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 preserving 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

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.

Mullins’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, rhythm, and characters that are so much a part of Parisian life. Citizens’ everyday visual advantages are rendered Unnatural.

Also in attendance were two of the book’s Parisian personalities who were beyond pleased to receive Meredith’s gifts—framed points 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 bas around between international tours. The right, Eid, can’t be missed at the Marche 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.

Parisian Clotilde Noblet on the Brooklyn Bridge

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 Polaroide SX-70 cameras.

ALP librarian and exhibit coordinator Armelle Aymonn European potatologists, digital images and photomontages “frame the gigantic structure of the Brooklyn Bridge, often creating ethereal silhouettes. The dark cables are defined as symmetric geometry, the steel is transformed into soft textures of grey and blue.”

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

Sally Warren is an independent banking consultant with 35 years of international experience, including senior positions with the European Bank for Reconstruction. She has been published in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

ANNUAL ALP HOLIDAY PARTY Saturday December 16th, 3:00-4:30 PM

Meet the Board of Trustees

We are thrilled to welcome back Brooke Deenens, director of the Académie Américaine de Danse à Paris, to present 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.

Meet the Board of Trustees

Frances Golland in 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.

Frances Golland 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 American Federation, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His articles have been published in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

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

THE STAFF IS READING!

View Our Catalogue On-Line

Tales—Oliver Pritch by Douglas Coupland New West Illustrated, 2012

This is the story of Lita, a lonely, overweight, middle-aged woman who meets her soul mate when she travels to adopt for many years earlier. This exploration in timeless is poignant, but Coupland has asked his heart and humor to make it a great read at last ends in hope.

Solo—The Transit of Venus by S. Hazzard Fiction Stacks F 3393

This book got a great review in Orith Whithby’s magazine “O” that made me want to read it. It also won the USA National Book Critic Award in 1980. Hazzard follows the lives of two sisters, Grace and Caro, 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 transmitted.

Entry—My Life in France by Julia Child from Women’s House Biography B 4346m

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 recall Julia herself. Also check out her amazing first cookbook, Mastering the Art of French Cooking.

Bilbao—Earthly by Ursula K. LeGuin Young Adults JLE6

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) you see a young boy’s journey and his coming of age in a school for wizards...second family? What to read next for fans of Harry Potter.

Kia—The Time of Our Singing by Richard Powers

Hiton P 1874

Joseph Strom depicts half a century of Civil Rights struggles and how one man through the lives of his Jewish/African American family. He shares a love of music with his brother, Jesus, a professional singer, and his younger sister Ruth, a folk performer. This intimate narrative is highly detailed and documented and has an amazing "soundtrack".

Story—Diplomatic Baggage: The Adventures of a Travelling Spouse by Bridget Kenan

New Non Fiction B 2501

It was just an inside look at what a diplomatic spouse’s life is like? Not all cocktails and fun. They are a light-hearted touch on the hidden side of the “diplomatic” facade.

www.americanlibraryparis.org
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.

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 Klaiteman 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 Ndoro, 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 Étrangères Appliquées.

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

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, Alleen, Andrea, Amelle, Carol, Emmy, Helen, Kim, Sharon and Simon