

# AU COURANT

—*Summer 2020*



FRENCH  
HERITAGE  
SOCIETY



*Château de la Rivoire*

2020 Grants | Notre-Dame Cathedral Update | Education

FHS Book Award: *A Bite-Sized History of France* | Chairman's Circle Trip | National & Chapter Events



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## Down, but Not Out



Each and every one of us was inevitably very shaken by the global Coronavirus pandemic, and as always in these moments of truth and travails, memories of childhood stir in our consciences.

“Down, but not out” is an expression from the naval battle game we used to play in our schoolyards. It is the acknowledgement that the blow delivered to us hit its intended target, but had not destroyed it, ... and, therefore, that the battle was not lost!  
Down... but not out !

This is the situation in which French Heritage Society finds itself today: the virus hit us, but did not destroy us. And yet! We are transatlantic, but for many months we have not been able to physically cross the Atlantic. Confined, we had to postpone our fundraising activities, and in particular the Patrons’ Dinner, or *Dîner des Mécènes*, that was to be held at the Cercle Interallié last May. Our Student Program for the summer of 2020, which was ready to go, had to be canceled. These wonderful trips to Carcassonne and Corsica had to be postponed, as well as several events in our different Chapters. In this period when everyone is worried about their health and that of their loved ones, their professional and financial situation, donations are declining ... but they are not entirely drying up! We were able to maintain our restoration grants, while explaining to our recipients that we were obliged to lower the amounts...

So down ... but not out!

Let us first of all be grateful to our respective governments: each, in their own way, has come to our aid. The US government, through the Payroll Protection Program and the French government through its efficient system of compensated partial unemployment, have aided FHS.

But, above all, our physical immobilization has in no way undermined our determination, our faith in our mission and its sustainability. We took up the challenges one by one: can we no longer meet physically? Thanks to the “magic” of Zoom, we see

each other virtually on our screens (we had 49 participants in the video conference for the spring Board and the Chapter Chairmen meeting!). And we continue to plan our future projects. So everything remains in place ... but postponed!

The spread of the virus in France is being controlled for the moment, we are gradually emerging from confinement and immobility, a few weeks ahead of the United States. The long-awaited Patrons’ Dinner which was to take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Cercle de l’Union Interalliée for which our beloved Marie-Sol de La Tour d’Auvergne was our guest of honor, initially postponed to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, is now rescheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and should be preceded by our Members’ Trip to Carcassonne. We sincerely hope to be able to maintain our annual Gala in New York in November 2020 even if, circumstances oblige, it will undoubtedly be organized with a series of smaller dinners.

But save the date for this September 30<sup>th</sup>, as it will now be a dinner to celebrate our reunion and reaffirm our faith in FHS: yes, we were down ... but not out! We are still standing, still determined to fight our battles for heritage, to stand by those who devote a significant part of their lives, their energy and their funds to save monuments from decay and in order to make them places of exchange and cultural influence. We will not give up on these young students from France and America who, thanks to our Student Exchange Program, have experiences that they remember for a lifetime, and which can even be life changing.

Institutions like ours survive crises, because they keep faith in their mission, and their various branches are united by their common ideal. We at French Heritage Society are an indestructible family!

—Denis de Kergorlay

## Elizabeth F. Stribling Honored



French Heritage Society celebrated a very special occasion this past November in Paris when Chairman Elizabeth “Libba” Stribling was honored with the *Commandeur de l’ordre national de la Légion d’honneur* at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, presented Libba with the distinguished insignia, which is rarely presented to Americans. She was awarded the insignia of *Officier de la Légion d’honneur* in 2012 and the *Officier de l’Ordre national du Mérite* in 2007.

The words spoken that evening in the stunning Salon de l’Horloge beautifully communicate the warm and personal tone of the celebration and we would like to share some of them here. “To our gratitude, I want to tell you that our deep recognition is added,” said Jean-Yves Le Drian. “Because, beyond the funds that you manage to raise for the benefit of our heritage, there is what French Heritage Society represents and what you embody perfectly, dear Elizabeth...a certain loyalty...the commitment to transmission of knowledge and *savoir-faire*...finally, the universal value of our heritage.”

“In Paris, in France, you have given so much!” he continued. “Just one example, which is a real symbol: Notre-Dame de Paris...your association has launched a fundraising campaign. Without waiting! And you have raised almost \$2.5

million! Donors from around the world have turned to you.”

Libba spoke to the origins of her connections with France. “But why me, an American woman who was born in the deep South of the United States? How did my love of France, and my devotion to historic preservation begin? Perhaps it was my destiny. I was baptized Elizabeth French Stribling, after my grandmother Lenamae French, who was born in the small Delta town of Port Gibson, Mississippi. The family name of French was the English adoption of the original French name de Freynes, which in the 13<sup>th</sup> century the English could not pronounce and thus, de Freynes was anglicized to ‘French’.” “I myself was born in Atlanta, Georgia,” Stribling explained. “I believe that my Southern heritage was also a link to France. In the South, we placed much emphasis on family, home, the



art of entertaining, and the art of conversation. *Esprit* counted for everything. When I arrived in France, I discovered that traditional French culture had many of the same values I felt at home.”

“Finally, I cannot thank my family enough for their support of me and my love of France over the years,” she said, “especially my darling daughter Elizabeth Ann Stribling-Kivlan, and my adorable husband, Guy Robinson. Our family life in France means as much to them as it does to me.”

Libba concluded the ceremony by expressing her gratitude to Minister Le Drian. “Thank you from my heart for this great honor that has been bestowed on me by the Republic of France. *Vive l’amitié-Franco-Américaine.*”

Please join all of us at French Heritage Society in congratulating Libba for this impressive and merited recognition of her passionate, contagious commitment to preserving French heritage. We are grateful for her leadership and inspired by the example she sets.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Guy Robinson, Elizabeth F. Stribling, Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian; 2. Juan-Pablo Molyneux, Dena Kaye and Dick Fallin. 3. Ambassador Jean-David Levitte, Sophie and François Delattre 4. Ambassador d’Ansembourg, Marquis and Marquise de Montferrand

Opposite: Elizabeth F. Stribling receives her decoration from Jean-Yves Le Drian

## Work Resumes on Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris



On the evening of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Paris the great bell of Notre-Dame tolled for the first time since the fire one year earlier to honor the medical workers valiantly combatting the COVID-19 outbreak. Much has changed as the one-year anniversary of the Notre-Dame Cathedral fire was marked. In these difficult times, French Heritage Society would like to take a moment to warmly thank each and every one of the 3,328 donors from 40 countries around the world that helped raise nearly \$2.6 million to support the cathedral's restoration. We are grateful for your contributions and proud to support this important project that has touched so many world-wide. Emergency efforts like our Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund and FHS's support of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina are a critical component of our mission to safeguard the architectural legacy of France.

With close to 40 years of providing critical support for nearly 620 restoration projects, architectural preservation remains at the heart of French Heritage Society's mission. The tragic fire that devastated Notre-Dame Cathedral provided an urgent reminder of the fragility of our beloved architectural marvels and FHS is more grateful than ever in times like these to play an important role in ensuring that French historic treasures survive to inspire future generations. We continue to monitor the progress of the restoration work on the cathedral which resumed in late April after having come to a halt for nearly six weeks. The next crucial step to ensure that the cathedral is truly out of danger began on June 8<sup>th</sup> with the laborious process of dismantling the more than 200 tons of metal scaffolding that melded together during the fire forming a vast super structure above the

cathedral vault. This phase is expected to last through the summer. The scaffolding consisting of 40,000 metal tubes had been previously installed for the restoration of the cathedral roof, an active worksite at the time of the fire. As the public entity created to oversee the restoration of the cathedral recently stated in a press release, "Two alternating teams of five rope access technicians will descend as close as possible to the burnt out parts to cut, using saber saws, the metal tubes fused together." These pieces will then be evacuated using the large 80-meter crane installed on the site in December 2019. This delicate phase is vital to ensuring that the cathedral does not buckle under this weight or sustain further structural damage. As Monsignor Patrick Chauvet, the archpriest rector stated, "When we finish this, we can say that the cathedral is 100% saved."

Over the past 14-months, work has focused on securing and evaluating the site, safely evacuating debris, a task that was further complicated due to the precarious condition of the vault and the presence of lead contamination, which halted the work for several weeks. Today we can also see the results of the emergency work that was undertaken to shore up the structure with wooden supports around the arches and the removal of some of the stained glass windows, although the celebrated 13-century rose window remains in place. The parvis has recently been partially open to the public once again after having served as a temporary depository and inventory site for the damaged stones removed from the cathedral for safe keeping and restoration. As the restoration work progresses, the ambitious target of reopening the restored cathedral by 2024 remains the government's goal as stated by President Macron shortly after the fire.

