

# AU COURANT

—*Summer 2019*



FRENCH  
HERITAGE  
SOCIETY



*Notre-Dame de Paris*

Notre-Dame Cathedral Fire | Jean-Michel Wilmotte | 2019 Grants | Education  
Brittany Trip | National & Chapter Events

# LALIQUE



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## From Celebration to Sorrow



It is 1980. On the parvis of Notre-Dame Joan Baez is overcome with joy: she has just obtained from Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, the authorization to make a dream that is particularly close to her heart come true - to give a large concert, completely free, on the parvis of Notre-Dame!

This concert would take place on December 29th, between Christmas and New Year's Day, in front of a large crowd.

On April 15th, 2019, the evening of the tragic fire, Joan calls me: "Gabriel (her son) and I are in tears, we cannot stop crying ..."

So it was: the famous and the unknown, the rich and the poor, everyone, by the millions, across the entire planet, was shaken by the magnitude of this disaster.

French Heritage Society's New York Office, with the timely initiative of its Executive Director, Jennifer Herlein, launches at the very moment that Notre-Dame is still consumed by flames, the "Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund" which to date has raised more than \$2.4 million from nearly 3300 donors from 40 countries.

Checks large and small, often accompanied by poignant letters, attest to the tremendous emotion across the entire planet, and the outpouring of solidarity that ensued.

Beyond the emotion and generosity sparked by this global disaster, it was perhaps also for many a realization of the power and fragility of humanity's historical heritage. These "old stones", whose longevity seems almost eternal with respect to the life expectancy of human beings, nevertheless need our protection because they are an essential link between countless generations.

In fact, these churches, cathedrals, châteaux and manors, military structures, etc., which are the admirable work of generations of architects, craftsmen, and artists, financed by patrons, bear witness to the impressive know-how, level of culture, and shared beliefs, in short, the values of civilization without which humanity would remain very primitive.

As stated in the announcement of the creation of the Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund, this responsibility for preserving and sharing historic treasures is at the heart of French Heritage Society's Mission.

Thus, the tragedy of the martyred Notre-Dame Cathedral is at the same time a source of hope, because the preservationists' message will be perceived and understood well beyond the usual circles that we are familiar with.

It is up to us to seize this opportunity to convince and inspire new segments of the population about the importance and priority of preserving our common cultural heritage.

—Denis de Kergorlay

## Notre-Dame's Tragic Fire A Rallying Call to Action



“This tragedy in Paris has brought out the best in so many, reminding us of the bonds of friendship that have long united the United States and France. France holds a special place in the hearts and history of America. The beauty and strength of Notre-Dame will continue to inspire us for centuries to come.”

—Elizabeth Stribling, Chairman, French Heritage Society

Since its inception in 1982, French Heritage Society has been at the heart of efforts to protect the French architectural heritage on both sides of the Atlantic. A mere few hours after the devastating outbreak of the fire, FHS launched its dedicated “Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund” acting quickly as donations to aid this treasured symbol of human history began to pour in from across the globe. In keeping with FHS’s tradition of past emergency fundraising efforts, going as far back as the flooding of the Mississippi River in 1993, to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the Loire Valley flooding in 2016, 100% of the proceeds raised through this emergency fund are earmarked for the cathedral’s reconstruction efforts.

Three months later, we are proud to have received \$2.42 million in donations from nearly 3,300 donors from 40 countries, making this a truly global effort. In these pages you will find more information about our campaign, the current state of the Notre-Dame Cathedral restoration and what lies ahead. We are grateful to each and every person who has contributed to this collective outpouring of generosity and solidarity in the face of sudden tragedy. You will also find information on FHS’s ongoing conservation efforts across France and the U.S. through our 2019 grants, a reminder of the important work still to be done to preserve the impressive French architectural legacy for generations to come. Thank you for joining our efforts!

# Mille Mercis!

*A tribute to our Donors*



Over the past 37 years, preserving the rich architectural treasures of France and those of French inspiration in the U.S. has always been at the heart of French Heritage Society's mission. The tragic fire of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris reinforced this vital role. We are proud to have raised \$2.42 million for our Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund and are even prouder of the nearly 3,300 donors from 40 countries across the globe who have contributed to this effort. We are extremely grateful to the Lauder family and the Estée Lauder Companies for their very generous donation of \$2 million.

What motivates such generosity? Many give to honor a loved one. Some know France well, others have never stepped foot on its soil. Some are members of the FHS community, many more found us while searching for an outlet to express their need to be a part of saving this treasured cathedral. Others have given concerts and benefits to raise funds or shared our page on social media or platforms like CrowdRise. Donations range from \$5 to \$10,000 and are often accompanied by a note or card with a very personal message of support and solidarity. There are no more eloquent testimonials than those from the donors themselves.

We thank each and every one of them and hope to welcome them to Paris one day to discover the restored Notre-Dame Cathedral in all her timeless glory.

### In Their Own Words

"I know this isn't much, but this is all I can spare at the moment. Watching this magnificent structure burn touched the deepest part of my soul. I am not a religious individual and have never had the opportunity to see Notre-Dame (except for a city in Indiana) for myself. One day I plan to visit. I am so looking forward to this amazing architectural triumph being returned to her former glory! This amazing structure survived revolutions, the Napoleonic wars and two world wars. I am a proud American citizen. I will always stand shoulder to shoulder with the French people. I will stand just as my grandfather did in Sainte-Mère-Eglise as he temporarily buried our fallen soldiers. France has given so much to our world history. I could not let this opportunity pass without doing my part, however small! I can't wait to see beautiful France one day for myself!! Vive La France!" —Justin Spainhour

"I was so saddened when I saw Notre-Dame in flames. I have been there too many times to count. I remember my first field trip there in High School, feeling the enormity of its presence on the Île de la Cité in the center of Paris, and the weight of history. I remember sketching it during a trip to Paris while in college. I imagine how I would feel if the Pantheon in Rome went up in flames or worst, suffered a terrorist attack, or Brunelleschi's Duomo, or Machu Picchu, or the Parthenon...As an architect, these monuments are part of our architectural heritage and Notre-Dame is part of that too. Best wishes to a successful restoration." —Anonymous

"I wish I could give more! I have never been to Paris, or France, nor am I catholic, but I have cried every day since the fire thinking of how a treasure of the world has been damaged. I am thankful for the bravery of the firefighters. I know my donation isn't much but I want to do what I can and be a part of bringing this magnificent relic back to life. My heart stands with Paris day by day." —Anonymous

"Having first visited as a college student, I retain indelible memories of the majesty of the Gothic interior and the prophylactic presence of gargoyles on the roof with Paris radiating beyond, an inspiring and humbling architectural achievement for the ages. Notre-Dame must be restored for the awe of generations to come." —Robert Brown III, Moscow-New York

"I know it is not much. It is all I can afford. I am disabled, widowed and on a very low fixed income. But I still want to help. My father's maternal family were from France. I was even given a French first and middle name by my parents. So, I feel a special bond with France." —Rene Gothard

"I'm grateful I was able to visit and experience the beauty of the great city of Paris and Notre-Dame. It was ten years ago, yet I still hold the awe-inspiring memories as if it was yesterday. Seeing these images breaks my heart. I hope to return with my now young daughter in the future, and for her to be able experience Notre-Dame the same way I did." —Steve Boyles with love from San Francisco

"For many years I would go to Paris with my wife who was a high-ranking U.S. Treasury Department Official. Every noon I would go to the Cathedral to enjoy the free concert performed on the great organ. I was in tears!" —Anonymous

"I lived in Paris as a teenager and my heart still lives there at age 71. Notre-Dame de Paris meant a lot to me. I wish I could do more." —Fay Smith, Aberdeen, Washington

"Doesn't matter what religion you are. It was like watching an important part of us suffer." —Alan D. Taksar

"My wife and I are both lovers of history. My wife especially loves French history and Notre-Dame ever since she read "The Hunchback of Notre-Dame" as a child. I donate as a gift to her, that we may contribute to the fixing of this historic place." —Anonymous

"From Hungary, with love :) Save Notre-Dame!" —Csongor Kiss Pécs, Hungary

"Cheers from Riga! Let's do this together." —Anonymous

"Please accept my humble donation. The world must stand together to protect our collective culture and heritage. Thank you for all that you do." —Saranac, New York

## The Eyes of the World

*FHS Press Coverage during the Tragic Fire that Shocked the Globe*



It happened virtually in real time. Crowds began to gather as plumes of grey smoke billowed skyward. Then the incandescent fiery-orange flames were visible, and onlookers gasped as they jetted up the spire and spread along the roofline to ravage Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris in the early evening hours of Monday, April 15th, 2019. Almost as quickly, the eyes of the world turned anxiously toward Notre-Dame and stayed riveted there with near non-stop breathtaking coverage for the next 48 hours. The world followed the unfolding tragedy in disbelief and shock – transfixed by the blazing images of an iconic monument, one that truly belonged not just to Paris, but to the world. We cannot imagine a world without Paris, and we cannot imagine a Paris without Notre-Dame.

