

1940 - 2025

FÊTONS ENSEMBLE  
NOS 85 ANS D'AMITIÉ  
FRANCO-AMÉRICAINE !



PARIS AMERICAN CLUB  
NEW YORK

# Congratulations *on the* Paris American Club's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

We salute this remarkable milestone and commend the Club's steadfast dedication to strengthening transatlantic ties and advancing the spirit of international fellowship.

*Vive l'amitié franco-américaine!*

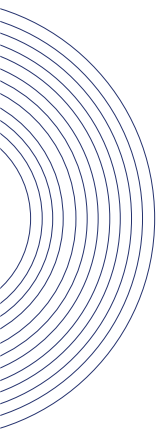
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# MISSION OF THE PARIS AMERICAN CLUB

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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 business and diplomatic circles, the arts and education.

Our activities and purpose preserve a tradition begun in 1777 by Benjamin Franklin's "Sunday Dinners" for Americans in Paris. Our predecessor, The France-America Society, was founded in 1912 "to make France known and loved in America, and America in France."

Since 1940, the Paris American Club meets to inform and entertain members and their guests with the aim of furthering fellowship and relations between our two nations—in all their social, commercial, artistic and intellectual interests.

# BIENVENUE *WELCOME*

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Chère Madame la Consule Générale Adjointe, chère Myriam,  
dear Members, Friends and Guests :

Un grand merci ! Thank you so much for joining us this evening to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the Paris American Club, founded in 1940. It is indeed an honor to serve as your president during this important year.

We are delighted to honor Myron Hurwitz in memoriam, our longest serving president of 22 years, represented by his son and member, Peter Hurwitz, and also to honor Caroline Lareuse, the first female member of our club, active since 1989, and a former honorary Consul General of France based in Princeton, NJ. An organization doesn't survive and thrive without such dedicated leaders.

While we are very proud of our origins, traditions and history, we need to focus on our future. As most organizations these days, we have to compete for young people with so many online sites and other ways of interacting, it's a challenge to recruit the next generation of leaders. During the past ten years, we have increased membership in the 45-and-under age range to 19% of total members, from an almost non-existent number in 2007, the year I joined as one of the club's youngest members at the time, at age 53!

Our quest for financial stability is paramount, not only for the club's survival, but also for our ability to contribute towards funding scholarships for French students looking to study in the United State and Americans in France. We currently do this through a small annual donation to the Jérôme Lohez 9/11 Scholarship Foundation, founded by member Dening Lohez.

The goal of the club is certainly not to make money, but we need to build a solid financial cushion. Any organization based in New York City for 85 years, even one devoted to “faire bonne chair, bien boire, et faire la fête” should be sitting on at least \$1 million in assets. In 2007, our balance was \$68k, it was down to \$17k by 2014. As of the end of 2024, we are now at \$66k. If only our ancestors, les Gaullois, would have purchased a townhouse in Manhattan...

To this end, we have applied for the 501(c) (3) non-profit status, to make it easier to receive tax-exempt donations and have created the PAC Franklin Legacy Society. Already several members have given a gift for the future by including the club in their estate planning, see [parisamericanclub.org/membership/a gift](http://parisamericanclub.org/membership/a%20gift) for the future webpage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated board members for their support over the years, as well as Dr. Ellie Abdi for her social media posts and Dening Lohez for her work on the speakers committee.

We heartfully thank all of our members, new and seasoned, who continue to support the club by renewing their membership each year, which makes the activities of the club possible.

And finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed an ad in this program, making it possible.

Vive l’amitié franco-américaine!





PARIS AMERICAN CLUB  
NEW YORK

## HONORING

Myron Hurwitz  
and  
Caroline Lareuse

### **In the presence of**

La Consule Générale Adjointe de New York  
Son Excellence  
Madame Myriam Gil



**November 11, 2025**

The River Club  
447 East 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10022



# PROGRAMME DE LA SOIRÉE



## *WELCOME AND TOAST*

John F Bennett

## *OPENING REMARKS*

**Guest of Honor**

Son Excellence Myriam Gil

## *AWARD HONORING*

Myron Hurwitz

**Presented by**

Francis Dubois

## *AWARD HONORING*

Caroline Lareuse

**Presented by**

Beth Harrison



**Monte's salutes its Franco-Italiano  
friendship with the Paris American  
Club on its 85th anniversary.**

Monte's Trattoria is an Italian institution in New York City, boasting a rich and storied history that spans over a century. Established in 1918, the trattoria has become a symbol of Italian American culture and cuisine in the heart of Greenwich Village.

Chef Pietro Mosconi also creates delectable French dishes for Paris American Club events, such as the recent *dîner à la magique* and the Roland Garros brunch.

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New York, NY 10012  
212.228.9194

**[info@montestrattorianyc.com](mailto:info@montestrattorianyc.com)**  
**[www.montestrattorianyc.com](http://www.montestrattorianyc.com)**





## MENU DU GALA *COCKTAIL DÎNATOIRE*

Mini Crab Cakes

Vegetable Spring Rolls

Mini Truffle Ham & Cheese

Croque Monsieur

Smoked Salmon w/Cauliflower Tart

Foie Gras Mousse on Brioche

Roasted Beets w/Goat Cheese

Cookies & Petits Fours



Vins de la maison



PARIS AMERICAN CLUB  
NEW YORK

VIVE LE  
PARIS AMERICAN CLUB  
ET  
L'AMITIÉ  
FRANCO-AMÉRICAINE !



BON ANNIVERSAIRE !  
PAUL & FRANCIS



## Myron Hurwitz

1924 - 2011



Myron Leslie Hurwitz lost his battle to Pancreatic Cancer on September 12, 2011.

Born in Marseille, France and educated in France and in the US, Mr. Hurwitz graduated Magna Cum Laude from Princeton University in 1943. During WWII, he served in US Army Military Intelligence as liaison with French resistance forces and received both French and American military commendations including five battle stars.

As the Allied armies advanced into Normandy following the D-Day invasion, he played an important role in the liberation of the City of Evreux, a major headquarters of German troops, by establishing communications through French underground contacts. As a result of pre-dawn meetings with the Mayor of Evreux's emissaries, American forces were able to liberate the city without any severe damage

to its people, great cathedral, or historic sites.

In August 1994, during the 50th anniversary celebration of the liberation of France, Mr. Hurwitz was honored by the City of Evreux with the medal of the City and was made an honorary citizen.

After the war, he held editorial and public relations positions relating to international diplomacy and trade, including editor-in-charge of the Diplomatic Yearbook; director of international services of United Nations World magazine; director of special services and vice president and general manager of World magazine, and principal in his own public relations firm, representing such organizations as the Paris and Lyons international trade fairs.

One of Mr. Hurwitz's key contributions to fostering

Franco-American relations was as president of the Paris American Club from 1976-1998 (22 years of service). In 1990, Mr. Hurwitz was elected President of French Expositions in the US, Inc., an organization established by the French government to direct the participation of French industries in American trade shows.

In 1987, the government of France awarded Mr. Hurwitz the rank of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for «his tireless efforts on behalf of Franco-American friendship.» In 1999, the French government further awarded Mr. Hurwitz the additional rank of Officier of the National Order of Merit.