## French Historic Properties in the Time with COVID-19

### Olivier de Lorgeril, President of La Demeure Historique



Olivier de Lorgeril, President of FHS's French partner organization La Demeure Historique, is well-placed to provide an overview of how French historic properties, and their owners, are faring in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. La Demeure Historique represents, supports and advises owners of private historic French châteaux and gardens in their mission for the public interest and for the preservation and transmission of their châteaux. A national association founded in 1924 and recognized as a public utility since 1965, La Demeure Historique brings together more than 3,000 monuments: manors, châteaux, abbeys, priories, private mansions, and remarkable gardens which welcome each year more than 9 million visitors. Olivier de Lorgeril also manages his own historic Château de La Bourbansais in Brittany. He recently spoke with Karen Archer, FHS's Deputy Director for Strategic Development & Communications, about the current situation facing owners of private historic properties in France.

#### What is the overall situation of French heritage in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis?

This terrible COVID-19 global health crisis obviously affects all owners and managers of Historic Monuments, in particular those open to the public, and especially those with touristic and/or other economic activities. By ministerial decree, they went through necessary, but terrible, forced closures. For many of them, this means a total loss of revenue, while expenses continue, in particular maintenance and staff which could not be put on partial unemployment due to the necessary maintenance of gardens (in particular during the spring with blossoming vegetation).

Such emblematic sites as Vaux le Vicomte, Cheverny, and Villandry face financial difficulties, completely deprived of revenue, and sometimes having to place over 80% of their employees on partial unemployment. Lesser-known properties are also severely impacted all across France! It is a real disaster. La Demeure Historique fought hard for them, and after a month of negotiations with the Ministry of the Economy and Finance and with the support of the Ministry of Culture, was able to have the owners of historic properties benefit from the famous State Guaranteed Loans (PGE) a real life line (but also debt!) for these private châteaux owners.

We also worked a great deal for the reopening of Historic Monuments and Gardens which is now gradually taking place, not at the same pace everywhere, but over-

all, it is going quite well. La Demeure Historique's main objective now is to ensure that Historic Monuments and gardens will be able to benefit from the Economic Recovery Plan, and in particular, to benefit from the Tourism Plan. We have been in contact with the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Lemoyne, who has made commitments along these lines before the National Assembly. We shall see...

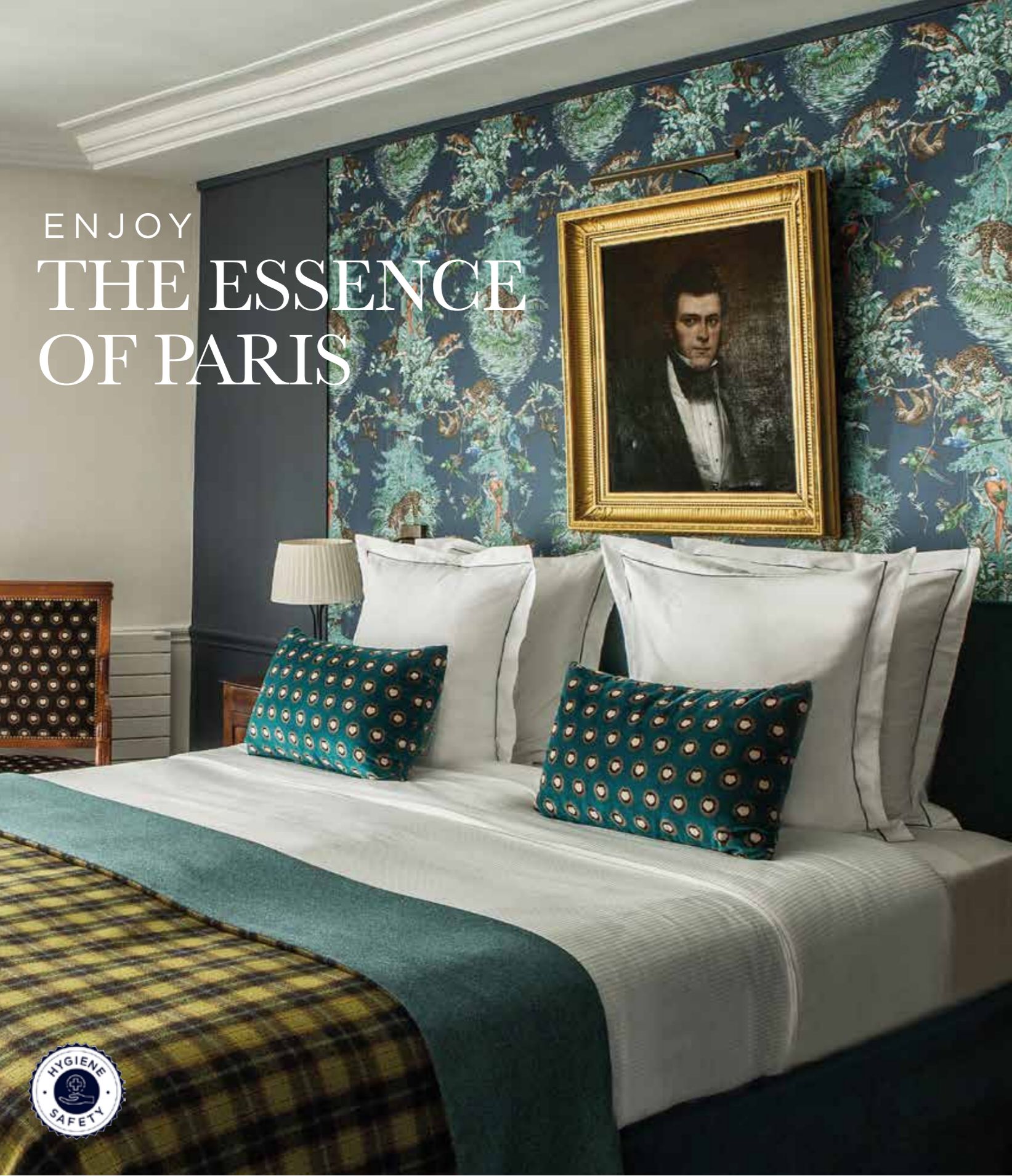
#### What is the state doing to help this sector?

It has enacted a Guaranteed Loan Plan to stem the liquidity crisis, but which also adds heavy debt for owners as these loans must be repaid. A Tourism and Recovery Plan is also being elaborated.

#### What actions are the La Demeure Historique taking for heritage at the moment?

We have active campaigns promoting heritage to give greater visibility and encourage tourism, including locally and between regions in France and strong lobbying proposals to ensure that government aid is further extended to historic monuments, including for restoration work. With respect to the Tourism Plan announced on May 14<sup>th</sup>, La Demeure Historique, with its Tourist and Economic Actors (ATE), in particular its professionals brought together within the expanding group of "Audacieux du Patrimoine" created last January, requested that the Tourism Secretariat officially integrate the Tourist Sector Committee, in order to represent Historical Monuments and Gardens there.

# ENJOY THE ESSENCE OF PARIS



—Interview

## Do you have a message for our American friends?

Our American friends, fine connoisseurs of French culture, know French private historic properties well. They know the dedication and selflessness of these families who remain passionate about preserving and giving purpose to their châteaux. More than ever, gestures of friendships and support (including financial) give them encouragement and renewed enthusiasm. The FHS grants, which are significant again this year, are not only a ray of hope but also strong support for the shared universal bond which exists on both sides of the Atlantic! Perhaps we could create a specific non-restoration grant for one or two private owners whose operations have been particularly affected by this crisis.

## A few last thoughts - Vital Resilience!

Parks and gardens discreetly blossomed, without waiting for their usual gardeners or their long-awaited visitors. Nature reminds us that despite everything, life goes on... Many of us have redoubled our efforts to preserve the living heritage of parks and gardens, so that these havens of peace can welcome the public again as soon as possible. Coming out of several weeks of confinement, the French are looking for simple, authentic pleasures in harmony with nature. The parks and gardens for which we are responsible meet their needs and are a source of revitalization, a connection with nature and beauty.



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## 2020 Grant Recipients

*FHS's Commitment to Historic Preservation Remains as Strong as Ever*

15 Restoration Grants and one Cultural Grant have been awarded to date in 2020 for a total of nearly \$160,000. Support for restoration projects in France and the U.S. has always been at the heart of French Heritage Society's mission. During this difficult time full of uncertainty and disruption of normal life, FHS is extremely grateful to its 11 Chapters, Board members and donors who have made a special effort to fund a number of extremely worthy projects this year both in France and the U.S.