Poised for years as a vital link between France and America to protect the French architectural heritage on both sides of the Atlantic, French Heritage Society was quick to come to the aid of the wounded cathedral creating the very day of the tragedy its “Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund”. FHS is deeply grateful to all the press outlets who spent time learning about FHS’ urgent work in the field of historic preservation. In the aftermath of the Notre-Dame tragedy, Jennifer Herlein in the New York Office fielded requests for interviews with Europe 1 and other French-press outlets from the U.S. and, the next morning, Karen Archer in the Paris Office gave interviews to CNN International and the international English-language press that descended upon the city. This intense press interest helped position FHS as an indispensable go-to for Franco-American philanthropy to rescue Notre-Dame.



News Coverage  
From New York

**TV Shows**  
TV5 Monde (interview)  
CBC Toronto, Canada (interview)  
NBC Bay Area (interview)

**Radio**  
Europe 1 (interview)

**General Press (Print/Web)**  
Le Figaro (interview)  
Business Insider  
CBS Money Watch  
Fast Company  
France-Amérique  
French Morning  
Journal Sentinel (Milwaukee, WI)  
Le Petit Journal New York  
Tax Notes  
The Hill News  
The Northside Neighbor

Press Agencies  
Reuters  
PR Newswire

From Paris

**TV Shows**  
CNN Asia, CNN International, CNN US, CNN Talk with Max Foster (interviews)  
BBC World New Today (interview)

A1 Jazeera Inside Story (panel)  
Sky News UK (interview)  
France 2 – Télématin  
France 2 France TV Info – France 2  
LCI – TF1  
France 24

**Radio**  
BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Sussex, BBC (interviews)  
The Mike Hosking Breakfast  
Newstalk ZB – New Zealand (interview)  
Europe 1

**General Press (Print/Web)**  
Eastday.com – Shanghai, China (interview)  
Admical  
BFM TV  
Bordeaux Tendances  
Boursorama  
La Croix  
Challenges  
La Dépêche  
Les Echos  
L'Express  
France 24  
France Info  
France Inter  
France Soir  
Libération  
Le Monde – M Magazine  
L'Obs  
Le Parisien  
L'Union (Reims)  
Point de Vue  
Valeurs actuelles  
20 Minutes  
24 heures (Switzerland)

## A Diplomat for Notre-Dame

*Stanislas de Laboulaye Brings us Up to Date on the Restoration*



*Stanislas de Laboulaye, Ambassador in charge of international contributions for Notre-Dame de Paris, also serves as the link with international organizations. Former Ambassador to Madagascar, Russia, and the Vatican, his diplomatic skills and international connections make him the perfect choice for this important mission. He spoke at the end of May with Karen Archer, FHS' Deputy Director for Communications & Strategic Development, in Paris.*

### **What is the current status of the Notre-Dame Cathedral restoration?**

For the time being we are still in a state of emergency devoted to saving and shoring-up the cathedral as it could still very well collapse. Philippe Villeneuve, Chief Architect for Historic Monuments in charge of Notre-Dame Cathedral, pointed that out to me the other day. Now that there is less of a counterweight from the roof, the flying buttresses are pushing inward and will have to be shored-up in the immediate future.

There are also three major holes in the vault that allow the wind to come in which presents another structural problem. I visited the cathedral last week and could see that it was still raining inside, not a lot, but there was still some water coming in. Before rebuilding can start, the structure must be shored-up, which is going on right now. They must find a solution to cover the exposed vault and evaluate the condition of the stones that suffered from intense heat - up to 800° Celsius. When the limestone is subjected to water and such intense heat, it becomes lime. I saw a few of these stones and some are just like chalk. Others have resisted better than expected and can be reused. The rubble from charred timber and fallen stones must

be cleared. Workers cannot be sent inside to do this as it is still too dangerous. Four robots are removing the rubble from inside and putting it under two tents erected in front of the cathedral. Each stone is numbered. The forensic police are actively working to determine the cause of the fire. Architects and historians are also examining the timber, but this is all going to take some time.

Then the massive scaffolding on the roof where the fire broke out must be dismantled. It took almost a year to erect the scaffolding for the restoration of the spire. When flames engulfed it, its components melded together. This is going to be very difficult and incredibly dangerous to dismantle. Then we will have to consider what must be done just to preserve the vaults, for example. All of this must be done before we will have any idea about the restoration costs. Our first estimates could be provided by spring 2020.

The windows are another concern. All of the 19th-century stained-glass windows have been removed but the 13th century ones have not been touched, including the rosette windows. They are so fragile as they were exposed to extreme heat and we do not know how they have been affected. A few companies now have some remarkable craftsmen working inside the cathedral. Their predecessors have been working since medieval times on this very cathedral, so they are right at home. The atmosphere is absolutely incredible.

### **How will the restoration be handled administratively?**

President Macron decided immediately after this catastrophe that it would be dealt with in a very specific way. He had representatives from the Ministry of Culture draft a bill to clarify a certain number of points on the administrative side. In order to restore and rebuild



the cathedral, the main idea is to have a specific agency, which we call the *établissement public*, do the job. The bill is now going through Parliament and being discussed between the Assembly and the Senate. General Jean-Louis Georgelin, former Chief of Staff, has been appointed as the President's special representative for the restoration of Notre-Dame Cathedral, so he should head the agency. As a military officer he will be able move things forward.

#### What are the preliminary cost estimates?

There are no preliminary cost estimates for the time being. Some people say one billion euros, but we don't really know yet. It all depends on the final evaluation and the extent of the damage sustained.

#### How much has been raised to date, funds in hand versus pledges?

The actual funds in hand are rather low for the time being. The French Minister of Culture, Franck Riester, recently announced that 850 million euros have been pledged from around the world, of which 80 million have been received. Most of these funds come from major French donors, but there have also been important pledges on the American side.

#### What assurance can French and international donors have as to how the funds will be used?

The law will provide the framework concerning the four specific entities (Le Centre des Monuments Nationaux, La Fondation de France, La Fondation Notre-Dame, La Fondation du Patrimoine) where all funds collected must be sent. There will be accountability so that donors know exactly where their money is going. The Ministry of Culture (or the Ministry and the agency) will sign agreements with the major donors and foundations. The law stipulates that funds given to these four entities will be used exclusively for Notre-Dame.

**To date French Heritage Society has raised over \$2.4 million from nearly 3,300 donors in 40 countries, although the overwhelming majority is from the U.S. We would like to be able to identify an element of the restoration for which these funds will be used. How would this work?**

This will be part of the agreements that will be drawn up and signed with the donors/donor organizations such as French Heritage Society to indicate exactly how the funds will be used and the timing for that aspect of the project.

#### Are funds still being raised for Notre-Dame and how long will the campaign continue? What is the fundraising goal?

Funds are still being raised. We have certainly raised a significant amount, but it might not be enough. If we discover after the first estimates that we do not have enough funds, then we will launch a more targeted campaign. For the moment, the generosity of the world has been such, especially on the American side, that it has been largely a question of thanking the donors – which is amazing.

#### What is the communications strategy for keeping the donors and the general public informed? Michel Picaud, President of Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris, was recently in the U.S. giving talks on the fire and the current state of restoration. Will this continue?

That will also be the agency's responsibility. This is something that the Americans do very well with their donors. We will follow their good example. We owe that to the donors. They have to be informed, they have to be associated with what we are planning, to know how the work is progressing, to have regular meetings with the people in charge. I know that the Ministry of Culture is also well aware of this.

Hopefully, communications will be done on an on-going basis. I see my position as not only to thank donors throughout the world but also to help organize our donor management. The outpouring of grief and expression of solidarity were international. Representatives from our Embassy in China told us that people in the street would stop them to tell them how sad they were. In Russia, President Putin immediately offered to send restoration experts to help. It is not only money; a lot of countries have volunteered to offer their expertise and resources like wood and copper from Chile and Canada. When we have a better idea of what our needs are, we will get back to these countries, and a lot of private companies in Eastern and Western Europe as well that have proposed their services.



#### What percentage of the international funds raised have come from American donors?

I don't know exactly but the majority of international donations have come from the U.S. I met with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, while I was in the U.S. and he gave me a list of their donors so far and it is quite impressive. It will take some time to sort out pledges and actual funds in hand. So it is quite difficult to have actual figures. The major donors in France, which are still pledges until the agreements are put in place, include: the Arnaud family and LVMH (200 million euros), the Bettencourt Schueller family and L'Oréal (200 million euros), the Pinault family (100 million euros), Total SA (100 million euros), the City of Paris (50 million euros), the Decaux family and JP Decaux (20 million euros), the Bouygues family (10 million euros), etc.

