



May 23, 2018  
The Consulate General of France  
934 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10021



CONSULAT GÉNÉRAL DE FRANCE  
A NEW YORK

LA CONSULE GÉNÉRALE

Dear members and friends of the  
Paris American Club,

I regret that I cannot be here to meet  
you in person but let me wish you, from Paris,  
a wonderful evening and every success in the  
years ahead.

The Paris American Club preserves a tradition  
begun in 1777 by Benjamin Franklin's Tuesday  
dinners for Americans in Paris. By bringing together  
citizens from our two nations and beyond you  
play a critical role in fortifying our alliance  
and friendship. Quoting "the young president  
of an old nation" as President Macron described  
himself, I am very happy to see so many  
young members join the Club and contribute  
to reinventing our shared destiny in the future.

With my very best wishes,

Anne-Elise Leydier

934 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10021  
TEL: (212) 606 3600 - TELECOPIE: (212) 606 3620  
[HTTP://WWW.CONSULFRANCE-NEWYORK.ORG/](http://www.consulfrance-newyork.org/)

# *Program*

6:30

Wine & hors d'oeuvres

7:00

Swing Dance Lesson

7:20

Welcome by the Honorable Eric Bayer  
Deputy Consul General of France in New York

7:25

American and French National Anthems  
Elizabeth Moran and Chloé Perrier

7:30

Remarks  
John F Bennett  
Alexandre Champeau

7:35

School for International Studies Award

7:40

Chloé Perrier & Jazz Band

8:45

*Au revoir!*

## *The Paris American Club*

The Paris American Club brings together citizens of France, America, and other nations who share a passion for France and an interest in fostering the centuries-old Franco-American friendship. Participants in our gatherings and events hail from many fields and backgrounds, including business and diplomatic circles, the arts and education.



Our activities and purpose preserve a tradition begun in 1777 by Benjamin Franklin's Sunday Dinners in Passy, which were a feature of his diplomatic mission to the court of Versailles. Franklin dinners were established in Paris on a regular basis after the American Revolution and resumed after the French Revolution of 1789, usually celebrated under the auspices of ministers and ambassadors.

The many clubs (Latin Quarter, Cradle, Pen and Pencil, Ramblers and Stanley), then the Universities Club, lead to the formation of the American Club of Paris. At the Thanksgiving Dinner of 1904, under the auspices of General Horace Porter, American Ambassador to France and Honorary President of the Universities Club, William S. Dalliba was elected by acclamation as the Club's first president. The *course aux flambeaux*, by which the sacred flame of Minerva was transmitted to successive generations in ancient Greece, was thus revived.

During the Great War, the club rendered inestimable service,

keeping alive good fellowship among resident and visiting Americans, but especially between American and French citizens.

By the late 1930's a large American artistic, business and professional colony was an integrated part of Parisian life. As the Germans conquered Austria, the prospects for Americans living in Europe grew increasingly dim. With the invasion of Poland in 1939, Americans in Paris reluctantly began leaving for home. Most settled in New York; all were curious and heart-broken about developments in Europe. Whenever two Americans from Paris met, they asked anxiously about their City of Light. Their fading hopes were extinguished when Paris fell on June 10, 1940.

Shortly afterward, a few Paris-Americans began meeting at the Brevoort Hotel in New York for lunch. Raymond Harper, an international lawyer, was the moving spirit but he sent out no announcements and made no phone calls – of course, email and social media did not exist! By word of mouth news got around. At first there were five or six for lunch, then 10 or 12, soon 25 or 30.

In late 1940 these lunches became, without much fanfare, the Paris American Club of New York. Raymond Harper was elected President and agreement was reached to meet for lunch on the first Thursday of each month. That was about it. No constitution or bylaws were adopted; no membership qualifications were stipulated.

These New Yorkers who had once been the American colony in Paris wanted to remain in touch with itself and with France. Some members returned to Paris at the end of World War II.

Most did not, however, and the decision was reached to continue the club as a Franco-American institution of mutual regard and goodwill.

The Club was officially incorporated as a Type A corporation on August 24, 2001 for the purposes of a 501(c)(7) non-for-profit corporation.



Over the past two years, the Club has experienced a *renouvellement*, with membership doubling to over 150, comprised of many Junior Members. About

half of our members are French and others American, allowing for cultural and language exchange.

Dinners and cocktails have supplemented the traditional luncheon, featuring a speaker on a topic of interest. French cooking lessons, a pétanque tournament, ski weekend, July 4<sup>th</sup> barbecue and pool party, MET tours, French Open and World Cub brunches feature among other activities. Information and registration may be found on the Events page of the website. A mentoring program is in development.

Tonight's fête celebrates the anniversary of the Junior Member Launch Party on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 and our Outreach to French education in New York. If you are not a member yet, consider joining us, details on website. Et encore merci à nos sponsors, including Francis Dubois and A. Champeau.

## *Boerum Hill School for International Studies*



Boerum Hill School for International Studies is undergoing dramatic change thanks to strong leadership, dual-language French instruction and the challenging International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum. Students enjoy arts offerings, field trips and a culinary program where they work in a professionally equipped kitchen and intern at restaurants and caterers.

Boerum Hill Middle school enrollment is up from 50 6th-graders in 2014 to 180 in 2017 and parents are impressed with how quickly their children are learning French, where students have French language instruction every day and science is taught in both French and English. Students also participate in an after-school French immersion program to develop conversational fluency.