In 1960, Mr. Hurwitz joined The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, specializing in world trade and maritime

activities. He became Chief of Information Services in 1971, and, in 1976, he was put in charge of all promotional, marketing, and patron services for PATH, the Port Authority's rapid rail transit system. He retired in 1995 as a senior management executive for interstate transportation, and liaison with the Union Internationale des Transports Publics (UTTP).

Mr. Hurwitz is survived by his wife of 56 years, Claudine, his children; Alexandra Hurwitz Robinson, Peter Hurwitz, Kyra Leslie Pugh, Raphael Hurwitz, along with 11 grandchildren. After retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Hurwitz divided their time between Boussac, France, and Connecticut. A memorial service with military honors was held at graveside September 16, at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Adelphi, Maryland.



## Caroline Lareuse

*First Female Paris American Club Member in 1989 and Honorary Consul General of France in Princeton, NJ*

### **2024 at the National Arts Club**

The Paris American Club is honored to count Caroline Lareuse as its first lady member, active since 1989, with her membership sponsored by Myron Hurwitz.

From an article in the New York Times from October 18, 1998: *"The Ties That Bind: Thinking Globally at the Local Level."*

Foreign consulates are usually in major cities like New York and Philadelphia, but New Jersey has several. Portugal, for example, has a consulate in Newark near the heavily Portuguese Ironbound district; Ecuador has one in Jersey City; Italy has viceconsulates in Newark and Trenton. And this year, the French consul general in New York City, Richard Duqué, appointed an honorary consul for New Jersey: Caroline Lareuse of Princeton, one of

38 honorary French consuls throughout the country, named with the blessing of the State Department. Mrs. Lareuse, who is married to a Frenchman, holds dual citizenship and has long been active in many Franco-American activities, exemplifies the kind of personal ties that have developed through programs that let public officials and private citizens reach out to people around the world."

In 2001, Caroline was named "Chevalier" in the **French National Order of Merit**.



The Ordre national du Mérite (National Order of Merit) is a French order of merit with membership awarded by the President of the French Republic, founded on December 3, 1963 by President

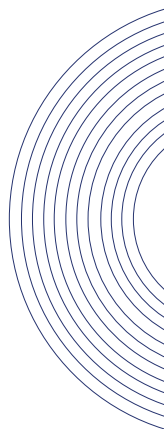
Charles de Gaulle. Other well-known-to-American recipients include Charles Aznavour, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Jacques Cousteau, Alain Delon, Gérard Depardieu, Isabelle Hubert, Marcel Marceau, General Mark A. Milley, Queen Sofia of Spain, Julia Child, and Catherine, Princess of Wales. So, you see, our Caroline is in very good company! Mme. Lareuse is, or has been, an active member in these organizations:

- American Friends of Blérancourt
- American Friends of Lafayette, Board of Directors
- American Women's Group in Paris, Assistant Treasurer
- DAR Princeton Chapter
- Paris American Club
- Rochambeau Chapter, DAR Paris
- Sister City Association Princeton/Colmar
- Sister City Association Yorktown/Port-Vendres
- Souvenir Français
- The French Heritage Society
- Vieilles Maisons Françaises.

Born in New York City, Caroline has lived in Brookside, NJ and currently resides in Princeton. She attended the University of Colorado, Summer session, Middlebury College, Summer session, and graduated with a BA from Barnard College.



Caroline worked as secretary to the Assistant Commercial Director at Air France (1955-1959). Her whole family moved to France from 1971-1978 and Caroline became very involved in numerous French/American Bicentennial activities. In 1978, she was an Evaluator for the New Jersey Committee for the Humanities at Rutgers University's Art Program and also served on the French American Bicentennial Committee in Princeton. In 1958 she married the well-known French Catalan artist, Jean Lareuse. They have three children. Caroline donated one of the late Jean's painting to the Paris American Club for a tombola, held on April 21, 2002 at the Hôtel Chantelle, celebrating the fifth anniversary of the Junior Member Launch.





# HISTORY OF THE PARIS AMERICAN CLUB

During the darkest period of the War of American Independence, Franklin, then living in Paris' imposing Hôtel Valentinois, (located at 4 rue de Basse, now rue Raynouard, Passy) adopted the pleasing custom of Sunday dinners to cheer his fellow countrymen. At about three o'clock in the afternoon on a bright, crisp Sunday in December, 1777, a select group of Americans graced Franklin's table. Notwithstanding the sumptuous yet delicate dishes and the Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne that enhanced the meal, gloom governed the event.

Reports had reached Paris that General Sir William Howe had taken Philadelphia. As a chaise-poste drawn by three horses dashed into the hotel's courtyard, Jonathan Austin, a young Bostonian wrapped in a travel-worn fur coat, arrived to deliver urgent dispatches entrusted to him by the U.S. Congress. "Is Philadelphia taken?" asked Franklin. "Yes, sir," was the reply. "But I have later news than that, Sir. General Burgoyne has



*Benjamin Franklin was the American Ambassador to France from 1776–1785.*

been defeated at Saratoga, and with his whole army, has surrendered."

Franklin's eyes beamed behind his big horn spectacles, as he cried to his butler: "Champagne for Mr. Austin, who brings this glorious news!"

Franklin apprised the Court of Versailles with news of the American victory at once. He did so with such force and tact that the Count of Vergennes soon brought news that King Louis XVI had decided to recognize American Independence, offering a

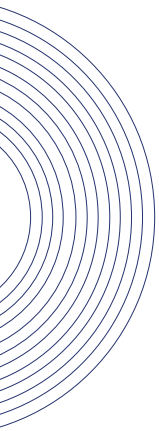
treaty with the United States within the week.

Franklin's Sunday dinners became a famed weekly feature of his administration. Indeed, Benjamin Franklin may be considered a true founder of the American Club of Paris. After the break caused by the French Revolution of 1789, the Franklin traditions were resumed, and club dinners were celebrated usually under the auspices of our Ministers or Ambassadors. As related in the Yearbook of 1925 by an eminent painter, the late Ridgeway Knight, one of our former Vice-Presidents, the long chain of clubs – "Latin Quarter Club," "Gradle Club," "Pen and Pencil Club," "The Ramblers," and "Stanley Club" – led up to the Universities Club which was in turn converted into the "American Club."

The Course aux Flambeaux, by which the sacred flame of Minerva was transmitted to succeeding generations in ancient Rome, was thus revived, and the spirit of Franklin still lives in members' hearts. (N.B. Minerva = Roman goddess of wisdom, Athena = Greek goddess equivalent)\*

World War II led directly to the formation in New York of the **Paris American Club.**

By the late 1930's the large American business and professional colony in Paris was an established and integrated part of Parisian life. As the Germans advanced, Americans in Paris, reluctantly and sadly, began leaving for home; most settled in New York, and all were curious as well as heartbroken about developments in Europe. In restaurants, on street corners, at private parties, whenever two Americans from Paris met in New York, they asked anxiously about their City of Light. A few Americans who had been Americans in Paris 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, by word of mouth the news got around. At first there were five or six for lunch, then 10 or 12, soon 25 or 30. The New York colony that had once been the American business and professional colony in Paris wanted to remain in touch with itself and with France. The Paris American Club of New York was organized solely to realize that simple goal. In late 1940 the Brevoort lunches became, without much fanfare, the Paris American Club of New York. Dues were



kept reasonable, 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.

