to a crowd of more than 120 people, including a dozen former and serving foreign ambassadors, with a speech covering his foreign service. Les Salons France-Amériques hosted the event in partnership with the ALP, coordinated by Reference Librarian Kim Lê Minh. Review the speech transcript at the Library.

Among other diplomatic posts, Dean served as Ambassador to Lebanon for three years. Under both U.S. Presidents Carter and Reagan, Dean emphasized that his prime directive was to "defend the territorial integrity and independence of Lebanon and to support the central government." He carried out these instructions, repeatedly putting his life on the line while operating there.

The Oral History Collection on CD-ROM is available for consultation at the Library, and includes over 1500 interviews from prominent U.S. Ambassadors, including John Gunther Dean. The interviews were conducted by the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training, an American non-profit group working with the State Department's Foreign Affairs Training Center.

This database can be researched by Ambassador name or country of service. It is an extremely valuable resource for members interested in American history and U.S. international relations including students in Diplomatic Studies and Political Science, scholars, and the diplomatic community.



EXHIBITS: NOVEMBER IS "MOIS DE LA PHOTO"

Californian Meredith Mullins on Paris



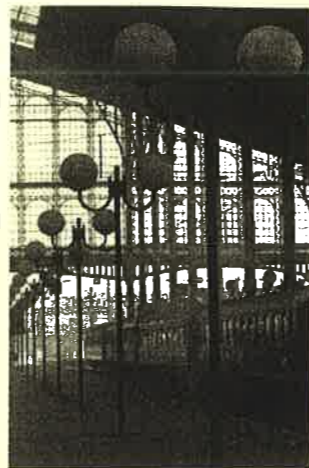
International artists in Paris: Farris, Meredith and Erol at the ALP with their photo portraits

American Photographer/Writer, and new neighbor in Paris, Meredith Mullins led an evening discussion covering her art and enthusiasm for our great city on November 8th. The event closed a month-long Library exhibit centered around photographs from her book *In a Paris Moment*.

Meredith's unique collection of black and white photographs and accompanying texts capture the heart of Paris. Through both images and words she succeeds in drawing us in for an intimate look at the beauty, humor, rhythms, and characters that are so much a part of Parisian life. Citizens' everyday visual advantages are rendered timeless.

Also in attendance were two of the book's Parisian personalities who were beyond pleased to receive Meredith's gifts—framed prints of themselves as viewed by the artist and her lens. Seen in the photo (above left), Farris, a local jazz musician can be spotted transporting his bass around town between international tours. On the right, Erol, can't be missed at the Marché aux Puces with his unique style, signature hats, and genuine warmth.

The book also includes a special Paris travel section and is a must have for those who love Paris or those who dream of visiting and love fine photographs, elegant design, travel, and adventure.



Photos by M. Mullins



Parisian Clotilde Noblet on the Brooklyn Bridge



Meet Clotilde @ the ALP

MOIS DE LA PHOTO OFF

In homage to New York City, Clotilde Noblet, a talented French photographer has chosen the Brooklyn Bridge as subject matter. With her mixed format photographs, Clotilde explores contrasting historical and personal scale, monumental and intimate perception, and captures everything using (among other tools) the almost obsolete Polaroid SX-70 camera.

Wednesday
Nov 14, 6:00 PM

Saturday
Nov 25, 3-7 PM

Evening of
American Culture
Wednesday
Nov 29, 7:30 PM

Saturday
Dec 9, 3-7 PM

ALP Librarian and exhibit coordinator Armelle Aymonin writes that Clotilde's polaroids, digital images and photomontages "tame the gigantic structure of the Brooklyn bridge, often creating ethereal silhouettes. The dark cables are defined as supreme geometry, the steel is transformed into soft textures of grey and blue."

Clotilde uses the techniques of both Polaroid and digital photography to develop a graphic language for describing condensed time frames, recording her visual emotions while on site with her subjects. The show's opening, held on November 14th, was part of the official "Mois de la Photo-Off" roaming photography tour in Paris and drew many new faces to the ALP.