#### Are there plans to partially re-open Note-Dame to the public while the restoration is on-going?

The first mass since the fire was celebrated in a back chapel of the cathedral by the Archbishop of Paris, Mgr Aupetit, on June 15th. Religious activities must be preserved: the former hospital next door to the cathedral might be used to greet visitors and worshippers who continue to come. Later there may be partial access to the cathedral once the site is safe and secure. Using the banks of the Seine for open-air exhibitions about the restoration is also a possibility. Between 12 to 14 million visitors and worshippers come to Notre-Dame each year so we have to make an effort to continue to welcome them.

#### What role will traditional craftsmen play in the restoration of Notre-Dame? Are there plans to showcase their work?

I met with *les compagnons*, the master skilled craftsmen much like the Medieval guilds, who are already working on site. These craftsmen will be highlighted, and funds will be allocated to train and recruit new craftsmen to work on the cathedral site. Visitors will be able to see them working later when it is safe. We have already received offers to collaborate from around the world.

#### What about integrating new materials and techniques into the restoration process? Is there a scientific committee or a panel of architects of historic monuments to deal with technical issues and make these decisions?

Many of these questions will require further study. There is a huge interest in this aspect from Columbia University in New York due to the work of the late professor Andrew Tallon who also lectured at Vassar. He pioneered the use of laser technology and advanced imaging techniques and built a detailed digital model of Notre-Dame. This incredible laser study is very helpful and can be used by the teams now in place who are familiar with Tallon's work.

#### Is the timeline laid out by President Macron to restore Notre-Dame in five years feasible?

A timeframe of five years is possible. That does not mean that there will not be some restoration work afterward, but the major work could essentially be completed in five years.

#### What do you see as the long-term impact of this international outpouring in terms of support for the French architectural heritage?

This has been an incredible experience. If we handle this correctly, which means understanding the emotion that was felt throughout the world, this could be a tremendous opportunity. Notre-Dame has a special significance, and by maintaining a link with those who support it, I believe this can be a fantastic boost for France, for our cultural heritage in general. The interest and generosity already shown by the Americans through French Heritage Society, for example, can spread to other monuments throughout the country. People across the globe were surprisingly moved by the sight of Notre-Dame ablaze. They have all in some way been marked by Notre-Dame Cathedral and the timeless spirit of France that it represents. It is up to us to continue to engage their interest and support.





## Jean-Michel Wilmotte

### *Architect Without Borders*

*Jean-Michel Wilmotte, architect, urban planner, and designer created his own architecture agency in Paris in 1975 and its fame continues to grow with prestigious projects throughout France and across the globe. Recognized for the range and scale of his work, he is one of the most acclaimed architects today. Jean-Michel Wilmotte was recently the distinguished Guest of Honor at FHS' Annual Dîner des Mécènes / Paris Gala. He took time to speak about his work with Karen Archer, FHS' Deputy Director for Communications & Strategic Development, at his office in Paris.*



**You founded in 1975 your architecture agency which is nowadays one of the world's 100 largest architectural firms. With currently 100 projects in 28 different countries and a major presence in the luxury, hospitality, culture and industry sectors, the quality, variety and eclecticism of your work is widely acclaimed. How would you define yourself?**

Explorer, creator, but also manager. I initiate the creative process, I make the first sketch by hand, then, according to the affinities of my collaborators, their strengths and their availability, I form a team with which I will develop the project, while ensuring that the agency's signature style is respected. Our rather minimalist style aims

for timelessness and revolves around elements to which I am very sensitive, such as details, matter, and of course light.

**The Wilmotte & Associés agency is present in the public and private sectors, in the luxury sector, hotels, residential and tertiary sectors. Do you have a preferred sector?**

Art plays a vital role in my life and greatly influences my work, which is why I particularly appreciate the projects in which it is present. I also like very much to be involved with heritage, to safeguard it but specially to revitalize it by creating a dialogue with contemporary architecture. Offering a new life to buildings by adapting them to



new uses is also the subject of the Prix W award that our foundation organizes every two years. That being said, the most important thing, for me, is above all diversity. Diversity of countries, cultures and programs. It is what sustains me, inspires me, stimulates my creativity and pushes me to reinvent myself.

**Could you tell us about some of your most significant projects?**

A project is made of a multitude of parameters: a plan, a context and, above all, women and men. The Museum of Islamic Art in Doha is a great example. An extraordinary project, an exceptional context, and a collaboration with I.M. Pei, 19 years after the Louvre, that greatly impressed me. In addition to being one of the greatest architects of his time, Pei was an extraordinary man ... and a friend. There is also the Department of Primitive Arts at the Louvre Museum—whose museography has not aged, 20 years after its inauguration! Or the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Russian Orthodox Cultural and Spiritual Center in Paris, a religious and cultural project built on a UNESCO World Heritage site, as well as the Hôtel Lutetia, an emblematic site well on the way to becoming the first palace on the Left Bank. It is impossible to mention them all!

**The Wilmotte & Industries design studio is an integral part of your approach to your work. How important is design to your projects?**

For almost 40 years now we have been moving from the door handle to the city. Mostly because architecture and design meet the same needs, especially in terms of use, which allows experiencing and

validating the quality of the conception of a building or an object. That especially explains why their processes look very similar from the initial idea and its development to its physical implementation.

Both are indeed about making choices while considering the user, the materials and the available technology in order to come up with the most qualitative and timeless result, while focusing on sustainability. From buildings to objects, design thus plays a major role in the development of our built environment. This conviction guides us. And we share it with plenty of international creators and manufacturers, whose know-how and great design sensitivity help us to provide optimum and highly personalized solutions.

**Your agency employs 270 people from 25 different countries. How does this diversity come through in your work?**

This diversity is one of the strengths of our agency. This creates a tremendous emulation within teams and greatly enriches our projects in France as well as abroad.

**Your projects are resolutely turned towards the future, towards creativity and sharing. Is this the same spirit that drives the Wilmotte Foundation?**

It is indeed this spirit of sharing, stemming from our know-how, our commitments and our values, which is at the heart of the activities of our foundation. It is also what motivates the Prix W award, which I previously mentioned. This is a European competition that aims to educate young architects about the conversion of old buildings, following the concept of a contemporary graft, a subject that

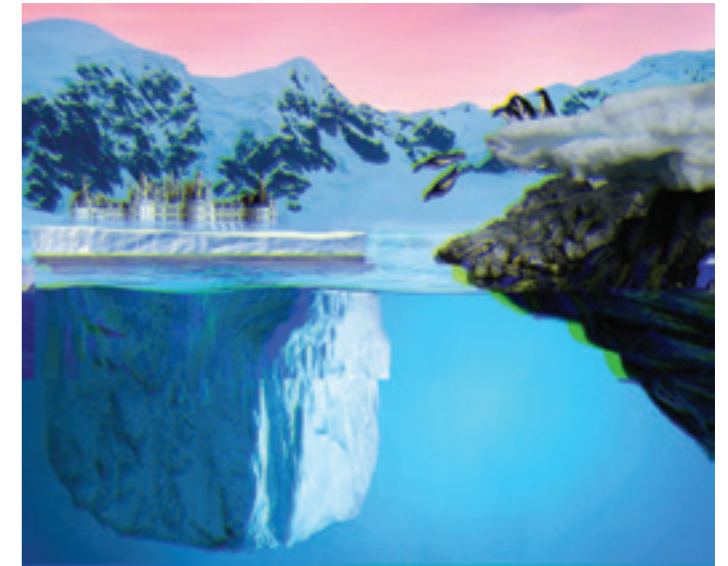
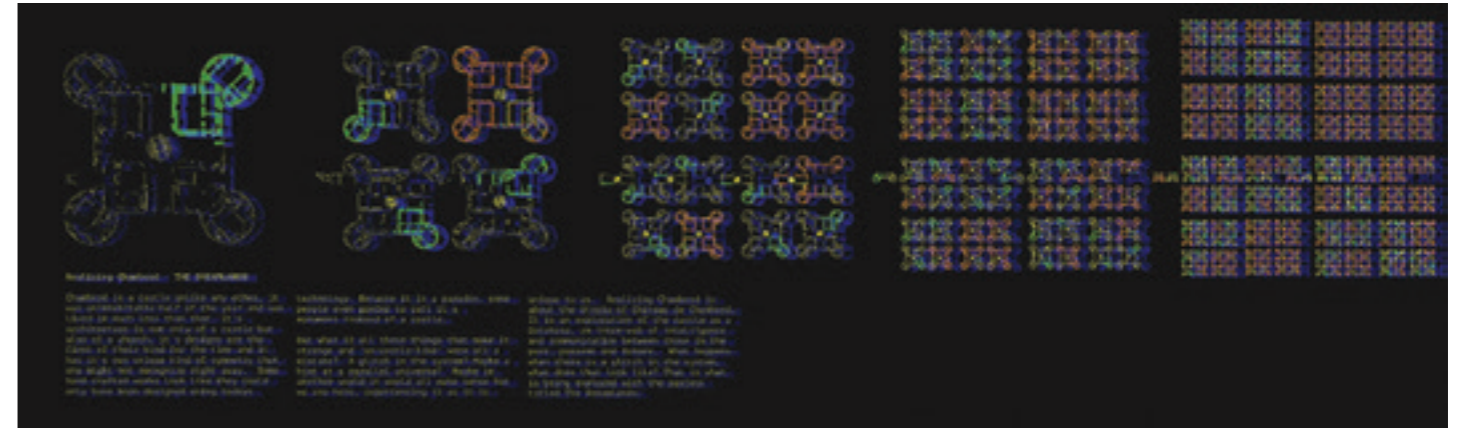