As might be expected, some Paris American Club of New York members returned to Paris following its liberation and 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 locale of the monthly meetings was shifted in the early days from the Brevoort to the Railway Machinery Club for a time because of its convenience for members with downtown offices. Over the years, Paris American Club luncheons have been held at the Lawyers' Club, the old Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the Hotel Pierre, The St. Regis, the Parker Meridien, The Westbury, The Union Club, the Club at the World Trade Center ("Windows on the World"), the restaurants Le Régence in New York's Hotel Plaza Athénée, Daniel, Le Cirque and La Caravelle.

In the Fall of 1989, the France-America Society, established in 1911, merged with the Paris American Club. Inspired by these traditions, we are renewing the club so it may continue to promote French American friendship for generations to come. Today, the Club's membership is about equally divided between American and French government, business, professional and private individuals.

*\*From The American Club in 1777, by C. Inman Barnard*



# CONGRATULATIONS

HER EXCELLENCY VICE CONSUL GENERAL

MYRIAM GIL

*Merci pour le soutien que vous offrez aux citoyens français à New York.*

MYRON HURWITZ

*The longest serving president of PAC*

CAROLINE LAREUSE

*First female member of PAC since 1989*

THE BOARD, JOHN BENNETT,  
PRESIDENT & MEMBERS OF  
THE PARIS AMERICAN CLUB

*For 85 years of social gathering always celebrating the tradition started by  
Benjamin Franklin.*



Catherine Godbille-Koechlin

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*With more than three decades as a New York resident, and a French-American citizen, I know every corner from the city to upstate.*

 DouglasElliman

## GOVERNANCE

The Paris American Club began as informal luncheon meetings in 1940 but was officially incorporated as a Type A corporation on August 24, 2001 for the purposes of a 501(c)(7) non-for-profit corporation, with its principal offices in the city and state of New York. We are currently applying for a 501(c)(3) status to facilitate scholarship endeavors.



*Gavel engraved with past presidents on scarf donated by Hilary J. James for the 2025 Bastille Sail.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John F Bennett, President  
Véronique Anne Chabrolle  
Francis Dubois  
Ludovic Dubrana  
Beth Harrison, Secretary

Hilary J. James, Vice President  
Cathy Mangan, Treasurer

## MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Members in Good Standing: 133  
32% French/dual, other; 68% American  
Ages: 8% Under 35, 11% 35–45, 28% 46–59, 53% 60+  
56% Manhattan, 27% NY, NJ or CT, 13% Other, 4% France

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## Congratulations on 85 years of the Paris American Club!



Friends of Fondation supports French-American friendship through philanthropy.

Let us connect you with over 200 French projects to make a tax-deductible donation!

Learn more at [www.friendsoffdf.org](http://www.friendsoffdf.org)



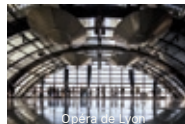
Mont Saint Michel



Solidarity with Mayotte



Hermione LaFayette



Opéra de Lyon



# WHY FRANCE MATTERS

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France displays manifold strengths, which reinforce each other when the strengths are considered as a whole.

There is of course the France that you think you know, but which never ceases to surprise you beyond what you thought you knew. This is the France of history, beginning with some of the earliest known human settlements, progressing through Caesar's Gallic Wars, the century of Louis XIV through to modern times. There is the well-known France of culture, ranging from the Gallo-Roman ruins to Gothic cathedrals and Beaux-Arts architecture; painting from Poussin to the impressionists to Klein; music from Marc-Antoine Charpentier through Edith Piaf and now French Touch; cinema from the Lumière Brothers to The Artist; and above all French language and literature. Add to this French luxury and a civilized lifestyle and you have the France everybody knows or wants to know.

France is also a highly organized country, much more so than many others. Its



healthcare system delivers some of the best outcomes in the world, both in terms of life expectancy and the overall health of the population, through a surprisingly successful form of public-private partnership, far indeed from socialized medicine. France's primary education, especially the early education école maternelle, gives an equal start to all children in a way that has been studied around the world. For a country which is thought of as highly centralized, regional and local government takes on an extraordinary importance, alongside national institutions that function impeccably even when politics is stymied. French companies stand among the largest

multinationals in every global industry except for information technology, where Europe as a whole lacks any leader. In 21st century industries such as clean energy, environmental services and infrastructure, the country boasts world-class corporations operating globally. The inventiveness of the French Tech entrepreneurial sector is achieving increased recognition, for example at the annual CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas.

To be sure, France faces socio-economic problems that hold the country back. But even here lie innovations and lessons to be learned. The country successfully integrates immigrants by conforming to a strong cultural model in a partnership between government and individuals. Higher education and research, too long separated, are undergoing needed reforms. The toughest reforms, of the protectionist labor code and burdensome tax system, both require deep changes, but this is recognized and being addressed, albeit piecemeal.

There is no question that France counts enormously in the world. The only country to have sovereign territory on all five major continents, France is also the only country to have been a founder-

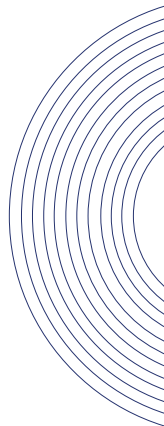
member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO and the European Union. Its diplomatic representation is second in size and scope only to the United States. Within the EU, nothing can happen without France. And France is the only NATO member besides the United States to have a full-spectrum defense capability land, sea, air, submarine, nuclear and a fully-fledged defense industry using its own technology and under its own control.

Combine these elements as for example some of them are combined in the COP21 environmental conference of December 2015 and it becomes obvious that France matters, often in ways that those who only see one piece of the picture would not imagine to be so powerful.

### **Nicholas Dungan**

*Senior Fellow, Program on Transatlantic Relations, Atlantic Council*

*Senior Advisor, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques  
Board Director, Chatham House Foundation  
Adjunct Faculty, Sciences Po*



# MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING 2025

MEMBER*	SINCE	MEMBER*	SINCE
Dr. Ellie Abdi	2019	Mr. Raymond Dowd	2023
Mrs. Malika P. Abrous	2002	Mr. Francis Dubois	2009
Mrs. Josephine C. Antonecchia	2004	Mr. Ludovic Dubrana	2017
Ms. Pauline C. Argenson	2024	Ms. Patricia Duffy	2019
Mr. Greg Askins	2016	Ms. Patricia Dunigan	2025
Mr. David Baker	2023	Mr. Christian Duvernois	2023
Ms. Renée Barkan	2018	Mr. David Elliot	2025
Ms. Adeline Belsby	2023	Ms. Thalie Farinaud	2021
Mr. John F. Bennett	2007	Dr. Irene Finel-Honigman	2015
Mr. Terrence M. Bennett	2016	Ms. Debra Finerman	2018
Mr. Rick Bernstein	2018	<b>Mr. Robert Forbes</b>	<b>1995</b>
Mr. Frederick Bertin	2019	Mr. Jon Fouskaris	2023
Ms. Elizabeth Birkelund	2025	Mr. William Friedman	2017
Ms. Cece W Black	2025	Ms. Megan Galluccio	2023
Mr. William F Boucher	2025	Ms. Simone Galton	2002
Mr. Jeffrey Bowman	2024	Ms. Ellen Garretson-Mikac	2023
Mr. Edward Boyer	2019	Ms. Therese Gilardi	2019
Mme. Helene Brodsky	2022	Ms. Catherine Godbille-Koechlin	2013
Ms. Sherrie Brown	2023	Mr. Ari Gordon	2025
Mr. Raphael Camp	2023	Mr. John Gosch	2025
Ms. Marie Lou Campo	2015	Mrs. Laurien Gosch	2025
Ms. Véronique Chabrolle	2017	Dr. Lisa Greenwald	2020
Ms. Tania Chamlian	2006	Mr. Hanafi Hadjeres	2023
Ms. Stacey Raye Christen	2023	Ms. Francesca Hagadus	2023
Mr. Joshua Cohen	2023	Mr. Brian A. Hall	2022
Ms. Danièle Collignon	2025	Ms. Mary R. Hardin	2023
Ms. Patricia Cossutta	2019	Ms. Beth Harrison	2023
Prof Antonia Csillik	2025	Ms. Lilian Heidenberg	2025
Dr. Suzanne Dabbous	2025	Ms. Mollie Hinckley	2021
Ms. Elizabeth Rose Daly	2015	<b>Mr. Peter Hurwitz</b>	<b>1998</b>
Mr. Fabrice Daviau	2016	Ms. Viviane Jacobs Germania	2015
Baron Gwenole de Charette		<b>Ms. Hilary J. James</b>	<b>1995</b>
de la Contrie	2005	Mr. Paul Jeselsohn	2015
Mr. James E. Demmert	2024	Mr. Philip Kasofsky	2023
Mr. Sven Dietrich	2016	Mr. Chrisopher Burgess Kende	2007
Mr. David B. Doty	2024		

