A new visitor center was dedicated at Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, on June 6 in memory of the soldiers who died during the D-Day landing. The inaugural celebration was attended by several high-ranking officials, including French Minister of Defense Hervé Morin; U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates; U.S. Ambassador to France Craig Stapleton; as well as retired Army General Frederick Francis Jr., chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), a federal agency established to commemorate the service of U.S. Armed Forces domestically and overseas. Other honorary guests included World War II veterans and families of those buried in the Colleville cemetery, where 9,387 American soldiers who lost their lives at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944 were laid to rest.

The ABMC acquired appropriations from the U.S. Congress to construct the new center, which aims to raise awareness of the magnitude and significance of Operation Overlord, to design a facility that blends seamlessly with the cemetery’s landscape, and to introduce the organization to a larger public.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates delivered the center’s inaugural address, in which he honored the memory of the soldiers who perished on D-Day. “We mourn every man who fell,” said Gates, “even as we quietly give thanks for their sacrifice.”

Emphasizing the significance of the center, the U.S. Defense Secretary noted: “Today we mark another chapter at this hallowed place with the opening of a new visitor center. We build memorials like this to remind us of the past. So that the passage of time and the thinning of their ranks will never forget the stories of those who fought here. So that the passage of time and the thinning of their ranks will never dim the glory of their deeds.”

Underlining the partnership between France and the United States, Secretary Gates reassessed the importance of French-American relations to his French counterpart, Hervé Morin: “Events like this also remind us of all we have endured together — remind us of our long history in times of war, and in times of peace — remind us of the shared values that transcend whatever differences we may have had in the past, or may have in the present.”

Built alongside the Colleville Cemetery, which faces the sea and welcomes approximately 1,600,000 visitors every year, the new $30 million center covers more than 30,000 square feet. A third of that area comprises exhibition rooms that illustrate through a blend of texts, pictures and interactive presentations, the memories and stories of soldiers who stormed the beaches.

“Let the people never forget that we are bound by history and values just as we are bound by blood,” Secretary Gates concluded. “The blood of Frenchmen. The blood of our allies. The blood of everyone who has ever perished in defense of the lofty ideals that gave rise to and still underpin our great alliance. Those ideals were given their birth on this continent, and given their renewal on battlefields like this one.” For more information please visit: www.abmc.gov.

Two new appointments were made at the Foreign and European Affairs Ministry following the legislative elections and a subsequent cabinet reshuffle in France. Reporting to Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner will be Mr. Jean-Marie Bockel, Secretary of State responsible for Cooperation and Francophony, and Ms. Rama Yade, Secretary of State responsible for Foreign Affairs and Human Rights.

Rama Yade, born in Senegal in 1976, is the youngest member in the Cabinet. After graduating from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, she became an administrator at the Senate and began a political career in the UMP party, the center-right party of Nicolas Sarkozy, where she was appointed national secretary responsible for Francophone affairs in 2006. She played a prominent role in Nicolas Sarkozy’s presidential campaign and advocated a greater presence for French citizens of immigrant descent on the political stage in France. She published an essay this year titled “Noirs de France” (Blacks of France). She is herself evidence of President Sarkozy’s resolve to open government to new talent from among France’s minorities.

Her position in the government also emphasizes the importance of human rights in France’s foreign policy.
Current Events

US Soldiers and Civilians Join French Ceremony to Honor Heroes

In keeping with annual tradition, the Embassy of France in the U.S. commemorated Général de Gaulle’s 1940 address to the French people on Monday, June 18. François Rivasseau, chargé d’affaires, presided over the military ceremony that included the hoisting of the French tricolor; the presentation of the French decoration Officier de l’Ordre National du Mérite (Officer in the National Order of Merit) to two French officers, Colonels Rode and Bader; and the awarding of the National Defense Medal to six US officers who had served alongside French troops in various theatres of operations. The ceremony also featured a recording of Général de Gaulle’s historic address originally broadcasted by the BBC on June 22, 1940.

