FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

The last twelve months have been a time of evolution and growth at the American Library in Paris. After a careful and extensive search, in October 2002, the Board welcomed our new Director, Ms. Shirley Lambert, to the Library. With her arrival, the American Library has affirmed its role as a leading cultural institution in France. We have more than doubled the offerings of our "Evenings with an Author," extending them to include musical events, cultural evenings, and business themes.

We have also enhanced and increased our ever-popular children's activities with more programs, the revival of the popular Holiday party (thanks to our Friends group), and new books, many through a generous donation from the Woodward Foundation for books that help children and adolescents understand and cope with challenges they may face as they grow.

We have increased our community outreach activities, via L'Association à Travers la Ville, among other initiatives, and the American Library in Paris continues to be the key resource for students in CAPES and Agrégation programs in English language and American studies. Students and researchers from American and international institutions use our research facilities in ever-increasing numbers, as do the French and American business communities.

THANK YOU TO THESE DONORS FOR THEIR MAJOR GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY IN 2002

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EVENINGS WITH AN AUTHOR

Evenings with an Author take place one or two Wednesdays evening a month, except in July and August. They are free and open to the public, thanks to the generous support of the Annexen Foundation.

The San Francisco theatre troupe Word for Word performed The Gilded Stv Bits, by Zora Neale Hurston. The troupe performs well-known works of short fiction in their entirety, as written, word for word. The program was made possible by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation, with additional support from Air France, the European Benefits Group, and the Annexen Foundation.

Charles Langner Robertson, discussed what bellisf Americans and American institutions in Paris during the Nazi occupation, a topic on which he has done extensive research for a manuscript in progress.

Hans Gallas spoke at the opening of the exhibit “We Love You, Alice B. Toklas: A 125th Birthday Celebration”—books, letters, photographs, and other ephemera from his Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein collections. The exhibit was housed in the Library's special exhibits area, a gift of the Florence Gould Foundation.

Annie Cohen-Solal served as Cultural Counselor at the French embassy in the United States and produced the radio series "Painters for the New World" for FranceCulture. The French edition of her book Painting America was the Prix Bernier by the Académie de Beaux Arts. Her discussion focused on the rise of American artists on both sides of the Atlantic, a phenomenon fueled by fascinating personalities and supported by the rising strength of American industry.

Anne Conover read from her intimate portrait Olga Rudge and Eun Pound, which has been acclaimed by critics in the United States. Rudge, a talented concert violinist, had a tempestuous relationship with Pound that lasted until the end of his life, which Conover’s book explores in depth.

Fiction 17.3
Science-Fiction 3.2
Historical 7.6
Geography 4.4
Religion 7.6
Litterature 7.4
Audio Visual 5.6
Social Sciences 5.8
Children's & YA books 600
Total additions 5,197

Additions to the Collection, 2002

Children’s Books 4,207
Children’s & YA books 600
Audiovisual 390
Total additions 5,197

Children and Young Adults

In 2002, 2,500 children participated in the Children’s Programs at the Library.

Ongoing Programs

- Twice a Month Mother Goose Lap-sit for Toddlers
- Weekly Children’s Story Hour
- Saturdays are Special Programs for Older Children
- Class Visits to the Library

These ongoing programs had 2,077 participants.

Summer Reading Program

The fourth annual Sizzling Summer Reading Program, Jump into Reading, attracted 171 young readers between 3 and 12 years of age. Children received stickers for reading books, and a certificate and prize at the “End of Summer” Celebration.

Group Programs

The Library continued to sponsor ar, English language program for children from L’Association à travers la Ville, a group which helps children at risk. This year the children created and produced a cartoon in English and French.

The Library also provided programs and story times for children from surrounding French and bilingual schools and organizations, including La Provence, L’Ecole d’Aout Huil, the Lenzen Bilingual School, Eurecile, AAWGE, Message, and Bloom Where You’re Planted.

There were 282 participants in these group programs.

Special Programs

Guest curators Cheryl Bolden presented stories, poems, art, and objects about The African American Experience.

Children of all ages enjoyed two programs organized by Tony Daley, professional clown and entertainer: Circus Fun and Summer Games.

Story teller Christian Lecomte animated the Summer Reading Program and the Annual Holiday Party with his favorite tales. Children celebrated Poetry Month in April by writing and illustrating poems to create their own poetry book.

Author and artist Sarah Ripps inspired children to start a Nature Journal in her special program. Fantasy Fairy Tales

Resident author Janet MacDonald presented her book, Spellbound, a novel for young adults about life in the projects.

Tricks, treats, games and sweets accompanied the stories at the annual Halloween Celebration.

Thanksgiving Day: Children learned about Thanksgiving through stories, film and activities.

Children prepared for the holidays with three special programs in December: Holiday Tales, Holiday Origami, and a dramatic reading of How the Grinch Stole Christmas.

Guest Storytellers

Cheryl Bolden
The African American Experience
Toryn Davis
Circus Fun and Summer Games
Sarah Ripps
Start Your Own News Journal
Janet McDonald
author of Spellbound
Lynne Karan
volunteer at weekly Story Hours

Emily Donahue
volunteer at weekly Story Hours
Christian Lecomte
Sizzling Summer Reading Program
Annual Holiday Party
Sandi Gogel
Hanukkah Celebration

A Very Special Thanks to the Annexen Foundation for their Support of the Library’s Children’s Programs.

We also extend our warmest thanks to the following Friends of the Children’s Room.

Lora Fountain
Mrs. Edgar Kerestedian
Agence Littéraire Catherine Laporte
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