<b>MEMBER*</b>	<b>SINCE</b>
Mrs. Renée Ketcham	2021
Ms. Annik Klein	2007
Mr. Nicolas Koechlin	2018
Mrs. Linda D. Kofmehl	1987
Ms. Lenore R Kreitman	2023
<b>Ms. Caroline Lareuse</b>	<b>1989</b>
Mr. Douglas B. Lavin	2020
Ms. L. Bayly Ledes-Daviau	2016
Mrs. Brenda Lewis	2005
Ms. Courtney Lichterman	2025
Mr. Franck J. Litzler	2017
Ms. Dening Lohez	2018
Mr. Marcus Magarian	2021
Mr. Philip Michel Mahin	2012
Mrs. Cathleen Anne Mangan	2018
Ms. Marianne Mason	2023
Ms. Eva Marie Maxant	2024
Mr. Robert M. McGee	2021
Ms. Charlotte McGill	2019
Mr. Henry McGill	2019
Mr. Stephen McGill	2019
Mr. Michael McGovern	2022
Mr. Emmanuel R. Merle	2007
Mrs. Betsy S. Michel	1990
Ms. Robin Miller	2025
Ms. Emanuelle Molina	2023
Mr. Robert E. Morris,	
Jr. CPA	1979
Ms. Denise-Marie Nieman	2018
Ms. Christiane Olsen	2016
Ms. Judith Oringer	2022
Mr. Nicholas C. Pappas	2022
Ms. Zoe Pappas	2022
Mr. Fabien Pelissier	2024
Mr. Clément L. Pequignot	2024
Mr. Robert Pine	2002
Ms. Monica Z. Rab	2022
Ms. Sally Rigg	2023
Mr. Egle Rincon	2019
Mr. Jean G. Rosanvallon	1999



50th Anniversary Paperweight.

<b>MEMBER*</b>	<b>SINCE</b>
Mme. Genevieve	
Rosanvallon	2024
Ms. Andrea Saturno-Sanjana	2023
Ms. Mireya Schmidt	2018
Mrs. Janet Schneider	2024
Ms. Diva Shah	2025
Ms. Joyce Sharkey	2019
Ms. Patricia S. Shiah	2025
Mr. Philippe Soussand	2022
Ms. Joya Stella	2022
Ms. Marie Stewart	2019
<b>Mr. Patrick Y. Trautmann</b>	<b>1986</b>
Mr. Alan H. Tripp	2022
Mr. Benjamin G Tripp	2023
Ms. Stephanie Tzall	2023
Ms. Miryam Villalobos	2020
Mr. Jonathan Wells	2008
Mr. Paul-Emeric Willette	2021
Ms. Karen Winslow	2019
<b>Mr. Pascal F. Wirz</b>	<b>1986</b>
Mr. Benoit Wirz	2021
Ms. Severin Wirz	2021
Mrs. Sharon Wirz	2014
Ms. Colette Wirz Nauke	2021
Mr. Hal J. Witt	2005
Mrs. Laura Zeckendorf	2012
Mr. John (Jack) F. Zulack,	
Esq.	2002

\*Member for 30 years or more.

# AFFILIATIONS

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## THE AMERICAN CLUB OF PARIS

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The American Club of Paris, France's oldest non-diplomatic American institution, has always had a dual purpose: to provide Americans living in and around Paris with opportunities to meet, and at the same time, to preserve the special ties America has had with France for more than two centuries.



*American Club of Paris Logo 1905.*

Over the years, this double role has attracted well established and influential members from a wide range of fields: business, politics, media, the professions, diplomacy, and the arts.

Most of the Club's members are Americans, some of them long-time residents of France and others who are short-term professionals on assignment. Nonetheless, one-third of the members are Europeans – mostly French citizens who seek to preserve business and social contacts made either during stints in the U.S. or through transcontinental business or social alliances, some of them dating as far back as the Second World War. This mixture of nationalities and personalities has forged the Club a reputation as an ideal forum for Franco-American dialogue.

# AFFILIATIONS



## CERCLE DE L'UNION INTERALLIÉE



CERCLE DE L'UNION INTERALLIÉE

The Cercle de l'Union interalliée, also known as the Cercle interallié, is a private sports, social and dining club established in 1917. The clubhouse is the Hôtel Perrinet de Jars at 33 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré in Paris. It adjoins the British Embassy and an annex of the embassy of Japan. Because of its very central Paris address (a stone throw from the Place de la Concorde), its majestic interiors and its beautiful French gardens, the clubhouse is often considered as one of the most beautiful if not the most prestigious in France.

The club's second president was Ferdinand Foch, Marshal of France, Field Marshal of the United Kingdom, Marshal of Poland and supreme commander of the Allies of World War I.

The club includes royalty and political figures among its international members.

The sports facility offers a 25m (5 lanes) swimming pool, squash courts, saunas, hammam, gym and training rooms, and is completed with a casual restaurant overlooking the swimming pool. A formal club dining room on the first floor and out in the garden during the summer months complete this club's amenities.

PAC members may avail themselves of these sumptuous facilities for 14 days per year upon presentation of an introductory letter from the Paris American Club.



# AFFILIATIONS

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## THE JÉRÔME LOHEZ 9/11 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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The Jérôme Lohez 9/11 Scholarship Foundation is the only charitable organization established after the 9/11 tragedy that is dedicated specifically to promoting educational and cultural exchange among the U.S., France and China. By providing scholarship awards to multinational students, enabling them to study in one another's homelands, the Foundation aims to shape the next

generation of global citizen, along with a new class of international policy makers. The Foundation also seeks to develop a pool of highly trained multicultural business leaders to serve as innovators in multinational commerce. The foundation was launched in November 2005 in honor of Jérôme Robert Lohez, a French citizen who died in the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

## COMMITTEE OF FRENCH SPEAKING SOCIETIES

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C'est en 1924 que fut créé le Comité central des sociétés françaises de New York. Depuis 2023, Thomas Vandenaabeele, avocat et Président de la French American Bar Association, a repris la présidence du Comité. Il continue d'organiser les festivités du 14 Juillet à Central Park en collaboration avec le

Consulat général de France. Fort de ses 100 années d'activités, le Comité poursuit avec énergie son rôle fédérateur et de propagateur d'informations au sein de la communauté française et francophone. Il défend ses valeurs dans un esprit de bénévolat au service de sa communauté.