has fascinated me for over 30 years. Our aim is to enable students or recent graduates to delve deeper into a topic they do not often have the opportunity to address at school, and it allows the prize winners to be published and exhibited at our foundation's gallery in Venice, at the same time as the Biennale. Several of them have also joined our agency.

**Finally, there will be an international competition to create a new spire for the cathedral of Notre-Dame after the recent fire. You recommend taking full advantage of the materials and techniques of today, which are lighter, stronger and quicker to implement in order to see this French and world heritage treasure come back to life. Can you tell us about your vision for Notre-Dame?**

I was often asked to comment on this subject which, as you know, unleashes great passions. I prefer not to add too much to that! But it seems important to me to place this rehabilitation in line with its time and, therefore, to use the techniques and materials of today, while keeping the same aspect and the same volume. This is exactly what the Venice Charter recommends. Heritage also has the right to take advantage of technological improvements and to benefit from new tools. Would it be acceptable today to be treated with 18th-century medicine?!

# Chambord's 500th Anniversary and FHS Students' Architecture Residencies



As Chambord, the preeminent Renaissance château in the world celebrates its 500th Anniversary this year, this most mysterious of royal palaces remains an enigmatic monument to be reinterpreted in the 21st century. Five centuries after the commencement of its building, Chambord, as it was conceived by its founder, François I and the inspiring architect, Leonardo da Vinci, still remains subject to various interpretations.

French Heritage Society's Student Exchange Program organized and provided stipends for three Architecture Residencies at the Château de Chambord to work on the concept of Utopia leading up to the exhibitions this year for its 500th Anniversary. Skye Taylor and Melis Simsek spend three months in residency at Chambord in the fall of 2018. They were part of a trio of architecture students from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (along with Jade Boudreaux in 2017) who elaborated projects for a contest to prepare the current exhibitions "From Utopia to Action: The Nine Projects in the Field" and "Utopia at Work", part of the most ambitious exhibition ever presented at the château. Melis' work focused on an analysis of the theme of Utopia/Distopia and featured some of Skye's drawings of Chambord. Jade approached the theme of Utopia from several angles aided by her futuristic drawings.

To provide a window into their work, we are pleased to share, in her own words, Skye Taylor's concepts and drawings on the theme at hand.

"For the past two years, French Heritage Society selected students from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago to work as resident architects at the Château de Chambord, and I was lucky enough to have been selected as one. I am especially grateful as this was the last year for the architecture residency since it was all in preparation for the 500th Anniversary of the château in 2019. I would like to start by thanking French Heritage Society for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity. I would also like to thank the people who I have never met whose generous donations made it all possible, and all those at the Château de Chambord who helped me on a regular basis. The work I have done is something I am very proud of and excited to share. I can only hope that my time there has impacted others as much as it has impacted me and my career."

"The project I spent three months working on is based on the fact that the château is technically incomplete. What would it be if 'completed' by following the concept of the château as a utopia? The title of my project is 'Realizing Chambord // The Dreamlands'. Chambord is a château unlike any other, uninhabitable for half of the year and lived in much less than that. Its architecture is not only that of a château but also of a church, its designs are the first of their kind and it has its own unique kind of symmetry. Some hand-crafted works look like they could have only been designed using today's technology and the names of these workers have all been lost over the years."

"'Realizing Chambord' is about the Utopia of the Château de Chambord. It is the exploration of the château as a database, an inter-web of intelligence and communication between those in the past, present and future. 'The Dreamlands' explores what happens when there is a glitch in the system, and what that looks like. This project is in three parts, the first is an exploration of the pinwheel symmetry and its unique church-like layout and how this glitch has effected its true pattern."

"The second exploration is of some possible parallel universes; other versions of what we thought was real, in addition to what we think is real."

"The third and final exploration is what the real château looks like, in completed form. If we are only seeing the château one way, then what does the true château look like? Where is it located? Is it one that only consists of characteristics that we saw as glitches? Or is it void of these glitches completely?"

The exhibitions "From Utopia to Action: The Nine Projects in the Field" and "Utopia at Work" are on display at the Château de Chambord until September 1st as part of its 500th Anniversary celebrations. A major exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci will take place at the Louvre Museum in Paris from October 24th, 2019 to February 24th, 2020

## 2019 Student Program in France and the U.S.

15 Americans Students interning in France

### Chicago Botanic Garden

Ramon VIVAS  
Château d'Acquigny  
Château de Vauville

### Cornell University

Cassidy JENKINS  
Parc de Bagatelle, Paris

Kiki SHINSATO

Potager du Roi, Versailles

### Georgetown University

Hannah MERMIN  
Abbaye de Longues, Normandy

### Middlebury

Manon GILMORE  
Château de Gizeux, Loire Valley

### New York University

Amanda DUNN  
Château de Montréal, Dordogne

Anne-Louise HOLLMULLER

Musée Carnavalet, Paris

Victoria SANDERS

Château d'Acquigny, Normandy

Katherine WEISS

Château de By – Rosa Bonheur,  
Seine et Marne

### Parsons New School of Design

Pamela ZAMEZA  
Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Olivia GROCHMAL

Musée de Picasso, Paris

### University of Chicago

Benjamin RANSOM  
Château de Fontainebleau,  
Seine et Marne

### University of Georgia

Kendall BUSHAR  
Potager du Roi, Versailles

### Yale University

Kathryn MIYAWAKI  
Musée Sandelin, Saint Omer

Alexandra MORRISON

Château de Vaux-le-Vicomte,  
Seine et Marne

18 French Students interning in the US

### Ecole du Louvre

Julie BERNASCONI  
Marie BORD  
Lyndhurst Estate,  
Tarrytown, NY

Lucile CORDONNIER

Barnes Foundation,  
Philadelphia, PA

Sirine DUTOT

Historic New Orleans Collection,  
LA

Olivia LAIR

French Sculpture Census  
Clark Art Institute, MA

Lucie LEVOY

Historic New England,  
Boston, MA

Paula LLOMBART

WWII Museum,  
New Orleans, LA

Léo PANICO-DJOUED

Louisiana State Museum  
New Orleans, LA

Elise POIREY

Laura Plantation  
Vacherie, LA

Anita SPADONI

Fashion Institute of Technology,  
NYC

Sixtine TARDY-JOUBERT

Preservation Society of Newport  
County, RI

### Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Paysage

Maïka ACADINE  
Magnolia Garden,  
Charleston, SC

Isabelle BORLOZ

Saint Anthony's Garden,  
New Orleans, LA

Juliette GRONDIN

Magnolia Garden,  
Charleston, SC

Alexis PERROCHEAU

Chicago Botanic Garden  
Chicago, IL

Marie RUFFIER-MONET

Longwood Gardens, PA

### Institut National du Patrimoine

Lisa-Clémentine GUILLOU  
Boston Fine Arts Museum,  
Boston, MA

Romain PEREZ

Art Institute of Chicago,  
Chicago, IL



FHS student interns and alumni next to Notre-Dame Cathedral

## Révélations

*The International Fine Craft and Creation Biennial in Paris*



Révélations casts a new gaze on creation. FHS once again had a partnership with the biennial that places the creator at the heart of the world of fine craft and contemporary creation.

Initiated by Ateliers d'Art de France in 2013, Révélations welcomed 38,000 visitors to the Grand Palais: the general public, amateurs and collectors, architects, decorators, gallery owners, purchasing offices, artistic directors and luxury goods houses.