The suspended bridge has also been photographed and painted by early American Modernist masters, in celebration of architecture, industry and its impact on American art.



Cables, digital photo by C. Noblet

For more information on the official fringe festival visit:
www.moisdela-photo-off.org/english

Mark Your Calendars!

See page 3 for details

DECEMBER

- 1st The Nutcracker in a Nutshell
- 2nd Janet McDonald—Project Girl
- 9th Clotilde On The Brooklyn Bridge
- 16th ALP ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

See Our Website for Full Details on Children's Programs

www.americanlibraryinparis.org

Teen Night with "Project Girl"

On Saturday December 2nd at the ALP Janet McDonald, now living in Paris, will discuss her work including the acclaimed memoir, *Project Girl*. The book, about growing up in a Brooklyn housing project, is now required reading in schools throughout the United States. Her young adult novels have now been translated into French. They have also won numerous New York Public Library prizes and American Library Association awards, including the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award. Not surprisingly, Hollywood has come knocking.

Helen Stathopoulos in the ALP Children's Library says, "we're absolutely, positively thrilled to welcome Janet McDonald to the library to discuss her novels, writing, and the writers' life. Her latest book, *Harlem Hustle*, is a smart teen novel about a hip-hop hopeful in New York City. Janet's award-winning books have gotten rave reviews, and the Library's teen section is proud to have the whole stash! This program allows our teens to learn more about Janet and her super books. It will be a very hip teen literary evening—complete with pizza!"



Janet McDonald
www.projectgirl.com
For Teens 12+
Saturday December 2nd
7:00-8:30 PM

The Nutcracker in A Nutshell

The Children's department is thrilled to welcome back Brooke Desnoës, director of the Académie Américaine de Danse à Paris, to present a children's dance workshop called "The Nutcracker in a Nutshell." Learn more about the history of this famous ballet, and enjoy a performance by the academy's talented young dancers. Friday December 1st, 5:30-7:00 PM.



Special Dance
Workshop for
Kids Ages 5+

ANNUAL ALP HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday December 16th, 3:00-4:30 PM



Members and families gather at the LIBRARY for holiday festivities featuring winter fun, snacks, songs, and crafts!
For children ages 5+ and their parents.

Meet the Board of Trustees



Fran Gendlin is a writer whose career has been in non-profit publishing and administration. A member of the Library for many years, she makes frequent use of ALP resources and enjoys participating in our many programs. As a Board member she hopes to help the Library to continue to thrive as the invaluable resource to our community that it has become.



Former Ambassador James G. Lowenstein entered government service in 1950 with the Economic Cooperation Administration, serving at the Marshall Plan European headquarters in Paris. He is co-founder of the French-American Foundation, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His articles have been published in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



Sally Warren is an independent banking consultant with 35 years of international experience, including senior positions with the European Bank for Reconstruction. Her undergraduate degree is from Swarthmore, and she has an MA from Stanford University. She has served on the Boards of the American University in Bulgaria and Swarthmore College.

THE STAFF IS READING!!

View Our Catalogue On-Line

Adele— *Eleanor Rigby* by Douglas Coupland
New Fiction F C8322

This is the story of Liz, a lonely, over-weight, middle aged woman, who meets her son whom she gave up for adoption many years earlier. This exploration in loneliness is poignant, but Coupland has added his wit and humor to make it a great read that ends in hope.

Andrea— *The Transit of Venus* by S. Hazzard
Fiction Stacks F H339

This book got a great review in Oprah Winfrey's magazine "O" that made me want to read it. It also won the USA National Book Critics' Award in 1980. Hazzard follows the lives of two sisters, Grace and Caroline, over a period of 30 years including their immigration from Australia to England in the 1950s. Through their love affairs, marriages, jobs, and child-rearing years a whole landscape of change and transit is transcribed.