Over the past 38 years, FHS has awarded nearly 620 restoration and cultural grants and 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.

**In France: 11 Restoration Grants and One Cultural Grant / In the U.S.: Four Restoration Grants**



### Musée Cognacq-Jay (Paris) - Cultural Grant

\$30,000—Private donor

*Restoration project: Support for the "Empire of the Senses" Exhibition from September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020-January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021*

On the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of François Boucher (1703-1770), the Cognacq-Jay Museum explores the theme of Love in the Age of Enlightenment. Considered the century of pleasure and libertinage, the 18<sup>th</sup> century evokes a celebration of the senses. The First Painter to King Louis XV's work is highlighted by 60 masterpieces from prestigious international collections, both public and private, such as the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the National Gallery of London, some of them presented for the very first time in France.



### Château de Panloy (Charente Maritime)

\$15,000—Atlanta, Louisiana, Northern California Chapters

*Restoration project: The 17<sup>th</sup>-century dovecote*

The dovecote dating from 1620 is one of the few vestiges of the original Renaissance style as the chateau was rebuilt in 1785 and used as a summer residence and hunting site. The estate is equipped with stables and a kennel for its pack of hunting hounds. The owners offer several activities linked to the preservation of nature and ecology. The focus of the restoration of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century dovecote is to create a refuge in partnership with local associations for the numerous birds that pass through the region and are in increasing danger due to powerlines, wind turbines and the development of natural areas.



### Château de la Varenne (Meuse)

\$15,000—Paris Chapter

*Restoration project: The roof and an échauguette (tourette)*

This elegant chateau was built on an old fortified house in 1506 by the auditor of the Duke of Bar. It has exceptional architectural features in regional style which include the Renaissance coffered ceilings in carved stone, the watchtowers at the corners and 29-foot high massive roofs that are the same height as the façade. The English park spans 20 hectares along with a "French garden" created in 1880. This rural area of France does not attract a great deal of tourism so the rare châteaux in the region that are open to the public have an even greater impact than elsewhere. The owner is very active in the cultural and community life of the region and promoting tourism.



### Château de Bouzols (Haute Loire)

\$10,000—Chicago and New York Chapters

*Restoration project: The roof of the Maison de l'Intendant*

The site encapsulates over 1,000 years of history. Originally, the estate housed a semi-troglodyte village. The chateau was embellished during the Renaissance and then seized as state property during the Revolution. Descendants of the current owner purchased the estate in 1808. For the past ten years, all maintenance work for the chateau's gardens and vegetation has been entrusted to a local medico-social establishment employing young disabled workers. The chateau plays a very active role in the local community.



### Chapelle Templière de la Commanderie d'Epailly (Côte d'Or)

\$12,500—New York Chapter and private donors

*Restoration project: The vault, counterforts and upper level of the chapel*

The commandery, or rural estate, was built for the Knights Templar in 1209. When the order was dismantled in 1319, their possessions came under the Order of Saint John who lived there until the Revolution. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the commandery was saved from demolition. The current owner has courageously labored for many years to preserve and give a second life to the commandery through cultural activities and won a major battle to prohibit wind turbines from being installed nearby and was thus able to preserve the pristine countryside surrounding the estate since 13<sup>th</sup> century.



### Domaine de Chavat Gardens (Gironde)

\$10,000—New York Chapter

*Restoration project: The vandalized 19<sup>th</sup>-century statuary ensemble Mystery of Life*

This is a major monumental work in marble by Ernesto Gazzeri from 1919. Several of the figures were decapitated or disfigured but the damaged fragments were recovered and will be used to restore the work to its original state. Located on the banks of the Garonne River south of Bordeaux, the gardens are noteworthy for their great plant variety, important statuary and water ways. It includes a chateau, park and the water tower built by Le Corbusier in 1917.





**Château de la Rivoire (Ardèche)**

\$10,000—Atlanta Chapter and private donor

*Restoration project: The roof and its 18<sup>th</sup>-century wooden support beams and ceiling at the top of the grand staircase*

One of the most beautiful châteaux in Ardèche, built between 1728-1740 on the site of 12<sup>th</sup>-century fortifications, the château has remained largely intact. It is marked by dual influences: that of the bastides of Aix and that of “folies” of Ile-de-France. It organizes a celebrated classical music festival in July and has an important impact on local tourism for a region that is devoid of major tourist attractions.

**Château de Goudourville (Tarn et Garonne)**

\$10,000—Paris Chapter

*Restoration project: Urgent work on the roof and Renaissance spiral staircase*

On the site of a former monastery, the fortified chateau, was transformed into a more comfortable Renaissance residence with an impressive spiral staircase in stone, an architectural jewel with an impressive 100 steps. In 1587, Henri IV stayed there. The chateau organizes a variety of cultural activities and receptions. The current owners continue their 20-year quest to fully restore the site and give it new life and purpose.



**Château de Castries Gardens (Hérault)**

\$7,000—Atlanta Chapter

*Restoration project: The hydraulic system of the Grande Cascade, reflecting pool*

Known as the “little Versailles of Languedoc,” this vast park and 17<sup>th</sup>-century French gardens designed by Le Nôtre, King Louis XIV’s celebrated landscape gardener, are among the most prestigious in France. It was supplied with water by the aqueduct, a work unique in France, designed by Paul Riquet, engineer of the Canal du Midi. The estate constitutes one of the most impressive sites in the Languedoc-Roussillon region with a touch of 17<sup>th</sup>-century “grandeur” to attract tourism from the larger and better-known city of Montpellier just to the south.

**Chapelle du Sacré-Cœur des Feuillants (Vienne)**

\$5,000—Atlanta and Northern California Chapters

*Restoration project: The Dome’s roof, vault, wooden support structure*

The foundation stone of the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of the Feuillants was laid in 1818 as the only neoclassical religious building in Poitiers. It is a replica of the Expiatory Chapel in Paris built during the Restoration and dedicated to Louis XVI and his wife, Marie-Antoinette. The religious congregation sold the chapel in 2018 to the Association Le Chant des Feuillants with the mission to restore the chapel and repurpose it as a cultural center in the heart of Poitiers.



**Château de la Montagne (Nièvre)**

\$5,000—Washington Regional Chapter (in addition to the 2019 FHS Grant of \$20,000)

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

**Théâtre National de Chaillot (Paris)**

\$2,500—American Party in Paris Showroom Hosts

*Restoration project: A decorative element to be determined*

Built for the 1937 World Fair, the Palais de Chaillot features exceptional 20<sup>th</sup>-century paintings, sculptures and decorations by the greatest artists of the 1930s: Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard, Maurice Denis, and young talents such as Louis Billotey, Roger Chapelain-Midy, Charles Dufresne, Paul Belmondo, Charles Malfray, and Henry Waroquier. Facing the fountains of the Trocadero, the Eiffel Tower and the Champs de Mars, it offers one of the most famous views in the world of the « City of Lights ».



**Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon, VA)**

\$13,000—FHS Chapters

*Preservation work: Wallpaer research, reproduction and hanging in the Lafayette Room and Small Bedroom*

In the fall of 1784, the Marquis de Lafayette visited Mount Vernon, staying at the home of his close friend and ally George Washington. Lafayette played a major role in the American Revolution. The room became the first such space in America to celebrate Lafayette’s memory and, by extension, that of the Franco-American alliance. Washington’s home is truly a touchstone of American civic and national identity and welcomes more than one million annual visitors (including some 350,000 students).

**Philadelphia Museum of Art (Philadelphia, PA)**

\$10,000—FHS Chapters

*Restoration project: Treat two bas-reliefs reliefs for the renovated entrance*

Two architectural sculptures created by Joseph Deschamps (1743-1788), who worked in the service of Queen Marie-Antoinette, have greeted visitors to the West Entrance of the Philadelphia Museum of Art since 1928. Entitled “The Race of Atalanta” and “Hippomenes and The Triumph of Flora” these plaster models were created between 1785-1788 for marble sculptures that were commissioned for the royal Château de Saint-Cloud of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie-Antoinette. In the fall of 2020, the Museum’s West Entrance will reopen after a multi-year, \$208 million building renovation.



**Fort de Chartres (Prairie du Rocher, IL)**

\$6,000—Chicago and Louisiana Chapters

*Restoration project: Repairs of the Fort's Land Gate*

Built by the French during their 18<sup>th</sup>-century colonization of the Illinois Country, the massive stone fort was preceded by three wooden forts, the first of which was erected in 1720. It served as the French seat of government and its chief military installation in Upper Louisiana. In 1763, France ceded this and much of its territory in North America to Great Britain. Fort de Chartres State Historic Site is part of the French Colonial Historic District. 2020 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first fort built on the site.