The 4th edition of the biennial took place from May 23rd to 26th, 2019, with 33 countries represented by creators from across the

globe along with the World Crafts Council Europe and the international Banquet exhibition which showcased 11 countries.

The rich program included 25 conferences by experts from the sector, 10 films screenings, 22 educational workshops, 3 exhibitions, a fine craft symposium to highlight crafts professions, and an off-site program at 15 emblematic sites.

Join us in 2021 for the 5th Biennial in Paris!

## 2019 Grants

### *FHS Answers the Call to Support Notre-Dame Cathedral and Other Important Projects*

Support for restoration projects in France and the U.S. has always been at the heart of French Heritage Society’s mission, and never more so than after the tragic fire of the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. To date nearly \$2.42 million has been raised for the Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund for which nearly 3,300 donations from 40 countries have been received, including a very generous donation of \$2 million from the Lauder family and the Estée Lauder Companies. We thank all of our donors for answering our call to help save this treasure that truly belongs to all of humanity.

With this and other grant projects selected for 2019, over the past 37 years FHS has awarded nearly 600 restoration grants. This year, thanks to additional support from foundations and private donors, and, of course, support from its 12 Chapters, FHS continues to play a vital role in historic preservation on both sides of the Atlantic at a time when it is needed more than ever.

14 Restoration Grants have been awarded so far in 2019 for a total of nearly \$2,665,000—an impressive FHS milestone for a single year!



#### **Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris (Paris)**

\$2,421,246—Private donors, the Lauder family and the Estée Lauder Companies

*Restoration project: to be determined*

In keeping with its tradition of responding to emergencies, FHS created its Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund the very day of the tragic fire. In the 13th century, the cathedral towered over Paris and was the tallest structure in all of Christendom. It has inspired awe, reverence, devotion and called forth the highest achievements of the human spirit throughout the centuries. We are committed to its restoration and survival.

#### **Hôtel de la Monnaie (Paris)**

\$55,000—Washington, D.C. Regional Chapter and FHS

*Restoration project: The 18th-century façade facing the Seine River and the carriage entrance*

The Monnaie de Paris is in an historic building in the heart of Paris. Established in 864, the Paris Mint is the longest-standing French institution. It mints the euro coins in circulation in France, as well as coins for other foreign currencies. Now open to the public, it serves as a major cultural venue to host exhibitions dedicated to important figures in contemporary art.



#### **Château de Septème (Isère)**

\$24,000—Boston, New York and Paris Chapters

*Restoration project: The northern façade’s masonry and lintels*

A former 14th-century fortified château, rebuilt in the 15th and 16th centuries, it has welcomed illustrious guests such as King Charles IX and his court during the first of the Wars of Religion. It later belonged to Lafayette’s wife, Adrienne de Noailles.



#### **Château du Passage (Isère)**

\$20,000—Paris Chapter in Memory of Lilibeth Dewavrin

*Restoration project: The west façade with characteristic painted decorations, treatment of 300-year-old stone door and window frames*

This superb historic 17th and 18th-century château houses under its imposing dauphinois roof a large hall, salons and decorations that evoke splendors of the Ancien Régime and the Empire. A summer music festival of operettas is organized along with other activities.



#### **Château de la Montagne (Nièvre)**

\$20,000—Northern California and Paris Chapters

*Restoration project: The pottery manufacturing site on the estate, an industrial heritage complex from 1844 that produced major pieces of St. Honoré faïence coveted by collectors*

This 18th-century château with a 19th-century park by Choulot features a pottery manufacturing site. It was a well-known destination as a thermal spa in the 19th century. Members of French high society stayed there, including Empress Eugénie, the Queens of Spain and Portugal, Chateaubriand, and Nicolas de Staël.



#### **Château de la Verrerie (Cher)**

\$20,000—Boston and Paris Chapters

*Restoration project: The roof of the entrance pavilion, known as “The Chatelet”*

In 1422 the Dauphin of France, future Charles VII, gave Jean Stuart the lands of Verrerie, rewarding him for his crucial support in the Hundred Years War. Descendants of the Scottish Royal family embellished the château from 1480 to 1525. Louis XIV offered the estate to Louise de Kéroualle, French spy and mistress of King Charles. In 1842, the Vogüé family acquired the château and had it enlarged. The estate, with its 40-hectare park, inspired Alain Fournier, author of *Le Grand Meaulnes*.



**Fort de la Conchée (Ille et Vilaine)**

\$15,000—New York Chapter

*Restoration project: The southern quay-stairway to facilitate safer access and prevent further erosion*

The island-fortress is one of the most technically challenging of the celebrated military engineer Vauban's fortresses. Dug into solid rock, this natural fortification is strategically located to protect the entrance to the maritime port of Saint-Malo. Completed in 1710, it has resisted invasions and most of the ravages of time. In 1988 a group of passionate enthusiasts created a non-profit association to purchase and restore the abandoned and decaying historic island-fortress.

**Château de Laxion (Dordogne)**

\$10,000—Atlanta Chapter

*Restoration project: The roof of gatehouse, the main entry to the fortified chateau*

This Périgourdine-style Renaissance chateau is a well-preserved regional gem. Its architecture served to protect against invaders with a square façade with battlements, four round towers and a drawbridge leading to a central gatehouse (châtelet). Its ostentation with large Renaissance windows and an arched gallery facing the sun was a mark of distinction for the newly ennobled civil servant-class.



**Château de Jumilhac (Dordogne)**

\$10,000—Atlanta Chapter

*Restoration project: The turrets and roof, one of the most magnificent in the region*  
Known as the "black pearl" of upper Périgord, the chateau has remained in the same family since the 17th century. It was coveted by Richard the Lionheart during the first Anglo-French conflict. King Phillip Augustus destroyed the chateau in the 13th century. During the Hundred Years War, Duc du Guesclin besieged the fortress and defeated the English troops of the Black Prince. Later transformed into a Renaissance residence, a member of the Jumilhac family became the military governor of New Orleans in 1762. In the 19th century an American heiress from Louisiana married into the family and her son will also marry an American.

**Château d'Arnajon Gardens (Bouches-du-Rhône)**

\$5,000—Atlanta Chapter

*Restoration project: Winter garden house or folly*

This 17th-century estate is a remarkable example of the Provençal bastide gardens. Water is an important element connecting fountains and filling two large reflecting pools. The 17th-century terraced gardens, grotto, and 19th-century follies display remarkable beauty. The nymphæa grotto is one of the rare remaining Baroque examples in Provence.



**Parc Floral d'Apremont (Cher)**

\$5,000—Atlanta Chapter

*Restoration project: Roofing repairs, painting, and gilding of the highly visible red pagoda bridge*

Dating from the Middle Ages and known as the most beautiful village in France, the Apremont estate has belonged to the same family since 1722. Today the village also belongs to the family. In 1985, the temporary bridge across Apremont's great lake needed to be replaced and the well-known painter of interiors Alexandre Serebriakoff designed the Chinese Pagoda bridge for which the Park of Apremont is now famous.



**Abbaye de Longues (Calavados)**

\$4,200—Private donors

*Restoration project: On-going work on the abbey*

This striking former Benedictine Abbey dates from the 12th century and features a complex of buildings, gardens, and a beautiful collection of 13th-century glazed tiles among the finest in Normandy. Sold during the Revolution, the remaining buildings were saved from ruin by U.S. Senator Charles Dewey who bought the estate in 1932. Spared from destruction in 1944, the abbey is now being restored by its current owners.



**Seignouret-Brulatour House (New Orleans)**

\$47,500—Private donor

*Restoration project: The Pradel Gallery exhibition space*

Built in 1816 by Francois Seignouret, a wine importer who made his fortune selling wine from his family's Château Dillon in Bordeaux, the Seignouret-Brulatour House is a vital aspect of The Historic New Orleans Collection's efforts to preserve and protect the French Quarter. It is restoring and expanding this historic property to create a 38,000 sq. feet exhibition center in the heart of this historic quarter for the promotion, preservation, and study of the rich and diverse culture of New Orleans and the Louisiana region.



**Beauregard-Keyes House (New Orleans)**

\$10,000—FHS Chapters

*Restoration project: The Chartres Street façade of the house*

Built in 1826, the house is an outstanding example of the raised cottage style, incorporating both Creole and American features in its design. The well-detailed residence, occupied for several decades by French families, remains in its largely original condition with an elaborate entrance in the Classical style, marble mantels, and decorative plasterwork.