Attendees included nearly 50 members of the French Embassy staff, a group of 25 French veterans, and more than 40 US citizens — from the liaison offices at the Pentagon and invitees supporting the American recipients. Following the formal military ceremony, the party gathered inside the Maison Française for a reception and French appetizers to celebrate "with taste" a defining moment in French history.

A New "Immortal" Elected to l’Académie française

French writer and historian Max Gallo was elected for life to hold a seat as an immortel at l’Académie française on May 31. Mr. Gallo will replace the late Jean-François Revel, a great figure of French philosophy and literature. The election is the first of a series of six that are to take place this year to replace recently deceased académiciens.

L’Académie française was founded in 1635 by Cardinal de Richelieu, prime minister under King Louis XIII, to regulate French grammar, spelling and literature. He appointed its members whose first task as académiciens was to write a dictionary published in 1694. Eight editions have been published since then, each adapting to linguistic evolutions. The ninth edition is in progress.

In addition to its duty as the official authority of the French language, l’Académie française has a patronage function, as it is charged with awarding some 60 literature prizes every year.

L’Académie française has 40 members, known as les immortels (the immortals), who have notably illustrated the French language. Members have included poets, doctors, art critics, philosophers, scientists, ethnologists, former politicians and even military officials. The name "immortel" is derived from the motto that appears on the seal given to the Académie by founder Richelieu: À l’immortalité (to immortality). Some current immortels include former president Valéry Giscard d’Estaing and renowned anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. Since Richelieu, every French head of state has successively been the “patron” of l’Académie.

Max Gallo was selected for his contribution to the study of French history through his numerous bestselling biographies, ranging in subject from Charles de Gaulle to Napoléon, as well as for his popular novels "La Baie des Anges" ("The bay of Angels"), "Les Patriotes" ("The Patriots"). Prior to being elected an immortel, the 75-year-old Gallo had a versatile career, ranging from serving as a communist activist, socialist deputy, spokesman of the socialist government of François Mitterrand, editor-in-chief, as well as president of the left-wing political movement, le Mouvement des citoyens ("the Citizens’ Movement").

Thirty-Third President of the Cour de cassation Named

The Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature (CSM), or the Superior Council of Magistracy, has named Vincent Lamanda 33rd Premier Président de la Cour de cassation (First President of the Cour de cassation), the highest position in the French judiciary system. He was inducted into office on May 30 before an audience of French high government officials, including President Sarkozy, Minister of Justice Rachida Dati, President of the Senate Christian Poncelet, and President of the National Assembly Patrick Ollier.

The Cour de cassation, which sits in Paris, is the highest judicial institution in France. It is composed of six different chambers: three civil chambers, a commerce chamber, a social chamber, and a criminal chamber, whose decisions are based on their respective codes of law in addition to prior cassation rulings. The Court is tasked with protecting the law as a tool of justice by ensuring that the cases brought before it by parties are correct interpretations of the law. Laws themselves cannot be contested and the actual facts of cases are never reviewed. If the Cour de cassation finds that the law has not been thoroughly respected, it "breaks" ("casse" in French) the litigious ruling, and returns it to the lower court to be retried under the conditions of the Cour de cassation’s decision.

The Cour de cassation is one of the only French judicial institutions with the ability to create legal precedent. However, it does not have the power to find laws unconstitutional, which is a prerogative of the Conseil constitutionnel (Constitutional Council).

Addressing Minister of Justice Rachida Dati along with his fellow judges during his inaugural speech, Mr. Lamanda promised that "[he] will be who [he] always has been: a magistrate, conscious above all of the independence and dignity of justice, in a continuous quest for excellence and humanity in his acts."

Mr. Lamanda graduated from the Ecole nationale de la magistrature (ENM—National School of Magistracy), in 1972. He pursued a career as president of many high courts in France, such as the Bordeaux Tribunal and the Rouen and Versailles courts of appeal. For more information on the Cour de cassation please visit: www.courdecassation.fr.
NYC Public Schools Introduce Bilingual French-English Program

This fall, for the first time, three public schools in New York City will offer a French-English dual-language program: PS 125 on the Upper West Side, PS 38 in Brooklyn, and CIS 22 in the Bronx. The free program, conducted half in French and half in English, responds to the needs of an increasingly multicultural world and will allow francophone children to preserve their linguistic heritage. In a June 13 event, the French Embassy, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, the FIAF (French Institute Alliance Française), and EFNY (Éducation Française à New York), showcased several of the new dual-language programs and invited prospective teachers and school leaders to join the initiatives.