**Residence of France (Cambridge, MA)**

\$1,040—Boston Chapter

*Restoration project: Installation of nine Zuber scenic panels titled "Scènes de l'Amérique du Nord – Chutes du Niagra" in the residence's interior*

Built in 1917, the large Neo-Colonial building was acquired by the French government in 2007. It is the residence of the French Consul General in Boston. The Residence of France is open to the public for celebrations such as Bastille Day.

## Châteaux Owners Express their Appreciation

The most gratifying aspects of supporting French historic properties are the real impact that FHS grants make, the encouragement that they provide, and the deep appreciation conveyed by the châteaux owners. We are pleased to share with you two recent messages of gratitude that we received.

FHS received this message of appreciation from Claire Mialaret Morlat, owner of the Château de la Rivoire that was awarded a 2020 grant of \$10,000 from the Atlanta Chapter for roof repairs:

*"It is with great pleasure that I read your letter of June 3<sup>rd</sup> announcing the grant of \$10,000 for the restoration of the framework and the roof of the Château de la Rivoire. I would like to thank you very much for this*

*grant. Please send my thanks to the Grants and Awards Committee and the Atlanta Chapter that awarded me this grant. Without this aid, accompanied by significant subsidies from the State, the Ardèche department and the Auvergne Rhône Alpes Region, this titanic restoration work could not have been carried out. During our last work site meeting, Didier Repellin, Chief Architect for Historic Monuments, who has been carrying out the restoration work for the last three years, told me that 'the château has now been saved!'*

*Nothing could make me happier. We will have to find another use for the multiple buckets that lined the attic and the torrential rains of Ardèche will no longer trigger in my family a reaction of absolute panic and the need to run as quickly as possible to limit, by any possible means, the extent of the disaster."*



Catherine Guyot, owner of Château de La Ferté Saint-Aubin, along with her husband, Jacques, and their son Lancelot, received a 2017 Grant of \$25,000 from FHS and the Paris Chapter. She recently wrote to Isabelle de Laroullière with this heart-felt message:

*"Aaaah what pride I take in this roofing work site!!!! You cannot imagine what it means for my husband and me to see the culmination of a dream of rescue that began in 1987, this last stage to complete 33 years of effort pursued over two generations, - that moment when it finally come to fruition in a person's lifetime - is comparable to a tsunami of joy which entirely overwhelms you.*

*I have not forgotten, Isabelle, your perseverance but also and above all your benevolence in accompanying Lancelot in difficult times*

*that allowed him to believe until the end in this project which was so complicated to set up and as a final obstacle to overcome in this improbable adventure, to launch and complete a restoration project in the midst of a global health crisis.*

*Thanks to French Heritage Society and its well-established mission to be the driving force that moves mountains, the spark that ignites a fire, the river that stream flow into, the magic of this conviction against all odds has worked once again. We thank our American friends who are unconditional lovers of French heritage. This historic link between our two countries must continue to remain a vibrant and emotional connection. Thank you personally, without you it would not have been possible. Jacques and I send you our best regards with much emotion and sincerity."*



Roof restoration work in progress at the Château de La Ferté Saint-Aubin (Loiret) with Lancelot Guyot, the owners' son. Opposite page: Château de la Rivoire and owner Claire Mialaret Morlat

## Student Exchange Program

### Training Tomorrow's Leaders in Heritage and Preservation



Each year French Heritage Society selects and sends around 35 students from prestigious universities in France and the U.S. across the Atlantic for internships at esteemed organizations. Since the program's inception, over 500 students have benefitted from these exceptional educational exchange opportunities.

Throughout the past 35 years, the Student Exchange Program has been at the heart of French Heritage Society's mission to educate future leaders in preservation by offering 4 to 8 week summer internship opportunities to young horticulture and art history majors at historical sites on both sides of the Atlantic. In 2019 FHS selected and supported 14 American and 18 French students who benefitted from career-changing placements with its longstanding partners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the students selected for the 2020 program have elected to postpone their internships until next year.

#### International Professional Internship Program

French Heritage Society continues to invest in the diversification of its Education Program, reinforcing its longer-term placements in the fields of curation, restoration and architecture. The offerings target post-graduate and post-doctorate candidates who represent our association as researchers, fellows and scholars. In 2019-2020 French Heritage Society is proud to have offered these opportunities

to two American students and one French student. In association with the AIA, FHS also selected one fellow and three scholars, all professional architects, within our prestigious Richard Morris Hunt Prize awarding a total of \$30,000 for their architectural projects.

We are pleased to share the thoughts of two students who took part in the Student Exchange Program last summer.

*"I would like to genuinely thank the French Heritage Society for granting me the amazing opportunity to be a summer intern at Musée d'Orsay. As a post-graduate art history student specialized in curatorial studies, interning at a large-scale historical museum in France was essential to my academic and career goals."*

Pamela Zameza (Parsons, School of Design New School) – Musée d'Orsay, Paris

*"Without this internship, my final dissertation would be incomplete. {...} I will never be thankful enough to French Heritage Society for giving me this internship, thank you for trusting in me! (...) Next year I will certainly apply for a one-year fellowship in a fashion collection of an American Museum, to continue my journey in the fashion field."*

Anita Spadoni (Ecole du Louvre) – Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC



Opposite page above: Pamela Zameza during her summer internship at Musée d'Orsay  
Opposite page below: Anita Spadoni working in the Fashion Institute of Technology's archives  
Above: Alumni Event in Paris

## Exploring the Life and Legacy of Rosa Bonheur With NYU Graduate Student Katherine Weiss



French Heritage Society's Student Exchange Program has organized and sponsored an archival internship for NYU graduate student Katherine Weiss at the Château de By - Rosa Bonheur until July 2020 under the supervision of owner Katherine Brault. Located to the south of Paris near Fontainebleau, the recently acquired home of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century French painter is now a museum dedicated to her life and work and is part of the "Maisons des Illustres" (Homes of the Illustrious) network designated by the French Ministry of Culture. Katherine shares with us a behind-the-scenes account of her internship exploring the life and works of Rosa Bonheur.

Rosa Bonheur was the first female artist to receive the Légion d'Honneur and arguably the foremost artist of her generation. After achieving fame in the Parisian Salons, she decided a move to the country would better suit her lifestyle as a wildlife painter. She settled into the Château de By, surrounded by 7 acres of land where her animals could roam free. When Rosa died in 1899 she left her château, all of her paintings, and most importantly her legacy, in the hands of Anna Klumpke, a young American portraitist she had met just ten years prior. While her art studio remained intact, over time Rosa's legacy faded, her name removed from art history books, and her Château saw only the occasional visitor. Under the new ownership of Katherine Brault, fresh life has sprung forth in the Château, and Rosa Bonheur is making a revival in France and the United States. Last summer, I participated in a 6-week intern-

ship at the Château de By, now the Château de Rosa Bonheur. My internship focused on creating a complete catalogue raisonné of Rosa's artwork in the United States with the goal of preparing an exhibition for the bicentennial of Rosa's birth in 2022. I quickly became enveloped in the rich history of Rosa and the Château and with the support of French Heritage Society, embarking on a 6-month internship to continue my work on the 2022 exhibition. Working closely with Katherine Brault, I have the unique opportunity to both learn about and participate in the creation of a museum exhibition. I have been able to facilitate meetings with curators in the United States, solidifying partnerships with museums in the United States to feature Rosa Bonheur's artwork. The experience is fascinating and incredibly edifying.

### World War I

This internship has also given me the chance to research Anna Klumpke's transformation of the Château during World War I. In 1914 when hostilities broke out in Europe, Anna Klumpke immediately began to brainstorm how she could be of service to France. On October 29, 1914 the Rosa Bonheur Auxiliary Hospital was officially inaugurated. This auxiliary hospital would go on to welcome convalescent soldiers throughout the course of the war. The Château contains detailed records, letters, photographs, and documents from this time period that have never been researched or archived.

My daily work for this internship consists of reading, archiving, and digitizing this material, reconstructing what life was like here during the war. This work will culminate in a complete digitized archive of the Rosa Bonheur Auxiliary Hospital. Throughout the war, Anna demonstrated her devotion and dedication to both France and the United States, serving as a shining example of cross-cultural exchange and friendship. At the beginning of the war, Anna hoisted an American flag at the Château as German troops drew near, later stating to friends she believed "the stars and stripes are protecting us."