# RECENT *EVENTS*

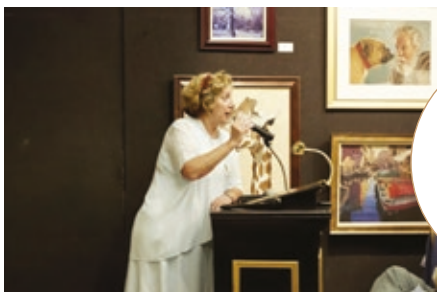
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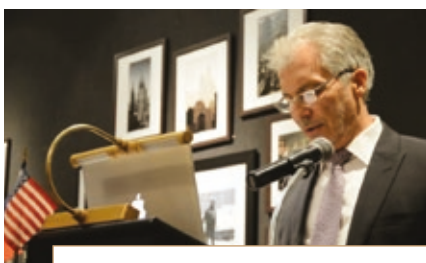
*Gala Dinner  
2014 at  
the French  
Consulate.*



*Spring Gala 2015 with Consul General François Delattre and  
PAC President Kevin MacCarthy at Daniel.*

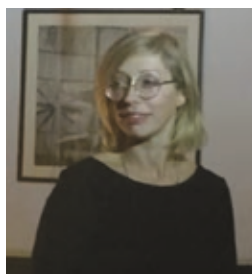


*Luncheon with  
Ariane Daguin of  
D'Artagnan 2015  
at the National  
Arts Club.*



*75th Anniversary Luncheon 2015 with Vice Consul General  
Bernard Faro and Peter Hurwitz at the National Arts Club.*

*Reception for  
New Members  
2016 chez Hilary  
J. James.*



*France-Amérique Fall Cocktail 2016  
Consul General Anne-Claire Legendre and John  
Bennett at the French Consulate.*



*Soirée d'automne  
2016 at  
Le Colonial.*





*Young Member Launch Party 2017 at Hotel Chantelle.*



*Roland Garros  
French Open  
Brunch 2017 and  
2024 at Monte's  
Trattoria.*





*Palio and  
Pétanque 2017  
with Ludovic  
Dubrana on  
Minetta Street.*





*Ski Weekend  
2018 with the  
Swiss Ski Club  
in Vermont.*



*July 4th Barbecue 2018 chez Catherine  
& Nick Godbille-Koechlin in South Salem, NY.*





*Soirée  
d'automne 2018  
at the Beekman  
Tower.*

*Rendez-vous au Consulat 2018.*







*Bastille  
Sails  
2021 & 2025.*



*Virtual Chocolate Soufflé Lesson  
2020 with Simon Herfray.*

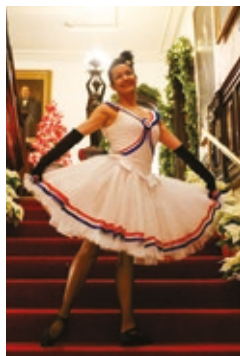
*Eloïne Barry  
June 21, 2022  
Luncheon.*



*Tech Dinner September 20, 2022 at the  
National Arts Club.*



*Athenian Opera  
Singers Dec 2022  
at the National  
Arts Club.*



*New Member  
Reception and Wine  
Tasting 2023 at  
Château Village.*



*Jérôme Lohez 9/11 Scholarship Awardees  
2024 at Café Un, Deux, Trois.*



*Dinner 2025 at  
Chez Francis  
Restaurant.*



*Jérôme Lohez 9/11 Scholarship Awardees 2025 with  
Vice Consul General Myriam Gil at Mino Brasserie.*



*"Adventures in the Louvre" Book Signing and Dinner  
with Elaine Sciolino 2025 At Café Un, Deux, Trois.*

# PARIS AMERICAN CLUB THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

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## FRENCH HERE MAKE APPEAL TO TRUMAN

**Leaders Urge Consideration of  
de Gaulle in New Light—  
Bonnet Speaks at Dinner**

Spokesmen of France in this country, addressing the French American Club dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel last night, urged the Truman Administration to consider Gen. Charles de Gaulle in a new light. The occasion was the fifth anniversary of General de Gaulle's first message of liberation on June 18, 1940, in which he said: "France has lost a battle but not the war."

Chief speakers at the dinner, attended by 600 persons, were Henri Bonnet, the French Ambassador, and Henri Bernstein, president of the club. All speakers concentrated on the subject of the vital necessity for close French and American friendship at this time.

M. Bernstein said:

"May we suggest to the Truman administration to consider General de Gaulle in a new light? Can we afford to make de Gaulle's task impossible? Our Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. [Georges] Bidault, has conceded that perhaps some blunders may have been made on our part. In France today there is only one organized political party the Communist party. The other parties are scattered and weak but there is one man with the prestige and strength to carry other policies to power—Charles de Gaulle.

"There is only one means of straightening out the present differences—the long-awaited conversations between President Truman and General de Gaulle."

M. Bonnet confessed that the task ahead was grave, but expressed assurance that France and America would succeed in reaching understanding and friendship. He said:

"General de Gaulle speaks the language of a free man. France still suffers, but she hopes that her sacrifices will not have been in vain. She hopes to restore well-being and to contribute to world harmony."

Elizabeth de Miribel, staff attaché to General de Gaulle granted that he was "difficult," but said he owed his position to this.

Other speakers were William L. Shirer, Henri Torres, French attorney and journalist, and Richard de Rochemont, president of France Forever.

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Published: June 19, 1945

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(Richard de Rochemont was president of the Paris American Club from 1963 – 1965)



### **Gets Legion of Honor**

Fred H. Hotchkiss, vice president of the Paris American Club of New York, has been made an officer of the French Legion of Honor for his help to the French cause during the German occupation, it was announced yesterday. Mr. Hotchkiss is a director and a New York delegate of the American Chamber of Commerce in France.

Published: August 16, 1947  
Copyright © The New York Times

### **PARIS-AMERICANS ELECT**

#### **Theodore Rousseau Again Is Named as President of Club**

Officers and executive committee members of the Paris-American Club were elected yesterday at the annual meeting of the organization, it was announced.

Re-elected were Theodore Rousseau, president; Fred Hotchkiss, first vice president; Mariano Font, second vice president; Raymond Harper, who organized the group in 1940, honorary president, and George C. Sharp, executive committee member. Roger Boulogne, treasurer last year, was voted honorary secretary and treasurer. Other executive committee members named were Pierre Bedard, Kent Colwell, John W. Doty and Jean Ravaud.

The Paris-American Club is composed of men who represented American business concerns and the professions in Paris before the war and who live now in New York. Ludovic Chancel, Consul General of France, who recently arrived here to succeed Count Guérin de Beaumont, was guest of honor at the meeting and spoke about conditions in France.

Published: February 14, 1947  
Copyright © The New York Times

### **FRENCH WINES FLOW AT A TASTING HERE**

Famous French wines flowed like water at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel yesterday.