The IB program offers rich class discussions, thoughtful research papers and imaginative courses such as “Individual and Societies,” “Language Acquisition” and “Language and Literature.” Instruction in all grades emphasizes communication, social and self-management, research and analytical-thinking skills.

Partnerships with a range of organizations, such as the French Embassy, 92nd Street Y, Unterberg Poetry Center, Brooklyn Historical Society and Urban Advantage, help expand learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

## *Swing Dancing*

"**Swing dance**" developed with the swing style of jazz music in the 1920s-1940s, with the origins of each dance predating the popular "swing era". During that time, there were hundreds of styles of swing dancing; those that have survived include: Lindy Hop, Balboa, Collegiate Shag, and Charleston. Today, the most well-known of these is the Lindy Hop, which originated in Harlem in the early 1930s. Spencer Weisbond, dancing swing since 1998, has a program at the JCC in Manhattan and also teaches privately.



## *Elizabeth Moran*

Ms. Moran was most recently seen in the *Concert Lyrique: Les Voix des Filles* with L'Art du Chant Français in southwestern France. Raised in Anchorage, Alaska, Ms. Moran earned her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is based in New York City and currently splits her time between New York and Paris.



## *Chloé Perrier*

Chloe Perrier is a French Jazz singer based in NYC. Her great strength is her ability to connect with her audience using her clear voice, emotion and true artistic talent.

Whether she interprets great jazz standards, bossa nova, French songs, or her own compositions, she transports the audience into her poetic and romantic universe and enchants the public with the refreshing and dreamy way she has of looking at life.







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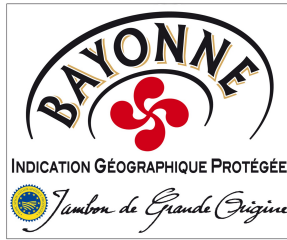
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French Morning est le site d'actualité leader pour les Francophones et Francophiles résidant aux Etats-Unis.

[www.frenchmorning.com](http://www.frenchmorning.com)



Jambon de Bayonne, or Bayonne Ham is the outcome of know-how which dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century and continues to be perpetuated with the greatest respect for tradition. It has graced some of the most famous tables in history, such as those of Marguerite de Navarre, Rabelais, the French king Henri IV, all of whom argued fervently for its place at the table.

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And just like that, a French-American wine sourced from close to each of our childhood homes was born.

He proposed. She said yes. They made wine.

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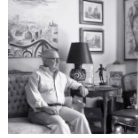
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# *PAC Board of Directors*

(2018-2019)

## **John F. Bennett, President**

A native of Newburgh, NY, and lifelong Francophile, John earned his BS in French at Georgetown University, spending his junior year in Nice. After a 28-year management career with Berlitz Languages, he currently runs Alouette Communications.



## **Alexandre Champeau, Junior Member Committee**

Born in Strasbourg, Alsace, he has lived in Reunion Island, Paris and Nice, where he graduated from SKEMA Business School. He moved to New York to open a branch of ESCAL Consulting in 2015. An enthusiastic networker, Alexandre challenges himself with English boxing, swing dancing and volunteering.

**Francis Dubois** was also born and raised in Alsace. He enjoyed a distinguished career with the United Nations, being assigned to the Palestinian Territories as Deputy Coordinator of the Secretary General. Postings to Iraq, with rank of Ambassador, and subsequently to Algeria and Tunisia followed. Since retirement, Francis is an active member of several non-governmental organizations and President of Le Comité La Fayette.



## **Catherine Godbille-Koechlin, Speakers Committee, was**

born in Paris, attended the University of Nanterre and later studied business and law at the University of Michigan. She founded International Language Experts, a Michigan translation company, served as Managing Director of Bowne Translation and currently specializes in luxury residential listings with Douglas Elliman. A prodigious fundraiser, Catherine chaired the LFNY's Annual Fund campaign and is involved with Change for Kids.

## **Hilary J. James, Vice President and Event**

**Coordinator,** is a Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker with Brown Harris Stevens. An accomplished professional with more than 25 years of experience, Hilary is respected by her colleagues and her clients for her expansive



knowledge of the Manhattan real estate market, her professionalism, discretion. Previously, she was Director of Sales for the Bristol Plaza. Born and educated in England and fluent in French, Hilary began her career in the film industry, holding positions with Columbia Pictures, 20th Century Fox and Warner Brothers, where she lived in Paris for four years.



**Mathieu Legendre, Outreach Committee** arrived in New York in 2016. Born and raised in Meaux, he studied law in Paris II, then worked as a junior lawyer back in his hometown before founding his own practice at 25, leading the real estate/construction department. Mathieu got involved in the public life, leading a group of young political activists and joining the city board after the 2014 local election, where he oversaw digital policy. He is now the CEO of a real estate investment company, US BATISS LLC.

**Jonathan Wells, Treasurer**, is President and Bureau Chief of SIPA USA, an international photo agency. An international sales and licensing professional with extensive experience in strategic partnerships, content acquisition, marketing, and global business development, he has managed licensing agreements over 40 countries. With a BA in Economics from NYU, also holds the DELF, a diploma issued by the French Ministry of Education to certify skills in French. Jonathan serves on several not-for-profit boards, is a member of the Digital Media Licensing Association and volunteers with Experience Camps, for children who have lost a parent, sibling or loved one.



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**Paris American Club  
1 Minetta Street, 2E  
New York, NY 10012**

**212.888.5050**

**[info@parisamericanclub.org](mailto:info@parisamericanclub.org)  
[www.parisamericanclub.org](http://www.parisamericanclub.org)**



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**Nicolas de Crémiers, NAVYA, CMO**

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