Other programs were also presented, such as the ground-breaking work that has already been achieved by the parents and members of EFNY in setting up French after-school programs in several public schools. One such program, the French Heritage Language Program, currently serves 75 children of Francophone origins in five public schools. The dual-language program, which also sponsors Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Haitian Creole initiatives, partners with researchers from the Center for Applied Linguistics to help the schools strengthen their programs through specialized bilingual learning services.

In her keynote address, Cultural Counselor Karen Rispoli observed that "New York and Paris have many business and cultural partnerships. With this evening's program, we add education to the list of fruitful collaborations between these two cities."

French Frigate La Fayette Celebrates Anniversaries in U.S.

The French Navy frigate La Fayette arrived in New Orleans on June 5 for a 4-day port of call honoring both the 250th anniversary of the birth of its namesake, the Marquis de La Fayette, and the 63rd anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

This marked the frigate's first visit to the United States, a departure from its normal areas of operation. La Fayette spent 2005 and 2006 patrolling the Indian Ocean in anti-terrorism operations and has also served in the Mediterranean Sea. After leaving New Orleans, it made stops in Tampa, FL, Savannah, GA, and Norfolk, VA.

French Frigate La Fayette arrives for a port of call in New Orleans

Versailles Glistens for Costume Ball Fundraiser

The Palace of Versailles glittered on the night of June 16, its halls playing host to an 18th century costume ball organized by the American Friends of Versailles (AFV). The ball, which included fireworks and a live orchestra, was only one event in a five-day schedule of activities for the AFV that included various receptions and luncheons from June 13-18. Among the distinguished hosts of these events were the Baron and Baronne Gérard de Waldner, members of the Spanish royal family, and former French president and Mrs. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who opened their Parisian home to the AFV.

The ultimate beneficiary of these gatherings is the Pavillon Frais, a structure on the grounds of Versailles that was built by King Louis XV. Destroyed by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1810, the Pavillon was a summertime dining area for the royal family.

Originally scheduled for restoration in 1980, it fell victim to budgetary constraints, and the project was never completed. The AFV is now helping to restore its former glory.

Established in 1998, AFV is a charitable corporation dedicated to promoting Franco-American relations by supporting seminars, educational exchanges, and specific restoration projects. The palace has long been a point of cooperation between French and Americans — philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr., played a major role in the preservation of Versailles in the early 20th century with his numerous visits and considerable donations. According to the AFV, the palace and its grounds receive more visitors of American origin than of any other nationality. For more information, please visit: www.americanfriendsofversailles.org.
Once Again, Paris Becomes the Focus of the World of Tennis

Athletes from 48 countries took to the courts from May 27 to June 10 in Paris’s Stade de Roland Garros for the 2007 French Open. Roland Garros, as the tournament is also known, hosted 104 men and 106 women vying for the high honor of winning one of the most difficult tennis tournaments in the world.

After a sluggish opening day in which all but 14 matches were cancelled due to rain, the participants’ tennis skills truly began to shine. The American men were eliminated from the tournament in the first round, something that has not happened since Roland Garros became an open event in 1968. The competition quickly turned into heated anticipation of a final match between Switzerland’s Roger Federer and Spain’s Rafael Nadal, who won Roland Garros both in 2005, the year of his first entry, and in 2006. The final turned into a repeat of last year’s duel, and in the end, Nadal again triumphed over Federer, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, becoming the second man in 93 years to win three consecutive singles titles at Roland Garros.