## Chairman's Circle Trip to Brittany

*A Land of History and Legend, October 14th – 19th, 2019*



In Brittany, the past lives on in the present. The dramatic jagged coastline evokes a time when corsairs sailed, and the medieval villages preserve the history of a fiercely independent culture. Our Chairman's Circle Trips offer unprecedented access to châteaux and monuments in the company of their caretakers, expert guides, and dignitaries who are delighted to open their doors to our travelers. Expect warm receptions, fascinating tours, and unforgettable dining experiences - all in exceptional company and elegant splendor.

French Heritage Society and its Chairman Circle members will begin the trip by being given the special award of "Mécènes de Bretagne" by the Regional Council of Brittany for our support of 14 landmarks in the region. We will explore the privateer haven of Saint-Malo, ascend the sacred heights of Mont Saint-Michel, visit the former seat of the Dukes of Brittany, and walk among the 6,000 year-old standing stones of two mystic megalithic sites – Carnac and Gavrinis Cairn. Throughout the trip, we will dine in three different Michelin-starred restaurants and enjoy fresh local cuisine and regional specialties. In addition to these highlights, we will tour the cities of Rennes, Dinard, Vannes, and Port-Louis, and visit three FHS restoration grant sites along the way.

## Members' Trip to Toulouse and Albi

*May 10th – 12th, 2019*

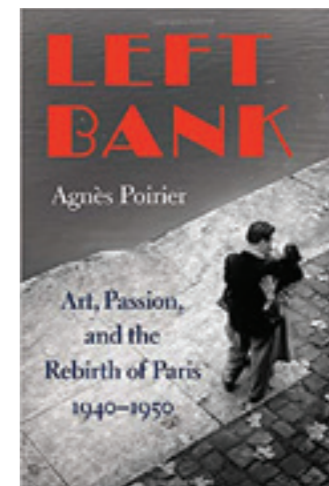
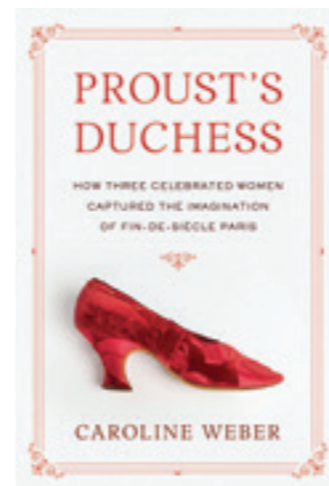


From May 10th to May 12th, 2019, French Heritage Society offered an exclusive Members Trip to Toulouse and Albi curated by Marie-France Marchand-Baylet. Highlights included two grant ceremonies at la Daurade Basilica and the Cloister of the Chartreux at the University of Toulouse, projects supported by the Atlanta and New York Chapters respectively. The ceremonies were organized in the presence of Jean-Luc Moudenc, Mayor of Toulouse and Corinne Mascala, President of the University of Toulouse. The group of travelers were privileged to be welcomed for a private dinner at the city hall of Toulouse by the Mayor and local representatives. In Albi the group was welcomed by Stéphanie Guiraud-Chaumeil, Mayor of Albi who showed us the beautiful cathedral of Saint-Cecil with its mural paintings and hosted a memorable private lunch at the Palais de la Berbie. The program also included a private tour of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum with the head curator.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Atlanta Chapter members join dignitaries at La Daurade Basilica: Barbara Howell, Jean-Luc Moudenc, Mayor of Toulouse, Elizabeth F. Stribling, Denis de Kergorlay, Debi Akers, Anne Schneider. Photo Frédéric Maligne; 2 New York Chapter Grant to the Cloister of the Chartreux at the University of Toulouse: Denis de Kergorlay, Marie-France Marchand-Baylet, Guy Robinson, Elizabeth F. Stribling, Corinne Mascala, Bruno Sire. Photo Karen Archer; 3. Reception at City Hall in Toulouse hosted by Mayor Jean-Luc Moudenc. Photo B.A.; 4. Albi and the gardens of the Palais de la Berbie. Photo Karen Archer

# Third Annual French Heritage Book Award

*“Proust’s Duchess” by Caroline Weber Selected for 2019 Award*



“Proust’s Duchess” by Caroline Weber was selected as the winner of the third annual French Heritage Society Book Award by unanimous decision.

The 2019 French Heritage Society Book Award’s esteemed jury was comprised of: Anne Poulet, Director Emerita of The Frick Collection; Bruno Racine, author and former director of the Pompidou Center and of the National Library of France; and Elaine Sciolino, contributing writer and former Paris bureau chief for *The New York Times*.

At the ceremony held on April 11th, 2019, at a private club in Manhattan, American author Caroline Weber was officially announced as the 2019 winner and received a \$5,000 cash prize along with an award goblet designed by Thomas Jefferson while serving as Minister to France. During the event, Caroline was interviewed by Sheryl Hurley, past president of the Library of America, followed by an audience Q&A session.

The three shortlisted books for the 2019 Book Award were: “The Great Nadar: The Man Behind the Camera” by Adam Begley, “Left Bank: Art, Passion and the Rebirth of Paris, 1940-50” by Agnes Poirier, and “A Literary Tour de France: The World of Books on the Eve of the French Revolution” by Robert Darnton.

### “Proust’s Duchess”

Caroline Weber’s “Proust’s Duchess” brings to life the glittering world of turn-of-the-century Paris through her ground-breaking study of a trio of high society belles that the impressionable Proust would use as models for the mesmerizing Duchesse de Guermantes.

These luminary ladies of Belle Époque Parisian high society, Geneviève Halévy Bizet Straus; Laure de Sade, Comtesse de Adhéaume de Chevigné; and Élisabeth de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay, the Comtesse Greffulhe; as Weber says, “transformed themselves, and were transformed by those around them, into living legends: paragons of elegance, nobility, and style.”

They were the alluring icons of their day in the 1870s and 1880s, emulated and sought-after. Their world of châteaux, palaces and lush Parisian apartments was the setting of legendary salons that regularly attracted writers, painters, composers, designers, dandies, financiers, and journalists. One of their admirers was the sensitive young aspiring writer Marcel Proust. He took it all in, from the etiquette of the aristocracy with rigid social structures and rules, to the arranged marriages and a thirst for the freedom and flights of fancy of masked balls, elaborate parties, hunts, court intrigues, and long nights at the theater or opera to show off their latest gowns and finest jewelry.

Weber delves deeply into the intimate lives of the trio, their love affairs, rivalries, friendships, and betrayals in a captivating tale replete with vivid detail and historic context that bring these ladies and their époque to life on every page. She reminds us, as Proust’s later literary triumphs would attest, that the key to success lies in an acute sense of detail and an eye for human frailties.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Cheryl Hurley and Caroline Weber; 2. Caroline Weber and Elizabeth Stribling; 3. Yann Coatanlem, Consul General Anne-Claire Legendre, and Odile de Schiètière-Longchamp; 4. Janet Desforges, Jennifer Herlein, CeCe Black



## Paris Annual Presentation



Clockwise from top left: 1. Angela Aggeler, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the American Embassy in Paris, Père Abbé Emmanuel-Marie of the Abbaye de Lagrasse, Ambassador Jean-David Levitte; 2. FHS Student Program Co-Chairman Amy Fienga, Cassandre Wanpouille; 3. Paris Chapter Vice-Chairman Dominique Biarnès, Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, Juan Pablo Molyneux, Père Abbé Emmanuel-Marie, FHS President Denis de Kergorlay, Paris Chapter Chairmen Astrid Stanfield-Pinel with FHS members and grant recipients; 4. Isabelle de Laroullière, Chairman, FHS Grants Committee; Dominique Biarnès; Guy de Cordon, owner of the Château de Bourron; Astrid Stanfield-Pinel; 5. Carole Brookins and Ambassador Jean-David Levitte;

On March 26th, 2019, the Paris Annual Presentation brought together 180 French and American guests graciously hosted by Denis de Kergorlay at the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée. The evening highlighted FHS' Restoration Grants and Educational Programs as well as the Paris Chapter activities. Special guest speaker Ambassador Jean-David Levitte gave a brilliant presentation on Culture and Diplomacy drawing on his experience as Ambassador to the United States from 2002–2007.