Each Sunday throughout the war, Anna gathered all of the soldiers to share a meal with her sister and her mother, decorating the table with American and French flags, complete with miniature portraits of LaFayette and Washington at each end. As the soldiers left the Château and returned to the front, Anna continued to provide material aid and moral comfort, writing letters to her soldiers at the front and sending them clothes and bills of 5 francs to buy sweets. Anna often asked the soldiers to recount their time at war since their mobilization, which has provided me insight into the horrors the men lived through at the Front. Reading through these letters, I am often overcome with intense emotion. Their words bring the past vividly to life, and I feel as though I have been transported in time. History truly emanates from every corner of the Château, providing opportunities for daily discoveries. Being the first person to read through and analyze a body of historical documents is an opportunity few students get, and I am extremely grateful for the rich experience this internship has provided.

### Life under lockdown – continued discoveries

In comfortable confinement here at the Château, we too have taken the opportunity to focus on growing our online community, sharing the Château's history and our favorite stories across our social media platforms. Given I work and live at the Château, my daily work archiving and digitizing documents concerning the war has continued. While the quarantine has created a change in daily operations and left the economic future unsure, it has provided the unique opportunity to delve back into the attics, discovering the lives of Rosa, Anna, and the other women who have passed through the gates since Rosa first acquired the Château in 1859. Within the first few days of the quarantine, we stumbled across the original design plans for a gazebo that sits in the middle of the Château's park. Dating from the XVIII century, Rosa wanted to complete and restore this pavilion, re-christening it the 'Gazebo of the Muses'. She was never able to complete her dream, and ever since it has remained abandoned.

The discovery of the original plans included stencils for the proposed design on the tiles, which will now enable the work to be carried out exactly how Rosa envisioned it. These plans would have been eventually discovered with the passage of time, but I must admit without the mandated orders to close all businesses, it would have likely taken a lot longer to dedicate time to searching in the attics. As we find these archival treasures, I have been able to create digital content highlighting the stories behind our new discoveries across our social media platforms. Cultural institutions are consistently researching and innovating ways to share rich history and art with the public, and the quarantine has brought this research to the forefront. Although the future remains uncertain, we still continue to research and make preparations for future exhibitions, in particular the 2022 commemorative exhibit marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rosa Bonheur's Birth.

In conclusion, as the research and recovery of the treasures at this unique site continue, the strong link of friendship between France and America continue to shine through.

*"Que les Etats Unis et la France restent éternellement unis."* – Anne Klumpke



## Marie-Sol de La Tour d’Auvergne Portrait of an Ambassador for Heritage



Marie-Sol de La Tour d’Auvergne, French Heritage Society’s President Emeritus, embodies the love of France’s rich heritage through her life’s work to promote and safeguard the timeless treasures that comprise that celebrated legacy. As president of FHS from 1993 to 2008, Marie-Sol contributed greatly to the development of the association and to the deepening of its relations with French partners and American institutions and donors. Passionate about gardens, she has recreated magnificent gardens at her ancestral home, the Château d’Ainay le Vieil in central France. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Fondation des Parcs et Jardins de France where she has developed an ambitious program in Russia to promote historic gardens and organized numerous exchanges with France. Karen Archer, FHS’s Deputy Director for Strategic Development & Communications, recently spoke with this passionate Ambassador for Heritage about her activities and commitments.

### Where does your passion for heritage come from?

“It developed when I was very young. My passion for heritage comes from my love for our ancestral home, the Château d’Ainay-le-Vieil, in the family since 1467. We have a great sense, instilled by my parents, of the importance of what it represents historically and aesthetically and the importance of its transmission from generation to generation. I was born in the château and grew up there along with my brothers and my sister. “

### How was your love for gardens born?

“It came later, following a great storm in France in 1984 which caused enormous damage in my region and elsewhere, including vast destruction and damage to part of the park at Ainay. So, it was

a tangle of fallen trees, tangled branches on the grounds so thick that we could not even walk in certain places. I have always said that for me it was like Verdun. This presented us with the challenge of what to do with this devastated area. I convinced my family of the value of creating a contemporary garden on the site of this landscaped park. “

### What life lessons can we learn from gardens?

“It’s very simple, gardens teach us humility and perseverance. Nature is our master and therefore it is that natural force that is in control. And that teaches us the essential, the joy and wonder of new blossoms, the beauty of the discovery of a very simple plant as the sunlight beams upon it - which is perfection itself.”



**Could you share with us something that particularly marked you during your presidency of FHS?**

“I can tell you two incidents. Every year in Yorktown, Virginia there is a huge celebration to commemorate the Independence of the United States. I had the honor of being invited to officially represent France before a vast audience of more than 5,000 people on one such occasion. I felt an immense pride to be able to represent my country and our historic ties at such a symbolic site in the presence of American and French dignitaries and an enthusiastic and grateful American audience. The second memory is linked to Sainte Geneviève near Saint Louis, Missouri. Over the years, FHS has played a vital role in reviving the historic importance of the French heritage in the United States and in particular in the colonial town of Sainte Geneviève. During one of my visits there was a very touching ceremony with the local school choir. What really moved me was when the children sang an old Christmas carol which was sung in all the churches across France during my childhood and at midnight mass at Ainay. I felt the close bond between this small village which was part of the vast corridor settled by the French along the Mississippi spanning from Louisiana to Canada, and our villages in France, our French civilization which permeated them and reached across the ocean and vastness to this place. “

**What is your involvement today with the Parks and Gardens Foundation of France and your role with Russia?**

“The same motivation always underlies my work, that is to say promoting France, its culture, its heritage and its know-how. In 2010, the French Institute in Saint Petersburg asked me to spearhead the creation of French gardens as part of the Franco-Russian Year. Following this initial project, I created exchanges between Russian and French specialists in the field of gardens, in

France and Russia, and organized visits and conferences in Saint Petersburg and Moscow. I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting President Putin on several occasions and have found him to be very passionate about promoting Russia’s cultural heritage.”

**What impressions does a lifetime in the service of heritage inspire?**

“Life has meaning when you have a passion. This passion dictates a course of action that brings a sense of personal enrichment. I have used my passion in the service of France in the fields that I knew and that I loved and my small contribution has added a further touch to the greatness of France. “

**Which of your achievements are you the most proud of?**

“Every action I have been able to carry out has had its own specific significance. I have greatly supported private heritage embodied by the châteaux which are truly the quintessence of the image of France. Another absolutely essential element for me has been the restoration of our religious heritage which participated in the creation of Europe whether it be by the small rural or village churches spread throughout the French countryside, or important abbeys like Saint Antoine in Dauphiné, the abbey of Lagrasse in Aude or the church of Cande Saint-Marti in the Loire Valley which was a major pilgrimage site. For me, private châteaux and religious heritage are essential elements of the image of France, of the country’s essence. “

Marie-Sol de La Tour d’Auvergne will be the guest of honor at the next French Heritage Patrons’ Dinner (Dîner des Mécènes), which will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Cercle de l’Union Interalliée in Paris.



## Savoring French History and Gastronomy One Bite at a Time



This spring, French Heritage Society announced the winning book and authors of its fourth annual book award, “A Bite-Sized History of France: Gastronomic Tales of Revolution, War, and Enlightenment” by Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell. This Book Award was launched in 2017 in celebration of the FHS’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and recognizes and honors a work of distinction that illuminates for the general public either an important element of French cultural or historical patrimony or the influence France, its citizens, and its culture have had in shaping American history, thought and culture. Stéphane Hénaut and Jeni Mitchell share their insights about their book and reveal some of the bite-sized delicacies that it serves up.

**There is a charming story behind A Bite-Sized History of France. What inspired you to write this book together?**

A few years ago, we moved from London to Stéphane’s hometown of Nantes, a very old city in the Loire Valley with an amazing local food culture. As a cheesemonger, Stéphane was particularly happy to once again easily get his favorite French cheeses – including some of the stinkiest French cheeses, like Époisses and Maroilles. This became a bit of a cross-cultural crisis for us, because while these cheeses taste heavenly to him, to me they smell like something has died in our refrigerator. So initially, I overreacted a bit and forbade him from polluting our flat with these horrible cheeses.

Stéphane was a bit distraught, but he came up with a very clever plan – a bit reminiscent of Talleyrand, that great gastronomic diplomat -- and began telling me stories about these cheeses. It turned out that many of them were a thousand years old, created by medieval monks trying to get around their strict religious diets by inventing really interesting cheeses. And he explained how these cheeses taste of their homeland, because they are made with the milk of cows or sheep grazing in one small area, and so to taste this cheese was to consume a part of France itself. So I changed my mind and accepted these cheeses into our home.

And it turns out that in France, every food and wine has a story – a story of how it was created, about the land and the people who produce it, and sometimes about important historical events and people associated with it. We began collecting these stories, and eventually we realized that by putting them all together, in rough chronological order, you could in fact construct an entire history of France. That is really what our book is, a history of France as told through its foods and wines.