Roland Garros, the namesake of the stadium and, by proxy, the event, was a renowned 20th century French aviator. He achieved the record for the highest altitude reached in an airplane (5,610 m) in 1912, and the next year, he became the first person to cross the Mediterranean Sea by plane. He joined the French Air Force during World War I, and was captured by the Germans in 1915 after having downed three German planes. He later escaped and rejoined his unit, but he was fatally shot down in 1918. Garros was also responsible for developing the first system by which a machine gun could safely fire through the propeller of an airplane, thus greatly enhancing the effectiveness of fighter aircraft.

原料的网球比赛

历史的法国公开赛

在1891年，作为一项面向男子的网球赛事，罗兰·加洛斯迅速发展成一个国际知名的网球赛事。六年之后，赛事正式向女性选手开放，并在1925年邀请了外国选手参赛。1920年代和1930年代被认为是“金色时代”的法网时期，苏珊娜·朗格伦因在1927年赢得该赛事而声名鹊起。在1928年，网球比赛“French International”进入了一个新的发展阶段，在随后的1929年建立了一个新的球场，被称为“Stade de Roland Garros”。独特的红土球场在比赛中的难度增加；红土的成分是紧密压实的砖粉，产生的反弹较小，给予每个玩家稍少的反应时间。这种结果导致了更复杂的比赛，要求高水平的球员参与。球场的红土层也有助于增加球场表面的摩擦，增加比赛的观赏性。

通过1933年，网球赛事得到了全世界的发展和变化，罗兰·加洛斯开始与温布尔登、美国公开赛和澳大利亚公开赛在世界排名中竞争。一位美国记者约翰·基安克将“Grand Slam”一词命名为这项赛事。在1968年，罗兰·加洛斯成为首个开放的网球赛事，允许业余和专业选手参加。

历史的法国公开赛

While some of the most famous names in today’s tennis circuit, including Serena Williams, Andre Agassi, Martina Navratilova, and Steffi Graf, have emerged victorious in Paris, other notable tennis stars have never been able to master the red clay. Roger Federer, currently ranked as the world’s number one player, has never won Roland Garros, despite winning every other tournament in the Grand Slam. For more information about Roland Garros, please visit www.rolandgarros.com.
Air Liquide Opens New Research and Technology Center in Delaware

Air Liquide Chairman & CEO Benoît Potier and Delaware Governor Ruth-Ann Minner cut the symbolic ribbon, inaugurating Air Liquide’s new center in Delaware

Benoît Potier, Chairman and CEO of Air Liquide, inaugurated the company’s new Delaware Research and Technology Center in Newark on June 4. François Rivasseau, chargé d’affaires, attended the ceremony. As of June 2007, the new center employs 80 researchers and is scheduled to expand its research staff to a total of 150. Air Liquide, which has locations in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, invested $35 million in the nearly 55-acre site south of Philadelphia. The facility conducts research in twelve fields, ranging from food and agriculture to computer modelling, but focuses primarily on clean energy technology. The Newark location will unite Air Liquide staff members from around the country, including researchers from the Chicago Research Center; experts of MEDAL, a subsidiary which produces membranes for gas separation and purification; engineers from the Advanced Technologies Division in the USA; and teams of the SEPPIC subsidiary, which produces specialty chemicals.

Air Liquide is a world leader in the development, production, and distribution of industrial and medical gases, among other services, and has nearly 37,000 employees in 72 countries, who serve one million customers, including large industries and individuals. The company was founded in 1902 by Georges Claude and Paul Delorme, following the invention of a process for liquefying air that enabled a much greater production of oxygen. With the opening of the new U.S. center, Air Liquide demonstrates its continued commitment to innovation and international service.

New TGV Service an Engine for Growth

The TGV Est Européen made into service on June 10 on its maiden voyage with passengers aboard, ushering in a new era of accessibility to eastern France and opening a new gateway to Luxembourg, Germany, and Switzerland. The newest line of the TGV (“Train à grand vitesse” - “High Speed Train”) significantly reduces travel times to eastern France and beyond. The voyage from Paris to Strasbourg, for example, which once took 4 hours, will take only 2 hours and 20 minutes aboard the new rail system. One hour and 15 minutes were shaved off the trip from Paris to Zurich, while the Paris-Frankfurt journey was nearly halved.

