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**French Heritage Society to host its inaugural French Heritage Literary Award
in New York on Thursday, May 18, 2017**

New York, NY, February 2, 2017 - French Heritage Society (FHS) is pleased to announce its inaugural French Heritage Literary Award, an initiative launched this year in light of FHS' 35th Anniversary. The award ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 18th. The evening will commence at 6:00pm with a cocktail reception, followed by the award ceremony and will culminate with a celebratory dinner.

Through its French Heritage Literary Award, FHS will recognize and honor a work of literary, scholarly or aesthetic distinction that illuminates for the general public either an important element of French cultural or historical patrimony (especially but not solely in the domains of architecture, décor, couture, gardening and the arts) or the considerable and noteworthy influence France, its citizens and its culture have had in shaping American history, thought and culture. The nominated works must be written in, or translated into, English and have been published in America in the three years preceding the annual awarding of the prize.

The five shortlisted books for the inaugural French Heritage Literary Award are: **"Versailles and the American Revolution"** by Valerie Bajou, **"Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette"** by Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, **"When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees Who Shaped a Nation"** by Francois Furstenberg, **"Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History"** by Rhonda K. Garelick, and **"The Other Paris"** by Luc Sante.

The French Heritage Literary Award's esteemed jury is comprised of: **Laura Auricchio**, Professor of Art History at Parsons School of Design; **Tom Bishop**, Florence Lacaze Gould Professor of French Literature and the Director of the Center for French Civilization and Culture at NYU; **Robert Couturier**, acclaimed interior designer; **Anne Poulet**, Director Emerita of The Frick Collection; and **Elaine Sciolino**, contributing writer and former Paris bureau chief for *The New York Times*.

The winning author will be announced at the ceremony and will receive a \$5,000 cash prize. During the event, the winner will be interviewed by **Caroline Weber**, followed by an audience Q&A session. Caroline Weber is Associate Professor of French at Barnard College as well as the acclaimed author of several works, including "Terror and its Discontents: Suspect Words and the French Revolution," "Fragments of Revolution," and "Queen of Fashion: What Marie-Antoinette Wore to the French Revolution."

FHS is a non-profit American organization created in 1982 that includes 10 chapters in the US as well as one in France. Through various activities and educational programs, FHS is dedicated to the preservation, restoration and promotion of French heritage throughout the United States and France. The central

mission of FHS is to ensure that the treasures of our shared French architectural and cultural heritage survive in order to inspire future generations to build, dream, and create.

In 2016, FHS awarded 12 restoration grants in France and 3 in the United States for a pledged \$520,000. To date, FHS has raised over \$19 million dollars and awarded over 515 restoration grants to historic monuments, buildings and gardens in every department in France as well as to properties in the United States that reflect France's historic influence.

For more information about FHS, please visit <http://frenchheritagesociety.org/> or contact our New York office at (212) 759-6846 or at fhs@frenchheritagesociety.org.

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