Emmy— *My Life in France* by Julia Child with Alain Prud'homme
Biography B C436m

This is a biography that allows us to taste France along with the American diva of French cuisine. Her business sense, work ethic and marital ties to all that is culture in France reveal Julia herself. Also check out her amazing first cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*.

Helen— *Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin
Young Adults J LEG

As recommended reading, and re-reading, this trilogy is an intelligent, psychological work of science fiction from an award-winning author. In the first book, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, (1968) young Ged begins his eventful career in a school for wizards...sound familiar? What-to-read-next for fans of Harry Potter.

Kim— *The Time of Our Singing* by Richard Powers
Fiction F P874

Joseph Strom depicts half a century of Civil Rights struggles and race issues through the lives of his Jewish/African-American family. He shares a love of music with his brother Jonah, a professional singer, and his younger sister Ruth, a Black Panthers activist. This intricate narrative is highly detailed and documented and has an amazing 'soundtrack'.

Sharon— *Diplomatic Baggage: The Adventures of a Trailing Spouse* by Brigid Keenan
New Non-Fiction B 2501d 1

Want an inside look at what a diplomatic spouse's life is like? Not all cocktails and fun! This is a light-hearted look at the hidden side of the "diplomatic" fantasy.

www.americanlibraryinparis.org



EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR

DECEMBER — HAPPY HOLIDAYS

JANUARY

- 10th Mark Crick — *Kafka's Soup*
- 17th An Evening with Harriet Welty Rochefort
- 24th Michael Balter — *The Goddess and The Bull*
- 25th American Women's Group — *Bistro Chez Moi*
- 31st Jonathan Bloom — *Art of Revision in the Short Stories of V.S. Pritchett and William Trevor*

FEBRUARY

- 7th David Downie — *Paris, Paris*

Evening Programs for Adults are Free and Open to the Public

To receive program updates by email please "opt-in" by sending a message to:
communication@americanlibraryinparis.org

Please don't hesitate to send your ideas, requests and proposals for ALP programming and exhibits to the email address listed above.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM STYRON

1925 — 2006

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author, perhaps best known for his touching Holocaust victim novel *Sophie's Choice*, served as an honorary member of the ALP Foundation and raised funds for the American Library in Paris with a keynote address at the Annual Gala held at the US Ambassador's residence in 1996.



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 and are at an unbeatable price of less than two euros. Lots of free items!

December 2, 2006

January 6, 2007

February 3, 2007

First Saturday Book Sales begin at
10:00 AM

Please come early!



From the Staff

*Adele, Aileen, Andrea,
Armelle, Carol,
Emmy, Helen, Kim,
Sharon and Simon*

VOLUNTEERS AT THE LIBRARY

"Intern-National" Students

Every year the American Library in Paris welcomes a number of summer interns. This year international high school students worked for two week intervals on a variety of projects:

Rachel Lippoldt and Melanie Vasseline worked in the Children's Library.

Dylan Kotlian, Xavier Labouerie and Megan Leruth helped shift the periodical collection from the Research Center to the basement level.

In September Sébastien Blin, a French exchange librarian from Evry, continued work on the periodical shifting and updated various periodical listings.

Princeton University has sent interns to the ALP since 1998. The valued collaboration continued this summer with a six week student project researching the subjects for the 2006-2007 CAPES/Agrégation exams. The special collection of literary criticism, journal articles and books prepares French students for English language and American studies exams.

Lara Klainerman and Emily Farley completed this important project.

Tyson Carter, a library student from the University of Denver, worked with Helen on the Children's collection during the month of July.

Nyasha Nodoro, a Library student from South Africa, spent four weeks learning about Circulation and other aspects of work at the American Library

Maryna Slipchenko, a regular ALP volunteer from the Ukraine, has worked in Circulation throughout the year in order to fulfill the internship requirements for her DEUG en Langues Etrangères Appliquées.

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

Adele Witt 01.53.59.12.65