**You tell the history of France through its cuisine. What were some of your favorite chapters to write?**

We particularly like the chapters that use food to illustrate broader changes in French society, such as our chapters on medieval French cuisine that reveal how food became a marker of class difference and privilege, in ways that are surprisingly reminiscent of attitudes toward food today. I also enjoyed writing our chapter on the transition from medieval to modern French sauces, reflecting everything from the Reformation and the scientific revolution to expanding global trade and the invention of the stove. We have a chapter on how Enlightenment philosophy led people to favour more authentic rustic cuisines, and we explain French revolutionary ideology by showing how it was manifested in the food trades. The social dislocation resulting from industrialisation and urbanisation is also well captured in gastronomic changes. And we do not shy away from the darker episodes of French history, particularly the French role in European imperialism and the transatlantic slave trade.

We also found it very interesting to research our chapters on everyday French foods, like bread and chocolate and potatoes, which have surprisingly interesting histories. Some of the most famous French food items, like cassoulet and croissants and Camembert, can help explain the course of epochal historical events. And some of the most important figures in French history – from Charlemagne to Catherine de Medici to Napoleon – have fascinating food legends attached to them, that help explain their popular legacies. And of course, as a cheesemonger, Stéphane particularly enjoyed writing all of our chapters on French cheeses – classics like Brie and Roquefort, but also some less familiar cheeses.



*“Terroir is a French concept that tries to capture the connection between gastronomy, territory and society – how a food or wine is intimately linked to the land and the people who produce it.”*

**You write about the “terroir” of France’s foods. Can you explain what that is?**

Terroir is a French concept that tries to capture the connection between gastronomy, territory and society – how a food or wine is intimately linked to the land and the people who produce it. Roquefort, for example, is a blue cheese that has been produced for two thousand years in southwestern France, with the milk of sheep who graze only in a very small area, and aged in the caves of one specific mountain. A blue cheese that is produced outside these specifications is simply not Roquefort. The great rivalry between the wines of Bordeaux and Burgundy is deeply rooted in notions of terroir, in the belief that different soils and climates – but also different agricultural and social traditions – are reflected in the character of the wines. The terroir for a Burgundy wine might be limited to one particular hillside. There are French honeys made from bees who only visit the flowers of one specific sand dune on the Atlantic coast, and of course sea salt from Brittany is completely different from the sea salt produced in the Mediterranean.

Interestingly, there is an American foundation for the concept of terroir.

The invention of the steamship in the 19<sup>th</sup> century enabled transatlantic crossings in ten days, and unfortunately this made it easier for an American louse called phylloxera to survive the trip and ravage the vineyards of France. The impact was apocalyptic: nearly the entire French wine industry was destroyed. The only solution was to graft American vine stocks, which were resistant to phylloxera, onto French vines, but of course this evoked horror among French winemakers. In the end they had no other choice, and the French wine industry was saved. But French winemakers tried to salvage their prestige by claiming that the true character of French wines derived from their soil and climate, from longstanding winemaking traditions – in short, from everything about the wine that was French.

This early concept of terroir spread to many types of food, and culminated in the introduction of the AOC (appellation d’origine contrôlée) labelling system in the 1920s, which dictates how a certain food or wine must be produced in order to use its protected trademark name. Terroir remains a very French concept, but it is increasingly influential in many other countries in recent decades. The slow food movement, for example, has much in common with French notions of terroir, emphasising the importance of local ecosystems and traditions for the character of specific foods.



**This book is not just about food history—you also pull in current conflicts in France regarding immigration and electoral politics. Why was it important to you to write about current-day France?**

One of our aims is to help explain why food is so important to French society and French identity, and naturally for French politics as well – probably more so than in many other countries. Right-wing groups in France rely heavily on food to promote their narrow ideas of ‘French-ness’. They complain about halal food and the absence of pork on school menus, campaign to evict kebab stands from city centres, and set up tables of wine and sausages at their rallies.

Their overall narrative is that France – by which they mean white, Christian France – is under threat from alien forces, and they see gastronomy as an important battlefield. Our book shows how misguided this narrative really is. In fact, many of the most famous French foods have foreign origins. At a time when right-wing xenophobia is on the rise across the globe, we think it is important to challenge these attempts to use food as evidence of a supposedly ‘pure’ and unchanging French identity.

We also focus a great deal on the everyday foods and traditions of ordinary French people, and not just on the elevated haute cuisine. In our chapter on the 1970s, we focus not only on the emergence of nouvelle cuisine but on the arrival of McDonald’s on French soil (France is the company’s second most profitable market worldwide.) The stark divide between the

diets of the rich and the poor, from medieval times until today, is striking. This is not simply due to economics, but to socially constructed ideas about what sorts of food are ‘noble’ or ‘worthy’. In short, French gastronomy is a fascinating and ever-evolving social activity, one that reveals a great deal about the French people and how they see the world.

**What has your exploration of French food taught you about the county’s enduring appeal for Americans?**

What we discovered while writing this book is how obsessive the French can be about their gastronomy and their culture more broadly. It is not enough to simply enjoy a certain cheese, you must know where it comes from, how it was made, the history behind it, and only then can you truly claim to appreciate it. It is not enough to say that a type of honey comes from a certain region; you must explain that it comes from a particular sand dune on one small island off the Atlantic coast.

One can see this attitude in many aspects of French culture and everyday life. Tradition is respected and change is accepted only very gradually. American gastronomy, on the other hand, seems to be constantly evolving and accepting new influences at a speed that bedazzles and fascinates the French. Both attitudes have their advantages and their disadvantages, but it is not surprising that both countries find each other fascinating.



## Chairman's Circle Trip to Brittany

*A Land of History and Legend, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019*



French Heritage Society organized an exclusive Chairman's Circle Trip from October 14<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to the fascinating region of Brittany, renowned for its Celtic heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and fortified cities such as Saint-Malo. Just before the trip, our travelers were invited to the Quai d'Orsay, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs for a private visit followed by a memorable luncheon hosted by Maria Vadillo Le Drian, wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian.

In Brittany the travelers enjoyed a reception and a lunch in Rennes at the Hôtel de Courcy, Regional Council of Brittany, in the presence of Anne Gallo, Vice President of the Regional Council, and Maria Vadillo Le Drian, wife of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, local government representatives, and member of the press. Our travelers were privileged to individually receive the award "Mécènes

de Bretagne" for FHS's support for 13 landmarked properties in Brittany.

Highlights of the trip included ascending to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont-Saint Michel and the discovery of parts of the site opened especially for our group, a Grant Ceremony at the Malouinière de la Chipaudière with owners Benoît and Chloé Magon de Giclais, a private visit of the Neolithic site of Carnac, the breathtaking Morbihan region with the fortified city of Vannes and the heavily reconstructed Château de Suscinio, former residence of the Dukes of Brittany. Throughout the trip our travelers also enjoyed unforgettable dining experiences in different Michelin-starred restaurants feasting on local specialties and innovative regional dishes.



Above: The travelers visit the Quai d'Orsay, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs  
Opposite page: The travelers attend a Grant Ceremony at la Malouinière de la Chipaudière, 2015 FHS Grant and discover the fortified Château de Suscinio

## New York Gala

Preserving our historic treasures  
to inspire future generations

## FHS'S PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

### Define your legacy through French Heritage Society

At the heart of our charitable mission is a belief that the most enduring expression of a culture is the preservation of its highest achievements. Thus, French Heritage Society exists to ensure that French architectural and cultural treasures in the United States and France Charitable bequests through a will or trust are among the easiest ways to make significant future gifts to the individuals and charities that most matter to you. We hope that you will consider FHS in your estate plan. survive and continue to inspire future generations. As a member of our Legacy Society, your support of the Planned Giving Program will ensure that French Heritage Society maintains its crucial role in promoting our shared beliefs and initiatives for years to come.

### Consider French Heritage Society in your estate plan

A bequest to French Heritage Society in your estate plan can support our mission and secure your philanthropic legacy. When structured properly, charitable contributions can also provide donors with significant tax benefits, some extending beyond the gift year. Though there are many creative ways to provide for charity, a simple bequest in a will or designation on a beneficiary form are often sufficient. Please contact our New York office at 212-759-6846 to learn more or to obtain sample bequest language to include in your estate plan. If you have already named FHS as a beneficiary of your estate, please let us know so that we may welcome you into our Legacy Society. Requests for anonymity will be honored.



Make a Gift in Your Will



Name FHS as a Beneficiary Account

### Ways to Give

Charitable bequests through a will or trust are among the easiest ways to make significant future gifts to the individuals and charities that most matter to you. We hope that you will consider FHS in your estate plan.

Retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and other investment accounts can be dedicated to charity through beneficiary designation forms. Due to special tax considerations, these assets could make an excellent choice for funding a charitable gift.



French Heritage Society held its signature New York Gala on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The elegantly themed Black & White Ball honored interior designer Geoffrey Bradfield and philanthropists Margaret and Gregory Hedberg at a private club in Manhattan. Board Chairman Elizabeth Stribling, President Denis de Kergorlay, Executive Director Jennifer Herlein, and more spoke to the masqued crowd clad in black or white tie. A lively auction supported FHS's Student Exchange Program. Dancing and amusement continued until midnight. The Gala Chairmen were CeCe Black, Jean Doyen de Montailou and Michael A. Kovner, Jay R. Paul, Jean Shafiroff, and Ann Van Ness.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Jean Shafiroff, Cece Black, Jean Doyen de Montailou, Michael A. Kovner, Ann Van Ness 2. Jennifer Herlein, Agnes Bean, Charles Holmes and Elizabeth Stribling 3. Gregory and Margaret Hedberg 4. Geoffrey Bradfield, Elizabeth Stribling, CeCe Black, Denis de Kergorlay

# Palm Beach Gala

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French Heritage Society hosted their annual Palm Beach Gala Dinner on the evening of Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Ronald Lee Fleming was honored for his achievements in preservation advocacy and urban planning and design. His philanthropic work to support initiatives to beautify and improve communities led Newport, RI to declare “Ron Fleming Day”, noting, “Mr. Fleming is a recognized authority in the role of art in creating vibrant, livable places, adding luster to Newport’s worldwide reputation as a showcase of art and architecture.”

Clockwise from top left: 1. Jean Shafiroff, Consul General Laurent Gallissot, Elizabeth F. Stribling, CeCe Black ; 2. Michael A. Kovner, Jean Doyen de Montailou; 3. Judy McLaren, Ann Van Ness, Barbara Wolf, PJ Mitchell; 4. Geoffrey Bradfield, Sunne Savage, Ronald Lee Fleming, Anne H. Fitzpatrick;

## Young Patrons Circle New York



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the YPC New York gathered for presentations from three different artisan-entrepreneurs. Sophie Quéré, a maître tapissier and founder of SidebySide, hosted the event. She was joined by Marie Douat, founder of DOU.K, an environmentally conscious fashion brand, and Sandra Somnolet-Boulgaris, silversmith and founder of S.Jewelery Design.

The House of Cadolle has dressed legendary figures from Coco Chanel and Mata Hari to Beyoncé in its signature lingerie. Poupie Cadolle, the fifth-generation daughter to operate her family maison, was enthusiastically welcomed in New York on March, 4<sup>th</sup>, to discuss her eponymous brand.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Mme. Poupie Cadolle presents her work to the YPC New York members; 2. Liz McDermott, guest, Elizabeth Millstein, Mme. Poupie Cadolle, Elizabeth Hartnett, Kelly Robinson, Elle Von Jäeger; 3. Roxana Bartolomé, Blake Funston, Andres Perea-Garzon, Johnsonie Casimyr, Axelle and Pierre-Mayeul de Nicolay ; 4. Marie Douat, Sophie Quéré, Sandra Somnolet;

## Young Patrons Circle Paris



On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the YPC Paris was welcomed by Christian Bramsen and his son Victor for a visit of their lithography workshop, *Clot, Bramsen & Georges*, in the heart of the Marais. They shared the exceptional story of the oldest original lithography workshop in Paris, created by their family, where masterpieces came out of the presses of the workshop signed by Degas, Cézanne, Renoir, Sisley, Bonnard, Rodin and many others. Christian Bramsen presented the fascinating life of the workshop that still prints contemporary artworks and their unique savoir-faire. The YPC welcomed new members during a friendly cocktail with Henriot Champagne in the atelier.

On February, 27<sup>th</sup>, the YPC Paris enjoyed a visit of a stained glass workshop, *Au Passeur de Lumière*, created 15 years ago by Nolwenn de Kergommeaux, to promote this unique listed worldwide heritage. Nolwenn and her fellow craftsmen, who restore and create stain glass elements, presented a complete restoration process from the cut, to the insert of the lead framework to the glass painting, and the YPC members were invite to try a few techniques. Gwenaëlle de Kergommeaux, Nolwenn's sister and collaborator, also presented her unique artistic creations including lacquerware furniture, stingray and eggshell decorative objects. The visit was followed by a cocktail.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Anne Faguer, Louise de Saint-Martin, Prune de La Fage, Thibault Le Marié, Agustina Cattaneo; 2. Gabriel et Jennifer Becq, Valentin Goux, Jurga Lenkaityte, Samantha Kohli Brisolier, Kotrina Strelciunaite; 3. The YPC members at Au Passeur de Lumière; 4. The YPC members at Clot, Bramsen & Georges

## Atlanta



On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Atlanta chapter held “Burgundy is Coming to Atlanta!” a wine tasting and lecture by Preston Mohr, Chateau de Pommard. The event was held in a private home and sponsored by Harry Norman, Realtors, Buckhead North office, Robert S. Owen, Russell Gray, Forde Kay and James Simons.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 the Atlanta Chapter held it annual black tie dinner and auction at a private club. This was fan elegant and festive evening that serves each year as a major

Clockwise from top left: Burgundy is Coming to Atlanta! event with Preston Mohr, Chateau de Pommard (1,4,5).  
1. James Simons, Milt Shlapak, Beverly Shlapak, Leslie Petter, Robert Owen  
2. Reveillon de Noel: Eleanor Bannister, Denis de Kergorlay, Suzy Wasserman, Donna Burchfield 3. Connor Davidson, David Wiramihardja, Maddie Davidson, Asheton Akers, Ty Picard 5. Kathryn Spetz, Cornelia Bird, Anne Schneider

## Boston



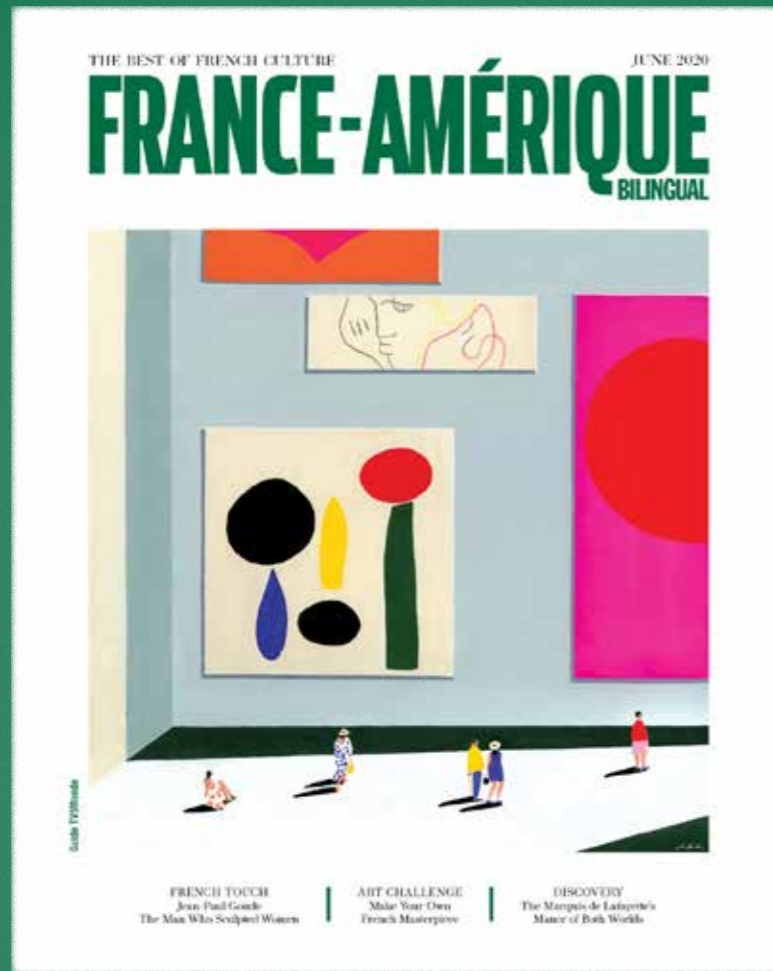
On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Dr. Isabelle de Vendevre came especially to Boston to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prix Goncourt being awarded to Proust. She talked about **‘Seeing through appearances, Remembrance of Things Past - and Present. Proust in 1919 and in 2019’**. The event took place at the Chilton Club and was followed by a well-attended dinner.

On Friday, September, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Boston Chapter organized a cultural day trip in Hartford, Connecticut to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the Austin House, and the Hill-Stead Museum, with their respective curators.