More than 186 miles of new high-speed track have been laid down over the past five years in order to establish the infrastructure for the TGV Est Européen, and 17 train stations in the region have been renovated in preparation for its arrival. Additionally, three new TGV stations have been built in Lorraine, Champagne-Ardenne, and Meuse that will supplement the existing network of conventional rail lines.

Past experience suggests the TGV can act as a powerful vector for economic development. In the southern cities of Marseille and Avignon, tourism has jumped and housing markets have grown 120 percent since 2001, when a new TGV line cut travel times to Paris to three hours.

Anticipating a similar effect with the new TGV service, Metz has extended a pedestrian-only zone in its city center, while Nancy is building a convention center near its TGV station.

The rail cars for the new TGV line feature spaces designed by haute couture legend Christian Lacroix and run 12.4 mph faster than previous TGV models. The new rail lines, which will continue to expand in coming years, will also permit the German high-speed train, the ICE, to begin running to Paris.

Conference Dissects Subject of Stem Cell Research

Scientists, ethicists, and policymakers from Europe and the United States came together at the Embassy of France on Thursday, June 14, to discuss scientific advances in the field of stem cell research. The participants, who met again the following day at the Center for American Progress, also addressed the effects of European Union and U.S. policies regarding research in this field. The Office for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France and the Center for American Progress organized the event, which was co-hosted by Science and Technology Offices from E.U. member embassies, as well as the Delegation of the European Commission in Washington.

Stem cell research, especially research using cells from human embryos, has engendered extensive discussions around the world. This international workshop was an effort on behalf of partners on both sides of the Atlantic to exchange information, discuss policies and to promote transatlantic cooperation within the field.

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French Are Warming up to Alternative Energy

Solar energy contributes an increasingly large percentage of France’s energy

Solar thermal power usage in France has grown 80 percent since 2005, according to Enerplan, an energy management services company. French people are increasingly switching to solar energy for a number of reasons, according to the management services company: its low cost, the simple installation of solar captors, and the increased tax credit for using alternative energy sources. The Agence de l’Environnement et de la Maitrise de l’Energie (ADEME), an agency that manages energy research and usage under the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Planning and Development, provides grants and support to encourage people to start using solar heating. France is not the only place where people are making the switch. Countries such as Germany, Austria, and Greece also contributed to the overall strength of the European market for solar thermal energy, bringing the estimated increase in its usage to 22.8 percent throughout the European Union. In recent decades, Europeans have made great strides in renewable energy. According to Eurostat’s 2007 Panorama of Energy bulletin, Europe’s usage of solar energy in 2004 increased to five times what it was in 1990.

Cellular Communications Solutions for Transatlantic Travelers

International travelers who make frequent trips across the Atlantic no longer need to worry about losing talk-time on their European cell phones once they return home. Call-In-Europe recently announced its SFR 30 and SFR 75 plans, both designed to reduce cell phone costs for Americans traveling in France. The two plans allow customers to choose between 30 and 75 minutes of French national call time, and unused minutes rollover for use in future vacations. Additionally, on these plans, customers are able to receive inbound calls free of charge. For more information, please visit: www.call-in-europe.com.

NEWS FROM FRANCE
**Annual Exam Puts Students to the Test**

France's much anticipated examination period leading to the awarding of the baccalauréat officially began on June 11. Following tradition, this year’s 621,532 candidates kicked things off with an exam on la philosophie, for which students had four hours to write logical, convincing, and charmingly original dissertations before the morning’s end. Successful completion of the examinations, most commonly referred to as le bac, grants students access to institutions of higher education while certifying one’s completion of primary studies.

Although some students obtain a technical or professional bac, which prepares students for entry in specific careers, the vast majority opt for a baccalauréat général, which requires either a scientific, literary, or economic specialization. Each exam is awarded a grade based on a 20-point scale, and students must obtain an average of 10 to officially earn the diploma. L’oral de rattrapage, a supplementary oral examination period, exists for students whose final scores are just shy of the 10-point score needed for a diploma. On the other hand, students earning averages above 12 can expect special mentions to accompany their scores.