The occasion was a Bordeaux wine-tasting. It's an old French custom in Bordeaux when the vines flower in the spring and the grape harvest begins in September.

The guests at the induction of a number of well-known New Yorkers into the Commanderie du Bontemps de Medoc first went from one to another of the sixteen tables tasting the products of the Medoc, the Graves, the Barsac and the Sauternes.

After each tasting they stopped to bite into a square of cheese Napoleon. This absorbed the taste of the wine and prepared the palate for the next sampling.

Achille Fould, former Minister of Agriculture in France and owner of the Chateau Beycheville, inducted the new members of the Commanderie, literally the Society of the Wooden Bowl of Medoc. They were Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of Columbia University; George F. Baker Jr., trustee of New York Hospital and a director of the First National Bank; Bernard F. Gimbel, board chairman of Gimbel Brothers; Ferdinand Coudert, president of the Paris-American Club and a partner of Coudert Brothers; H. J. Heinz 2d, president of H. J. Heinz & Co.; Alfred A. Knopf, publisher, and George Macy, president of the Limited Editions Club.

The ceremony, held from 5 to 8 P. M., was for the benefit of the Goddard Neighborhood Center.

Above Published April 27, 1954  
NYT



## A Bottle for the Bird

**W**HEN bon vivants talk turkey they sometimes disagree on wine to serve with the Thanksgiving bird. Should it be white or red? Would the stuffing influence the choice? In the opinion of some, the temperature at which the bird is served is a factor to be considered. Recently, four wine experts were asked to nominate their choice of wines for Thursday's holiday. Their recommendations follow:

Frank Schoonmaker, an international authority, feels that either white or red wine could properly accompany the bird. He is of the opinion that the stuffing should be considered in making a choice.

"A red wine," he states, "would be preferable if the stuffing contains chestnuts; white if the stuffing is based on oysters. If the wine is white, it would be full-bodied and rather dry, but not austere so. By way of white wines, my preference would go to a Meursault, but a white Hermitage would do very well.

"If a German wine is to be served, I would select one from the Palatinate of a good year, perhaps a Forster Kirchenstück.

"Several California white wines would be acceptable—perhaps a Traminer or Pinot Blanc. I recall enjoying one turkey very much served with a pink Champagne from California. It is a festive drink and goes surprisingly well with turkey.

**"I**f a red wine were to be one's preference (and I think in most cases it would be mine) I would choose a red wine outstanding for its finesse and fragrance, rather than for its body and power. From France, perhaps a claret from Margaux, even a Château Margaux itself. In Italy, I would vote for a Valpolicella of a good recent vintage. In California, for a Gamay de Beaujolais or a rather light Cabernet Sauvignon."

James Beard, who also enjoys international repute as a gastronome, favors "drinking the wine that pleases you most."

"I usually prefer a red wine," he says, "particularly if the turkey is not overcooked (as most of them tend to be), if it is crisp and delicious on the outside and juicy and moist on the in-

side. My choice is frequently a Hermitage from the Rhone Valley. This may be due to my preference for the dark meat rather than the white. A Hermitage, because of its earthy roundness, offers a perfect contrast.

"I must say, however, that I prefer cold turkey to hot. If I dined on a plate of thinly sliced cold turkey meat with cold stuffing I would choose one of the fine white Burgundies or a Moselle. I would probably settle for a Meursault or a Pouilly Fumé. No matter how you like turkey, it seems to me, it is red for hot and white for cold."

Sam Aaron, one of the proprietors of Sherry Wine and Spirits Company in New York, proposes that the choice of wines depends on the personal taste of the host and on the turkey's stuffing.

"With oyster, bread or giblet stuffing, a full-flavored white wine such as Montrachet or Meursault would be acceptable. If chestnuts were used in the stuffing I feel that a château-bottled claret, particularly a round St. Emilion, would be most excellent accompaniment.

"*F*OR lustier celebrants who prefer a sausage or pâté-like stuffing, the situation demands a full-rounded red Burgundy. In my own home this year, we will serve a magnum of Bonnes-Mares, 1953, one of the fruitiest, most full-flavored and vigorous of the red Burgundies I have run across recently."

Michel L. Dreyfus of Dreyfus, Ashby and Company, wine importers, proposes a choice of wines from Bordeaux, Burgundy or the Rhone Valley to accompany an unstuffed turkey. They are a St. Julien, St. Emilion, a Nuit St. George and Châteauneuf du Pape.

"For a turkey stuffed with truffles or chestnuts, I would recommend Château Lafite, Château Latour, Château Margaux, Château Mouton-Rothschild, Château Haut Brion, a Corton, Romanée St. Vivant, or Chambertin-Clos de Bèze. Any one of these wines should make a perfect marriage and complement the turkey.

"If anyone must have white wines with turkey, I would recommend a Pouilly Fumé, Meursault Les Genevrières, Montrachet or even a Gewürztraminer. These wines are rich, fruity and have the flavor to blend well."

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*Published: November 23, 1958  
Copyright © The New York Times  
(Michel L. Dreyfus was president of  
the Paris American Club from 1966  
- 1968)*



## THE JÉRÔME LOHEZ 9/11 SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Scholarships for international students' study  
in China, France and the US in honor of the  
9/11 victims.

Examine the world through different prisms.



## ALOUETTE COMMUNICATIONS CONGRATULATES

**Myron Herwiz** in memoriam  
and **Catherine Lareuse**  
for their contributions to the  
Paris American Club  
over the years.



# 1977 WINDOWS ON THE WORLD EVENT ORDER

## EVENT ORDER CONTRACT NO. 7115

THREE-AMERICAN CLASH  
RECEPTION AND DINNER  
200 GUESTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1977  
RECEPTION: 7:30 P.M. 'G.S.'  
DINNER: 8:15 P.M. 'M.P.'

IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS: MR. CORCORAN PAGE (201) 744-0322  
MR. NUTCH HENRITZ 466-7652

RECEPTION (7:30 P.M.)

SEAFOOD BAR

PRESSENTATION OF PAPERS

DINNER (8:15 P.M.)

MASHOON CONGRESS

SCALLONS L'AMERICAIN

BAGGLE OF LAMB AND HERBS EN CROUTE  
TINY STEAK BUNS

SPAD OF BUDDE AND WINEPRESS

SELECTION OF CHEESES OF FRANCE

SHAWIN OF CHESLET

CHAMPAGNE COFFEY

\$45.00 PER PERSON FOR ALL FOOD, GRATUITIES, TAX, COTTAGE & FLOWERS

### OTHER FEES AND ARRANGEMENTS

RECEPTION

1 case Wine Bar Only

WINE

Reception: Host et Chardon-Bismontier or White Star (3 Cases)  
Lafort 1976 (1 Case)  
Lillet Blanc (3 Bottles)  
Dumoulin La Tna (2 bottles)  
Carton Cassis (1 Bottle)

With Scallons L'Americain: Hugel Riesling Reserve Exceptionnelle 1975  
(2 Cases)

With Dintree: Chateau Giscard 1972 (2 Cases)

After Dinner Cordials: Hennessy Bismontier or VSOP (6 Bottles)  
Chartreuse Green (3 Bottles)  
Marie Richard Crosse de Mante Green (2 Bottles)

SEVIN

Please pick up Wine at Suite 5201 - Mr. Philippe Jallier

FLOWERS

Red, White and Blue arrangements per table

SET UP

Round tables of 8's - One Head Table of 10 (Round) See Floor Plan with  
numbered tables  
Reception Table inside G.S. for seating lists

SPECIAL FEES

\$40.00 for use of our shells - (arranging own printing) Mr. Henrity will  
bring that evening

NOV 16 1977

Continued....