## Dîner des Mécènes



The annual Dîner des Mécènes was held on May 15th, 2019, at the newly-restored Hôtel Lutetia with its restoration architect in chief, Jean-Michel Wilmotte, as Guest of Honor. The Paris Gala brought together 142 French and American guests in support of French Heritage Society's mission. Elizabeth Stribling, FHS Chairman and Denis de Kergorlay, President, hosted distinguished guests including the Honorable Jamie D. McCourt, Ambassador of the United States to France, Angela P. Aggeler and Brian Aggeler, both Minister Counselors for Public Affairs, and Princesse Marie-Sol de La Tour d'Auvergne, Présidente Emeritus. French Heritage Society's Trophy from Lalique was given to Guest of Honor Jean-Michel Wilmotte in recognition of his contributions in favor of French heritage.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Maria Vadillo Le Drian, Guest of Honor Jean-Michel Wilmotte, Béatrice Schlumberger, Marie-Christine de Kergorlay, Denis de Kergorlay; 2. Timothy Corrigan; The Honorable Jamie D. McCourt, U.S. Ambassador to France; Denis de Kergorlay; Elizabeth F. Stribling; 3. Alexia Ashworth, Marketing Director of Lalique; Jean-Baptiste de Jaham, Global Sales Director of Lalique; Edouard de Lencquesaing; Jennifer Herlein; 4. Cece Black, Lee Black, Odile de Schiètere-Longchamp, Benigno Aguilar; 5. Diane de Roquette-Buisson, Gaëtan Vandenbussche, Amy Fienga, Monsieur and Madame Freddy Dressen; 6. Cassandra Surer, Valérie de Condé, Ann Van Ness, Anne Munch-Jensen, Sarah de Lencquesaing

# LALIQUE

## AQUATIQUE LA COLLECTION



## New York Gala: The Black & Orange Ball



On October 31st, 2018, French Heritage Society held its Annual New York Gala at The Plaza Hotel. This exquisite, much anticipated affair was festively themed The Black and Orange Ball, and black-tie clad guests wore elegant masks, disguises, and colorful accents. The evening honored French luxury lifestyle brand LALIQUE and its founder René Lalique. It was organized under the gracious patronage of His Excellency Gérard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States, His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, and Mrs. Sophie L'Hélias-Delattre, Ms. Anne-Claire Legendre, Consul General of France in New York, and Mrs. Bénédicte de Montlaur, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States. The evening was organized by Gala Chairmen CeCe Black, Silvina Leone, Liz McDermott, Jay R. Paul, Jean Shafiroff, and Ann Van Ness with New York Chapter Chairs, Odile de Schiètière-Longchamp and Guy Robinson.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Elizabeth Stribling, Sarah Gargano, Denis de Kergorlay; 2. FHS Gala Chairs Jean Shafiroff, Silvina Leone, Ann Van Ness, CeCe Black, Jay Paul, Odile de Schiètière-Longchamp, Elizabeth Stribling, Guy Robinson; 3. Ann Van Ness, George Sape; 4. Lalique Table

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## Palm Beach Gala



### FRENCH HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE NIGHTLY RATES STARTING AT \$395

Situated directly across from Central Park and just steps from the luxury boutiques of Fifth & Madison Avenues, The Pierre is the only Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five Diamond hotel on Manhattan's Upper East Side. The property is a white-gloved oasis for the discerning traveler.

*For reservation inquiries, please contact the FHS office at 212.759.6846 or [fhs@frenchheritagesociety.org](mailto:fhs@frenchheritagesociety.org).*



\*Preferred rates based on availability and subject to applicable taxes. Blackout dates: September 21–28, November 30–December 1, December 8, 9, 15, 16, December 29–31, 2019. Offer valid for bookings now through December 31, 2019.



On the evening of February 28th, 2019, French Heritage Society and notable guests gathered at Club Colette for the elegant Annual Palm Beach Gala Dinner.

The sold-out fête was held at the behest of Gala Chairs Michael A. Kovner and Jean Doyen de Montailou. CeCe Black, FHS Events Chair, and Suzanne Stoll, Palm Beach Representative, added their special touch to the proceedings. The presence of FHS Chairman Elizabeth F. Stribling and Consul General of France in Miami Clément Leclerc enhanced the prestige of the dinner. The Dinner Chairmen for the evening included: CeCe and Lee Black, Ronald Lee Fleming, Ambassador and Mrs. Howard Leach, Liz McDermott, Chips and Sarah Page, Elizabeth Stribling and Guy Robinson, Thomas Thaler, Ann Van Ness, Kelly Williams and Andrew Forsyth.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Elizabeth Stribling, Consul General of France in Miami Clément Leclerc, and CeCe Black; 2. Suzanne Stoll, Denise-Marie Nieman; 3. Atlanta Chapter members and friends; 4. Gala Chairmen Michael Kovner & Jean Doyen de Montailou and their guests

## Young Patrons Circle New York



On January 23rd, 2019, FHS New York Young Patrons Circle members enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and champagne in celebration of the New Year in the presence of FHS Chairman Elizabeth Stribling and CeCe Black, the evening's Board of Directors hosts. On February 21st, The Pierre Hotel hosted an exclusive tasting conducted by its Executive Chef, Ashfer Biju, who provided insights into The Pierre's rich culinary history and his modern interpretations of classic French dishes. This spectacular series of events also included a private gallery tour at Demisch Danant on April 3rd, which granted YPC guests intimate access to the pieces on view for the gallery's New York Times-acclaimed "Specific Eye: Seven Collections" exhibition.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Jennifer Herlein, CeCe Black, Maureen Nash, Elizabeth Stribling, Johnsonie Casimyr, Elizabeth Hartnett, Victoire de Vaugelas; 2. Margaux Lacroix, Owen Corneec, Marie Ruffier-Monet, Maud Leclerc, Timothy Erdmann; 3. YPC New York members at Demisch Danant gallery in the West Village; 4. YPC New York members enjoy an exclusive tasting event at The Pierre Hotel

## Young Patrons Circle Paris



On December 17th, 2018, the Paris Young Patrons Circle had the pleasure of being welcomed at the Maison Guerlain on the Champs-Élysées by Elisabeth Sirot, Guerlain's Director of Heritage and Thierry Wasser, Director of Guerlain's Perfume Creation. Thierry Wasser passionately shared his experience as a "nose", from the search for raw materials around the world to the development of signature perfumes such as Idylle or more recently La Petite Robe Noire. Accompanied by Elisabeth Sirot, YPC guests also discovered the secrets of the private mansion built by architect Charles Mewès, to whom we also owe the Ritz Hotel in Paris.

Clockwise from top left: 1. The group at Guerlain's flagship Champs-Élysées boutique; 2. Béryl Moizard, Elisabeth Sirot, Directrice du Patrimoine at Guerlain; and Eric Pellerin de Turckheim; 3. The Young Patrons Circle Paris group samples Guerlain's signature creations; 4. Thierry Wasser, Directeur de la création des parfums at Guerlain with Eric Pellerin de Turckheim

## Atlanta



On April 11th, 2019, the Atlanta Chapter welcomed author Maureen Footer for a luncheon, presentation, and book signing. In her new book, “Dior and His Decorators: Victor Grandpierre, George Geffroy, and The New Look,” the author and design historian examines the connection between fashion and the decorative arts via the collaboration of couturier Christian Dior with these two post-war Parisian decorators. In parallel with Dior’s “New Look,” Grandpierre and Geffroy forged a new aesthetic for Parisian interiors that drew on the same inspiration and technique as Dior’s clothes. Mixing 18th century and Belle Époque influences with a modern point of view, the New Look in both couture and interiors captivated a war-weary public, single-handedly revived Parisian couture, and reestablished Paris as the international arbiter of taste.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Speaker Maureen Footer; 2. Barbara Guillaume; Leslie Petter; Gina Christman, our sponsor; Patricia McLean; Leslie Smith; 3. Michael Bishop, our sponsor; Maureen Footer; Suzy Wasserman; Shane Thomas, our sponsor; 4. Michael Bishop; Suzy Wasserman; Suzanne Dansby; Gina Christman, publisher and sponsor; Elizabeth Ralls, editor and sponsor, Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles; Patricia McLean; 5. Laura Medley, Debi Akers

## Boston



On March 25th, 2019, the Boston Chapter welcomed members and guests to the Chilton Club where renowned design historian Maureen Footer spoke about Haute Couture and High Design and discussed Dior and his two decorators. She signed her latest book, “Dior and His Decorators: Victor Grandpierre, Georges Geffroy, and the New Look”. The talk, sponsored by Elisa Frederickson, was very well-received and attended and followed by a dinner.

Members of the chapter were invited to attend a special ceremony in Newport, R.I. organized by the Alliance Française on June 6th to commemorate the restoration of the Rochambeau Monument and Franco-American friendship on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings. The Boston Chapter and FHS awarded a grant for the restoration of the monument. The Boston Chapter was represented by Co-Chairman Francis de Marneffe, who celebrated his 95th birthday on May 7th!

Clockwise from top left: 1. François Bardonnnet, Christian Draz, Consul Général de France in Boston Arnaud Mentré; 2. Madeleine Capino, Nancy Adams, Ron Fleming, Raffi Berberian, Maureen Footer; 3. Christian Draz, Chrissy Sayare, Consul Général de France in Boston Arnaud Mentré, Elisa Frederickson, Thomas Thaler, Maureen Footer, François Bardonnnet, Caroline Gueny Mentré; 4. The celebration for the restoration of the Rochambeau Monument in Newport, RI.