The baccalauréat often becomes the subject of media attention in France. Recent phenomena include 45-year-old author François Dufour, who re-took his bac 28 years after receiving a diploma in 1979, or the impressive efforts of a 12-year-old candidate, the youngest to date, whose anonymity was strictly protected so as not to interrupt his concentration. Other students geared themselves for setting records, hoping to top the highest score currently on record: 20.28. For more information regarding le bac, please visit: www.education.gouv.fr.

**Eiffel Tower Gets an Ocean View**

Jean-Claude Brialy, renowned figure of French cinema and culture, died on May 30 at the age of 74, following a battle with cancer. His passing was deeply mourned by the French film industry and public. A ceremony was given in his honor and attended by high-ranking government officials, including President Nicolas Sarkozy, Minister of Culture Christine Albanel, Minister of Interior Michèle Alliot-Marie and Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë. Many famous artists and friends, such as Alain Delon, Catherine Deneuve and Charles Aznavour also attended.

The celebrated actor appeared in nearly 200 movies over the course of his 40-year career and won several distinguished awards, including a César (the French equivalent of an Oscar) in 1987 for best supporting male actor. A 1958 Claude Chabrol film, "Le Beau Serge" ("Handsome Serge") proved to be Brialy’s breakthrough role, leading to work with some of France’s most reputed directors. Brialy developed close friendships through these cinematic collaborations, appearing in Jean-Luc Godard’s film "Une femme est une femme" ("A Woman Is a Woman," 1961), and François Truffaut’s "La Mariée était en noir" ("The Bride Wore Black," 1968).

Brialy will be remembered by the public not only for his acting but also for his witty sense of humor and subtle intelligence. As a result of his inspiring performances on television, in films, and on stage, he became one of France’s prominent artistic icons and was the recipient of several honorary titles: Commander of the Legion of Honor, Commander of the National Order of Merit, and Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters.
French Cowboy Makes Rodeo History in Texas

Rodeo fans sat in awe on June 2 as Evan Jayne skillfully maneuvered the tricks and turns of Bad Company Rodeo’s horse, Moulin Rouge. The rodeo cowboy racked up an impressive 92 points during his ride, a score which placed him among the top 10 in professional rodeo history. The horse, however, not was the only one carrying a name with links to France. Jayne, a 24-year-old teacher-turned-cowboy, stood out from the crowd as a rodeo talent hailing from Marseille, France.

The French cowboy who has stolen many hearts in his new home in Huntsville, Texas, may have inherited a knack for riding in his genes. His father was a trick rider who inspired Jayne to pursue riding as a young boy. In 1998, Jayne left for Magnolia, Texas, where he finished high school as a foreign exchange student. His host family, rodeo aficionados themselves, helped Jayne to pursue his passion by enrolling him in the high school rodeo championships. When he emerged victorious from the Texas High School Rodeo Association bareback riding state championship, the rising star not only qualified for the College National Finals, but was awarded a scholarship to Sam Houston State University.

After watching his idols tour the pro rodeo circuit, the former agriculture teacher tried his own luck at the Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo in February, where he walked away with the bareback title. The victory only inspired him further. On June 1, Jayne decided to leave his teaching position at Coldspring High School in order to become a full-time competitor. Winning the title “really showed me I could compete against the top-ranked guys,” says Jayne. “Now, it’s on to the next level.”

Harry Potter Casts His Spell on SNCF

Children around the world have dreamed of becoming Harry Potter. La Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Français (SNCF — the French National Railway Company) and Warner Bros. Pictures are now working together to make those dreams come true. French fans anxiously anticipating the release in theaters of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" on July 11 are taking tours on a recently debuted Harry Potter-themed train, as it tours the country taking passengers on a magical travel experience. Original costumes and accessories are on display in two of the train’s seven cars, while the remaining five dazzle passengers with their intricate decor featuring music, lighting, and trailers from the movie’s most memorable scenes. The cars also feature an on-board magician set to charm audiences with numerous magic tricks during the ride. Electronics enthusiasts even have the opportunity to preview the latest Harry Potter video game based on the film. The tour, which “magically appeared” on June 19 in Paris, will end July 1 in Lille as the train vanishes before its fans’ bedazzled eyes. For more information, please visit: www.sncf.fr.