Clockwise from top left: 1. François Bardonnnet, Christian Draz, Thomas Thaler, Dr. de Vendevre, Ronald Fleming and Dr. De Marneffe 2... François Bardonnnet, Consul General de France in Boston Arnaud Mentré, Caroline Gueny Mentré, Thomas Thaler, Dr. de Vendevre, Ronald Fleming and Dr. de Marneffe 3. Boston Chapter members along with Elizabeth Stribling and Guy Robinson at Austin House.

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—Past Chapter Events

## Chicago



On Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Chicago Chapter held its first annual Bal Masqué Gala at the American Writers Museum. In addition to raising funds to assist with the ongoing restoration of the Beauregard-Keyes House in New Orleans, we celebrated a birthday! February marked the first anniversary of FHS's Chicago Chapter. Distinguished guests in attendance included M. Tanguy Accart, Cultural Attaché of the Consulate General of France in Chicago; Ms. Jeanne Gang and Mr. Mark Schendel, architects and principals of Studio Gang and Ms. Annie Irvin, Executive Director of the Beauregard-Keyes House. Nearly 150 attendees – of all ages – were fêted with New Orleans-inspired jazz performed by the James Davis Trio and Tom Kichler; tarot card readings; mini pop-up lectures; games and the best Sazeracs and Creole cuisine to be found outside of New Orleans! Gala Chair, Lisa Kahn, and the dynamic chapter members value Education, Inclusivity, Healthy Exchange and the preservation of our FRENCH patrimoine. From generation to generation, we are committed to community-building to enrich Chicago and beyond.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Annie Irvin, Executive Director of the Beauregard-Keyes House and guest, Mr. Geno Warner; 2. Custom masks by Jeff Semmerling and Odile Compagnon; 3. Gala Chair, Lisa Kahn, with Gala Sponsor, Xun Mei Del Sesto; 4. Chicago Chapter Steering Committee member, Janet Merutka, and Muriel Koepke; 5. Chicago Chapter Steering Committee member, Sophie Levy-Kohn with guests, Michael Levy and Fabienne Münch.

## Louisiana



On Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Louisiana Chapter organized a well-attended Creole dinner at Beauregard Keyes House, a 2019 Grant recipient. The evening raised funds to support this grant from the Louisiana and FHS Chapters.

"We are dedicated to fostering and preserving the French culture of Louisiana and opening our doors to interns."

- Diane Sustental-Labouisse, Co-Chairman, Louisiana Chapter

Clockwise from top left: 1. Consul General of France and Mrs. Vincent Sciana, Honorary CoChairs of the Evening; 2. French Heritage Edit. Chairmen of Gala Left to right: Suzie and Pierre Villere with his daughter CeCe Colhoun, Chair of the Junior Committee; 3. A festive overview of dinner served in the ballroom of the Beauregard Keyes House; 4. Nell Nolan, society editor of The Advocate/ Times-Picayune, and Diane Labouisse, Louisiana Chapter Co-Chairman; 5. Michael Harold, Louisiana Chapter Co-Chairman, and David Pons.

## New York



French Heritage Society (FHS) and The American Friends of L'Abbaye de Lagrasse jointly hosted a presentation at the French Consulate in New York on the evening of Thursday, March 5, 2020. The topic was "Abbaye de Lagrasse: 1,000 Years of Human Expression in the Architecture of a Sacred Site." As part of the evening, The Abbaye announced the launching its American Friends effort, which is allied to the FHS Fiscal Sponsorship Program. Its planned fundraising campaign, Revive Lagrasse Abbey, is an ambitious 5-year campaign targeting a \$6.7 million fundraising goal for funds necessary for L'Abbaye de Lagrasse restoration projects.

FHS Board Chairman Elizabeth F. Stribling welcomed Didier Repellin, Architecte en Chef des Monuments Historiques. The event was in the presence of the Très Révérend Père Emmanuel-Marie of Abbé des Chanoines de Lagrasse and Eric Bayer, Vice-Consul General of France in New York. "The restoration of our Abbaye de Lagrasse is an extraordinary challenge: to give life to such a monument is a cultural, human and spiritual adventure, unique in France today," said Très Révérend Père Emmanuel-Marie. Didier Repellin then elaborated on the ingenuity of the ancient engineering of the Abbey. He focused specifically on the Abbey's remarkable masonry. A lively cocktail reception followed.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Patricia Shiah, Ann Van Ness, CeCe Black, Gigi Fisdell, Carole Westfall, Elizabeth Stribling 2: Elaine Sciolino, Guy Robinson 3. Astrid Stanfield-Pinel, Elizabeth Stribling, Très Révérend Père Emmanuel-Marie of Abbé des Chanoines de Lagrasse, Odile de Schiètere-Longchamps 4 Antoine Petruzzi, Melody Strambio Petruzzi, Jennifer Herlein, Kazie Metzger Harvey

## Northern California



On Monday, November, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019, contributing writer and former Paris bureau chief for the New York Times, Elaine Sciolino, spoke to our chapter about her latest book, “The Seine: The River that Made Paris”. Marsha and Michael Lasky received the members in true French style, champagne in hand as they sat overlooking San Francisco Bay.

On January, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Fête des Rois celebration was held at the home of Justs and Dr. Dana Beldiman-Karlsons. The famous holiday galettes ended the evening of regal frivolity. Elizabeth Birka-White discovered the fête and chose her husband David to be her King. The annual party is a chapter favorite and the origin of the event dates back centuries.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Dr. Jean-Jacques Vitrac, Allison Probrislo, Michael Lasky, Lucia Howard; 2. Author Elaine Sciolino, Marsha & Michael Lasky, hosts of the evening; 3. Justs Karlsons, Elizabeth Birka-White, David Birka-White, Dana Beldiman-Karlsons; 4. Dr. Dana Beldiman-Karlsons and Justs Karlson, hosts of the Galette des Rois.

## Paris



Members and friends gathered at the iconic Hôtel Le Bristol in the legendary Salon Castellane for the traditional Paris Chapter Thanksgiving dinner prepared by Chef Eric Frechon, whose creativity has no limits, and the dinner was absolutely exceptional! Over \$20 000 were raised for the 2019 Paris Chapter grants thanks to the extreme generosity of Mr. Luca Allegri, President of Hôtel Le Bristol Paris, Chris and also thanks to Caroline Cardon who donated their excellent wines and the Maison Henriot for the Champagne.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Julien Alvarez, Chef Pâtissier; Dominique Biarnès, Paris Chapter Vice-Chairman ; Chef Eric Frechon, three Michelin stars; Astrid Stanfield-Pinel, Paris Chapter Chairman; Elizabeth Stribling, FHS Chairman; Denis de Kergorlay, FHS President; 2. André Audi; Elizabeth Stribling, FHS Chairman; Gian Cristoforo Savasta; Roberta de Breteuil; Dominique Sahut 3. Jennifer Herlein, FHS Executive Director; Andrew Sands; Solange Ricard; Maureen Nash 4. The Hon. Carole Brookins, Founder and Emeritus Chairman (in Memoriam) of The First Alliance Foundation; Monsieur Marc Fossex; Madame Alexandre d'Andoque; Général de Saint Chamas, Gouverneur des Invalides 5. Caroline et Chris Cardon, Dr. Steven St Peter, François Bardonnnet, Co-Chairman Boston Chapter



## Philadelphia



On Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the FHS Philadelphia Chapter gathered with friends and supporters for its traditional Fête de Noël at the Acorn Club. The guests enjoyed French wine, music and song, and generous hors d'oeuvres to celebrate the holidays and end the year with a festive French touch.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Anne Jensen, Julia Ward, Gaëlle Dyèvre 2. Julie Jensen Bryan, Anne Jensen 3. Anne Jensen, Julia Ward 4. Barbara Delacato, Anne Jensen, Georgia Shafia 5. Robert Bryan Polly Myer, Dylan Ward, Kelsey Engmann, Yves Quintin, Rosanne Loesch

## Washington



On Thursday, January, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the FHS Washington Regional Chapter members had the honor to be invited by the Ambassador of France to the United States, Philippe Étienne for a memorable “Soirée Élégante at the French Residence”. This special evening was given in honor of French Heritage Society for raising nearly \$2.6 million for its Notre Dame Fire Restoration Fund. Proceeds went to the Château de la Montagne and to the Lafayette Bedchamber now being restored at George Washington’s Mount Vernon.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Elizabeth F. Stribling; 2. Nina Pillsbury, Amb Philippe Etienne, Edith Brewster, Phillip W Pillsbury Jr; 3. Anne Nitze, Véronique Bich; 4. Elizabeth Lodal, Nina Pillsbury, Jan Lodal

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