# Chicago

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FHS' recently launched Chicago Chapter held its inaugural event, "AuthentiCITY: Protection of Authentic Places in France and in the USA," a lecture by Mary Brush on February 20th, 2019. Mary discussed the transformative experience and lifetime commitment of a Richard Morris Hunt Laureate to historic preservation. Mary, FAIA, Principal of Brush Architects, LLC. and 2005 laureate of the Richard Morris Hunt fellowship, (a prestigious award for American and French architects to work with leading preservation architects) gave a lively presentation. Our deep appreciation goes to Tom and Pascale Kichler for their generous hospitality for this event.

On June 20th, 2019 the Chicago Chapter organized a sold-out visit of the "Manet and Modern Beauty Exhibit" at The Art Institute of Chicago, including a meet and greet with Gloria Groom, Chair and David and Mary Winton Green Curator of European Painting and Sculpture.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Chicago Chapter Leaders: front row (l to r): Melis Simsek, Chicago Chapter Co-Chairman Pascale Kichler, back row: Raphaëlle Penelle, Isabelle Velde, Jade Boudreaux, Skye Taylor, Chicago Chapter Co-Chairman Odile Compagnon, Mary Brush; 2. 2005 Richard Morris Hunt Fellow Mary Brush, and FHS Chambord Residency grantees, Melis Simsek, Skye Taylor, Jade Boudreau; 3. Post lecture hospitality at the Kichler residence; 4. Visit with Gloria Groom of the "Manet and Modern Beauty Exhibit" at the Art Institute of Chicago

## New York



On Thursday, June 6th, 2019, the French Heritage Society New York Chapter gathered with friends and supporters for an exceptional dinner at a private club in Manhattan. The dinner was organized Mr. George Sape, who provided culinary consultation and donated wine, cider, and Calvados for the evening, and Mrs. Odile de Schiétère-Longchamp, who oversaw the stunning décor. Proceeds from the evening supported restoration grants selected by the New York Chapter, including the wrought-iron gate of the incredible garden of the Château de Vendevre in Normandy, the inspiration for the evening’s festivities.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Odile de Schiétère-Longchamp, Jeri Sape, George Sape; 2. Carolyn Palmer, Sana Sabbagh, Elizabeth Stribling, Susan Baker, Barbara Wolf, Agnes Beane; 3. Laurie Bodor, Guy Robinson, Odile de Schiétère-Longchamp; 4. Barbara Wolf, Ann Van Ness, William Van Ness

## Northern California



The FHS Northern California Chapter reprised its role as Cultural Partner of the San Francisco Fall Art & Antiques Show in 2018. Maureen Footer, author of “Dior and His Decorators,” spoke about Dior’s profound influence on the decorative arts, and guests were greeted with French macarons and coffee.

Fabulous views and the gracious hospitality of Dana and Justs Beldiman-Karlsons greeted guests as they celebrated the traditional Fête des Rois on January 26th, 2019, an annual festive gathering for the Northern California Chapter to start off the New Year.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Maureen Footer at a book signing for her latest work “Dior and His Decorators”; 2. Phyllis Washington and Heidi Gerpheide at the Fall Art & Antiques Show; 3. The Fête des Rois celebrations with George Norton, Nienke Lels-Holman, Martha Hertelendy; 4. Dori Bonn, Stephen Suzman, Susan Paulson, Jean-Jacques Vitrac, Gilbert Sonet; 5. Our gracious hosts for the Fête des Rois, Prof. Dr. Dana Beldiman-Karlsons and Justs Karlsons, Honorary Consul General of Romania

# Paris



The traditional Paris Chapter Thanksgiving Dinner held last November at the iconic Hôtel Le Bristol was a warm, convivial gathering of friends and supporters. 3-Star Chef Éric Frechon created an exceptional dinner. Thanks to our members and friends, the extreme generosity of Mr. Allegri, President of the Hôtel Le Bristol, Chris and Caroline Cardon who donated the Château La Haye Saint-Estèphe wines and La Maison Henriot for the champagne, the Paris Chapter was able to raise \$20,000 toward its 2018 grants: Château de Bourron (Seine-et-Marne), Château de Carneville (Manche) and the Edgar Degas House (New Orleans) along with all FHS Chapters.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Chris and Caroline Cardon; 2. Jean-Frédéric and Natacha Werup, Eric Turquin, Sarah de Lencquesaing, Bob Brown, III; 3. Angela Aggeler, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs at the American Embassy in Paris; Edouard de Lencquesaing, Carole Brookins, Général Christophe de Saint-Chamas, Governor of the Invalides; 4. Leah Marshall, Philippe Toussaint, Astrid Stanfield-Pinel; 5. Denis de Kergorlay, Julien Alvarez, Astrid Stanfield-Pinel, Angela Aggeler, Eric Frechon, Madame Jean-Yves Le Drian, Elizabeth Stribling, Dominique Biarnès; 6. Henri and Dominique Sahut, Isabelle Ricard, Annie Lesourd



## Philadelphia



The Philadelphia Chapter held their annual Bastille Day Party on July 7th, 2019, featuring a seated dinner with fine wine and live music! Phyllis Chapell and Baird Standish played French Gypsy Jazz at this festive occasion. The event took place at the Cricket Club, and the proceeds from the spirited celebration of Franco-American friendship will support restoration grants selected for funding by the Philadelphia Chapter.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Julia Ward, David Orthwein, Gaëlle Dyèvre; 2. Linda Leininger, Anne Martinez; 3. Kelsey Engman, Virginia Baltzell, Leonardo Politzi, Harry Sure; 4. Gaëlle Dyèvre

## Washington Regional Chapter



On Thursday, November 29th, 2018, the FHS Washington Regional Chapter gathered for a *Soirée Élégante* at the residence of the French Ambassador. Ambassador Gérard Araud and FHS Chairman Elizabeth F. Stribling offered remarks prior to an exceptional dinner. The evening raised nearly \$8,500 for a restoration grant in the name of Simone Monneron to the Orangerie du Parc de Bagatelle, located in the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. Washington Chapter Chairman Bobbie Brewster organized the dinner and plans to hold similar events in 2019.

From left to right: Elizabeth F. Stribling, Ambassador Gérard Araud, Washington Chapter Chairman Bobbie Brewster, Joan Carl; The Washington Regional Chapter's guests dining at the residence of the French Ambassador to the United States

## In Memoriam: Monique Barbier



**June 24th, 1938–December 6th, 2018**

Monique Barbier made a significant and lasting contribution to French Heritage Society, particularly in the area of educational programming. She first joined the Paris Chapter Committee in 1988 and I met her the following year. With the FHS Board's enthusiastic encouragement, the proposal to organize a series of seminars on French Architecture and Decorative Arts was approved in 1989. Monique immediately told me that she wanted to collaborate on the organization of the project. Not only was she energetic, cultivated, and discreet, but she was also a trained art historian with a specialty in the French Renaissance who knew many curators and art historians in France. Furthermore, she was a gifted artist herself. She became an indispensable partner in the conception and organization of the seminars.

Our goal was to create seminars for American curators, scholars, collectors, and amateurs on a subject that would focus on

architecture and decorative arts of a specific place and time. Each program was to be accompanied by French experts in the field. Our first seminar in 1989 was centered on the Château de Fontainebleau. As a result of Monique's flawless planning of the logistics and her superb collaboration in determining the sequence of events, it was an unqualified success. As we had hoped, many friendships were formed among the participants and with French colleagues. There followed more than fifteen years of equally fascinating seminars.

It was a joy to work with Monique throughout. She avoided the limelight and public speaking, preferring to stay in the background. As her many friends will attest, she was a perfectionist with endless intellectual curiosity, and a subtle sense of humor. Most importantly, Monique was unfailingly kind and loyal to her family and friends.

—Anne L. Poulet



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**New York Gala**  
Thursday, November 21st, 2019

7:00pm  
Cocktail Reception

8:00pm  
Dinner & Dancing

The University Club  
1 West 54th Street  
New York, NY

*Black Tie*

**Palm Beach Gala Dinner**  
Wednesday, February 12th, 2020

7:00pm  
Cocktail Reception

8:00pm  
Dinner

Club Colette  
215 Peruvian Avenue  
Palm Beach, FL

*Cocktail Attire*

FRENCH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
frenchheritagesociety.org

**New York Office**  
14 East 60th Street, Suite 605  
New York, NY 10022

212-759-6846  
fhs@frenchheritagesociety.org

**Paris Office**  
7 rue Lincoln  
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+33 (0) 1 40 70 07 57  
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