Cultural Festivals Light Up Midsummer Nights in France

From the sunny beaches of Nice to Haute-Normandie, visual arts festivals of many colors will be held. "Recontres d’Arles" will present a new generation of Indian photographers and other world photography from July 3 through September 16. An American Impressionist show, titled "Le Temps des Loisirs: Peintures Américaines" (July 15 to October 31), will feature paintings by Henry Potthast and Edmund Tarbell at Giverny’s Musée d’Art Américain.

For those in search of the performing arts, the Festival d’Avignon (July 6-27) will bring together professionals from across the spectrum of the international theatrical community to celebrate their art. "King Lear" and "Le Silence des Communistes" are among this year’s shows to be performed.

More information on these and other festivals in France can be found at: www.culture.fr. News about cultural events and festivals in the U.S. can be found at: www.frenchculture.org.

Harry Potter fans in France will be able to enjoy the Harry Potter-themed train on a magical journey provided by SNCF. The train will feature original costumes and accessories from the Harry Potter movies, along with magic tricks performed by an on-board magician. The tour will begin on June 19 in Paris and end on July 1 in Lille. For more information, please visit: www.sncf.fr.
Plisson Exhibits "Eyes of the Sea" in Boston

The Alliance Française de Boston welcomed Philip Plisson's photography exhibition "Les yeux de la mer" ("The Eyes of the Sea") in collaboration with the artist's son Guillaume to the gallery of the Boston French Library on June 1. More than 70 photography enthusiasts, including Plisson himself and M. François Gauthier, the Boston consul general of France, attended the inaugural reception of the exhibition on June 6. The exhibition features more than 50 of Plisson's latest images on paper and canvas, shot during a trip to New England last fall.

Plisson was born in 1947 and raised along the Seine in the Beauce and Sologne regions of France. Bringing more than 25 years of experience to his maritime photographs, he was appointed "Peintre de la Marine" (Official Painter of the Navy) by the French Minister of Defense in 1991. Through his work, Plisson endeavors to reveal the beauty of the relationship between man and the sea, often highlighting the contrasts between serenity and violence found in his off-shore inspirations. In addition to Philip Plisson's photographs, several works by his son, Guillaume, can be found in the gallery. Guillaume follows the path of photography forged by his father, but has expanded his portfolio to include shots of monuments and landscapes and hopes to incorporate more media into his work. The exhibition of New England images captured by the world-renowned Philip Plisson will be on display through July 26. For more information, please visit: www.frenchlib.org.

Pissarro Leaves His Impression on Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Art Museum opened an exhibit titled "Camille Pissarro's Revolutionary Impressionist Paintings" on June 9. The exhibition, which will remain on display for three months, explores the transformation of Pissarro's landscapes through more than 40 paintings. These works range from his 1860s compositions for the "Avis de Coup de Vent sur les Poulains," by Philip Plisson

representative of his role in the Impressionist exhibition in 1874. Representative of his role in the Impressionist movement, Pissarro was the only artist to show in all four Impressionist Salons.

Camille Pissarro was born in 1830 on the island of St. Thomas. Intrigued by the art world from an early age, Pissarro abandoned his bourgeois upbringing at age 22 to travel throughout Venezuela with his first artistic influence, Danish painter Fritz Melbye. In 1855, he moved to Paris to study at several academic institutions, including the École des Beaux-Arts, and to work under a succession of influential painters, such as Gustave Courbet. The critical period displayed by this exhibition laid the groundwork for an entire generation of painters, many of whom were influenced by his experimental techniques and vision of light, climate, and season. In conjunction with the exhibition, the museum has planned a number of events, including a major four-part lecture series featuring Pissarro's great-grandson Joachim Pissarro as well as Richard Brettell, one of the foremost scholars of Impressionism.