# A FLAME TO HONOR FRIENDSHIP

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*By Alfonso A. Narvaez, Special  
to the New York Times  
September 11, 1987*

The Flame of Liberty, a copy of the flame held by the Statue of Liberty, was unveiled here today during ceremonies commemorating the close ties between France and the United States and the 100th anniversary of a Paris-based newspaper.

The two-ton gilded flame, made by the same team of artisans who created the new

flame for the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary celebrations last year, is to be flown on Saturday to Paris, where it will be prominently displayed.

"Tonight, as we light this torch, let this flame stand once again for the wonderful friendship, that wonderful Franco-American friendship between our people," Governor Kean said.

"This is a friendship forged on the battlefields of Yorktown, Chateau Thierry, Normandy and even in the Straits of



Hormuz. But let it also stand for the reason we have fought those battles and run those risks... for our common love and for our common need for liberty...liberty not as a means to a political end, but as the highest political end.” Lights in the Harbor

Then, as the West Point Glee Club sang “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” two searchlights picked out the Statue of Liberty in the harbor, then arched across the sky and lit up the Flame of Liberty. A fireworks display ended the ceremonies.

The new flame is to be sent to Paris as a gift commemorating the friendship between the two nations that inspired the decision to create the statue.

“It is our way of saying thank you to the French people and will serve as a reminder to them that we appreciate what they did 100 years ago when they sent us the Statue of Liberty,” said Kevin MacCarthy, a lawyer who spearheaded the drive to create the flame. “It’s a symbolic gesture to show that our two nations are still very close.” Site in Paris Following its unveiling by Governor Kean of New Jersey and a host of dignitaries, the Flame of Liberty, which is about 7 feet tall and 7 feet wide, will be loaded on an Air France



*Kevin MacCarthy was president of the Paris American Club from 1999 – 2015.*

jet and flown to Paris where it will be used to commemorate the 100th anniversary of The International Herald Tribune, the English-language newspaper.

The newspaper, which is owned jointly by The New York Times Company, The Washington Post Company and the IHT Corporation, a subsidiary of the Whitney Communications Corporation, was a co-sponsor of the drive to raise \$400,000 in public contributions in the United States and abroad for creation of the Flame of Liberty.



## QUE VIVE L'AMITIÉ FRANCO-AMÉRICAINE !

**David B Doty**

DD Digital Perspectives



**Viviane Jacobs, LMFT, BCPC**

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Psychothérapeute de couple et de  
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vfdjg5@gmail.com

VivianJacobsLMFT.com

*Member – Paris American Club*



# THE WORLD GROWS MORE DANGEROUS BY THE DAY

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*Parting thoughts from a French diplomat as he leaves America.*

*By François Delattre*

*Mr. Delattre was France's ambassador to the United Nations.*

*New York Times June 13, 2019*

François Delattre speaking at an emergency United Nations Security Council meeting on Syria at the U.N. headquarters in New York, last year. Credit: Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

My experience at the United Nations Security Council over the last five years has led me to see a harsh truth: The world is growing more dangerous and less predictable by the day. While the tectonic plates of power are shifting under our feet, driven in no small part by the combined effects of a technology revolution and the rise of China, we are also witnessing the return of heightened competition among the major powers.

We are now in a new world disorder. The three main safety mechanisms are no longer functioning: no more American

power willing to be the last-resort enforcer of international order; no solid system of international governance; and, most troubling, no real concert of nations able to re-establish common ground.

As I prepare to return to Paris after almost 20 years as a diplomat in North America, nearly half of them serving consecutively as France's ambassador to the United States and to the United Nations, I feel the need to share these personal conclusions. The situation today is objectively dangerous. Each serious international crisis has the potential to spin out of control. That is what we saw happen in Syria and what we need to prevent with Iran and North Korea, and in the South China Sea.

In the absence of a functioning multilateral system, the world tends to devolve into spheres of influence; that leads of confrontation, as European history has shown too many times. The risk is even greater when geopolitical divides

are superimposed on the technological battle between American- and Chinese-led digital worlds.

In our rapidly changing world, the crucial choices Americans and Europeans are facing are comparable in scope to those we confronted together in the aftermath of World War II.

Europe faces an existential decision. Does it want to remain a full-fledged player in the world, with a vision and policy it owns? Or will it resign itself to becoming, at best, an impotent witness to the rivalry among the great global powers or, at worst, these powers' playground?

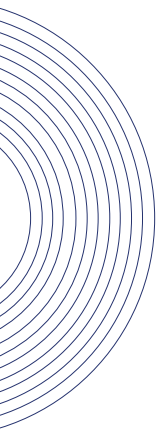
My deep conviction is that Europe has both the historical responsibility and the means to become one of the major centers of action and influence in a multipolar world. It is Europe's duty to act as a link, a connector and a balancing power for the world. I also believe that it is in America's interest to have a stronger Europe that can take on a greater share of the burden in a renewed trans-Atlantic alliance. That's why it is critical for American diplomacy to more clearly support European integration.

The United States also faces a fundamental choice. Does it

want to become a new "Middle Kingdom," an insular Fortress America? Or does it want to continue speaking to the world and helping to shape it?

Beyond domestic American politics, we can see three powerful trends whose combined effects are significantly changing America's foreign policy. The first trend is based on the premise that the United States must prevent a strategic alliance between Moscow and Beijing. But the conclusions differ, as China is now perceived to be the main competitor. My experience at the Security Council showed that beyond the theatrics, the strained United States-China relationship is already affecting the international order. The rise in Chinese power and influence at the United Nations during the last five years has been spectacular.

The second trend is the now rather widespread belief in America that the postwar order no longer benefits the country as much as it used to — and that its financial costs and human toll outweigh its strategic benefits. That explains the current American aspiration to at least partly move away from multilateralism and build an international order on bilateral



relations. The proponents of this view believe that, by doing so, the United States regains its freedom and maximizes its comparative advantages.

The third trend is a “Jacksonian impulse” that the United States is currently experiencing. Echoing the populist views of President Andrew Jackson — a strange mix of unilateralism and isolationism — the Jacksonian school of thought is part of American history. America’s disengagement started before the current administration. I believe it is here to stay.

This is regrettable. A prerequisite for a stable international environment is for America to be engaged in world affairs and multilateral institutions. To combat terrorism, prevent nuclear

proliferation, manage international crises and protect our children from an environmental tragedy in the making, we need America’s strong commitment, as well as new forms of multilateralism adapted to the times we live in. America can’t make it alone, and the world can’t make it without America.

It is this friendly, bipartisan appeal that I want to issue to all my American friends before boarding my flight to Paris to begin my new role. On the basis of their shared values, the United States and France have a special responsibility to lead the way. After all, the Statue of Liberty, gifted by France to the American people, remains to this day the best ambassador of the American dream.



# AMERICA WAS ONCE THE COUNTRY BEGGING RICHER ALLIES FOR HELP

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*By Stacy Schiff*  
*The New York Times, April 7,*  
*2024*

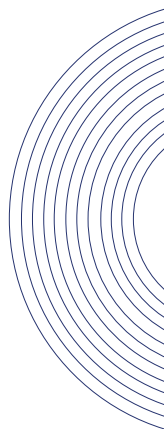
Even before they declared their independence, it was clear to the American colonies that in their struggle against Great Britain they would need a wealthy benefactor. The colonies were desperately short of men, money and materiel. There was little by way of an American Navy, and barely an engineer on the continent. In 1776, the most gifted orator in Congress called for a declaration not by choice but by necessity, “as the only means by which foreign alliance can be obtained.” In that light, our founding document nearly qualifies as an SOS.

It was no secret to Congress that France secretly favored the American experiment. With General George Washington’s army down to a handful of rounds of powder per man, all eyes turned to Benjamin Franklin. No one had more experience with the world beyond American shores.

Already Franklin had crossed the ocean six times. He was dimly understood to speak French. He sat on the secret committee that had dispatched an earlier envoy to Paris.

The unanimous choice on one side of the ocean, he was the ideal choice on the other. Celebrated across Europe as the tamer of lightning, Franklin met in Paris streets with cheering crowds and in theaters with thunderous ovations. His celebrity assisted little with his clandestine mission, however. The French government could not openly receive him without provoking their powerful rival, Great Britain.

Eager though he was to shrink the British sphere of influence, the French foreign minister, the Comte de Vergennes, was unimpressed by the Americans. He doubted their resolve for the task at hand, a fear on which the British ambassador in Paris played, advertising the colonists as a cowardly band of thieves and muggers. Vergennes was less impressed still by General





Washington. He seemed to proceed from defeat to defeat. In America, too, there remained varying degrees of discomfort with the idea of a foreign partner. John Jay hoped to win the war without French involvement of any kind. John Adams hoped to win the war without French funding. Washington hoped to win the war without French troops. Franklin hoped to win the war.

Though he knew the situation to be dire, he waged in Paris

a war of disinformation. The farther the British penetrated the continent, Franklin crowed, the more resistance they would meet. He boasted that Washington would soon command a force of 80,000 expertly trained men.

The truth was closer to 14,000 amateurs, beset by desertions, discontent and disease. You would think we might have destroyed General Howe's forces by now, the financier Robert Morris wrote to Franklin, "and we undoubtedly should



*Credit: Nicholas Stevenson.*

had we an army to do it.” As France waited for an American army on which to bank and Washington waited for French aid with which he might deliver a victory, Franklin solicited secret arms, arranging for their covert dispatch to America.

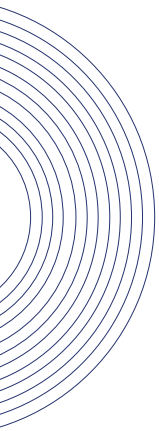
With whispers of munitions sales swirling around Paris, the British ambassador raced to Versailles for an explanation. What was all that French military equipment doing in America? Could a shipment of 30,000 muskets, 5,000 tents, 60 cannons and 400 tons of gunpowder truly be said to represent a gift from a nation at peace? Britain would not tolerate such subterfuges. He made it his business to discredit the colonists in the drawing rooms of Paris. The French, he assured anyone who would listen, would soon tire of and abandon the ruffians on the other side of the ocean. Vergennes recognized the British strategy for what it was: They were leading the Americans to despair by crushing their hopes for French support.

The Continental Army’s victory at Saratoga changed everything. In February 1778, France and America entered into an official alliance; Franklin could at last deal openly with Versailles. At one point he

submitted a 38-page shopping list. Along with a frigate and a ship of the line, Congress requested clarinets and trumpets, paint and thimbles. Vergennes was floored by the scale of the demand, reminding Franklin that it was equivalent to one-tenth of the French government’s annual budget.

Smitten though they were with Franklin, few Frenchmen could locate the American colonies on a map. It seemed equally likely that they bordered the Black Sea or were part of India. Nor did the two countries make for natural partners. “I cannot deny that the Americans are somewhat difficult to handle, especially for a Frenchman,” was the candid verdict of the Marquis de Lafayette. The partnership was held together by various illusions about the past and a general misunderstanding about the future. Even Lafayette at one point assumed that Washington would eventually be appointed dictator.

Vergennes engaged throughout in a familiar calculation: The only danger greater than not helping the Americans at all, he insisted in discussion after discussion at Versailles, was not helping them enough. He carried the day. The majority of the guns fired on the British at Saratoga had been French.



The surrender four years later at Yorktown would be to troops that were equal parts French and American, supplied and clothed by France, all of them protected by a French fleet.

Few 18th-century Europeans expected America ever to play a role on the world stage. Versailles assumed that 13 disparate colonies strung over 1,000 miles of coastline would inevitably quarrel. History had proved republics to be fragile. This new one was unlikely, Vergennes contended, to develop any great appetite for expansion. Before it did, French vices would have infected America, stunting its growth and progress.

It would be well over a century, to cries of “Lafayette, nous voici,” before America acknowledged its French debt. A generation later, with the Lend-Lease Act of 1941, Franklin Roosevelt appointed America the “arsenal of democracy,” a role we have since reprised regularly. The rhetoric soared but the logic was as self-serving as had been that of the Comte de Vergennes. These outlays were investments in what Mitch McConnell recently called “cold, hard American interests.” The idea was “to help degrade the military of a major adversary.” The 1941 Act is known more

fully as “An Act to Promote the Defense of the United States.” Some 250 years after Franklin’s French errand, Congress is again debating the entanglement of a young republic — one that actually does border the Black Sea — with a wealthy benefactor. Political considerations aside, it pays to remember that the United States itself was, with its own bid for freedom, once the infant republic in dire need of munitions. No one at Versailles knew that the man waving about a 38-page shopping list would be remembered as one of the greatest diplomats in our history. Nor did anyone suspect that granting his requests would help to create an “arsenal of democracy,” a power that might one day, for the most high-minded and the most self-serving of reasons, assist another nation in its struggle for autonomy. Neither mattered when it came to the French calculus, based on something more fundamental. As one French gunrunner reminded Congress in September, 1776, “The enemies of our enemies are more than half our friends.”

# A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

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## **Planned Giving**

Since 1940, the Paris American Club has brought 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. To ensure that this worthy purpose is fulfilled well into the future, please consider making a planned gift to the Club today.

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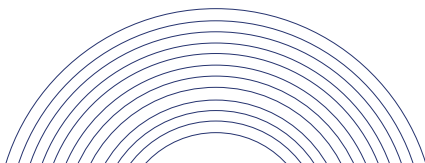
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## **The PAC Franklin Legacy Society**

Kindly let us know if you have already included the Paris American Club in your estate plans by contacting us by email at [info@parisamericanclub.org](mailto:info@parisamericanclub.org). We would like to thank you for your generosity, make sure the details of your gift are understood, and recognize you as a member of our Legacy Society (gifts may also remain anonymous, if you prefer). Thank you for being part of this special community of



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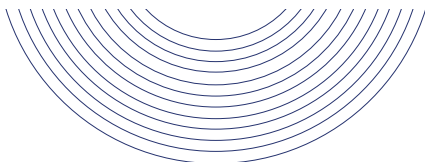
Club President  
John F Bennett at  
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