



# News From France

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## Goût de France / Good France gathers thousands to celebrate French gastronomy



From top left: a chef prepares a dish for the Goût de France / Good France dinner held at the Château de Versailles on March 19; an entrée featuring cheese, asparagus and ham, which was served at the dinner held at the Ambassador's Residence in Washington, D.C.; the head chef prepares a plate served at the Ambassador's Residence.

## From the Ambassador's Desk: A message from Gérard Araud

Dear Friends,

Here at the Embassy, we have the unique opportunity to share French traditions and initiatives not only with our American friends, but also with citizens around the world. And while we prioritize France's business development and technological innovation, the indelible cultural traditions of our country continue to provide many opportunities for our diplomatic missions to connect with Francophiles the world over.

This month, the Goût de France / Good France program, which was developed by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius to celebrate French gastronomy, took place in more than 1,500 restaurants on five different continents.



The United States had particularly strong and diverse representation, with chefs preparing French-inspired meals in cities around the country, including Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Attendees received a true taste of French gastronomy, whose distinction recently earned it a spot on UNESCO's "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" list. As March also marked the official month of "La Francophonie," thousands of people had the opportunity to celebrate not only French cuisine, but also the French language, throughout the world.

In addition to participating in these celebrations of Francophonie and culture, I had the opportunity to attend a number

of important events and visits around the country this month.

At the beginning of March, I gave opening remarks at the Forum of Communities on Urban Sustainability, or FOCUS Conference, at the French Embassy. Over 300 French and American

leaders from cities and local communities joined in efforts to establish concrete goals in preparation for the COP21 Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris at the end of the year. In Washington, the Embassy welcomed Roger Cukierman, President of the CRIF, a council representing French-Jewish Institutions. In Mr. Cukierman's meeting with the Congressional French Caucus, he spoke about our countries' joint efforts to combat anti-Semitism as well as hate speech, intolerance, and the promotion of terrorism on the

Internet. Then, on March 16 and 17, I travelled to South Carolina for my first visit to the Southeast as Ambassador to stress the importance of expanding economic relations between France and South Carolina. In the coming weeks, I will have the privilege and pleasure to travel to Illinois, Louisiana, California, and many other states to foster bilateral relations.

With the numerous Franco-American initiatives that took place this month, it is clear that the United States and France stand together not only in the promotion of our two countries' rich cultures, but also in our global efforts to protect the safety and liberties of our citizens and to diminish the devastating effects of climate change.

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## Representatives of U.S. police departments meet with Minister Cazeneuve

Thanks to an initiative by the French Embassy in the United States, a delegation of police officials from the New York Police Department (NYPD) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) travelled to Paris from March 9 to 13 to meet with their counterparts from the Paris police and counter-terrorism forces.

Representatives from the two cities discussed the aftermath of the recent attacks in Paris, focusing particularly on concerns involving operations and logistics.

French Minister of the Interior Bernard Cazeneuve met with the delegation, including Michael Downing, Deputy Chief of the LAPD and John Miller, Deputy Commissioner of the NYPD, responsible for intelligence and counter-terrorism efforts. They also met with Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, and Bernard Boucault, Paris Police Prefect.

Earlier this year, a similar delegation visited Paris, where they met with President François Hollande and hundreds of other police officers at the Prefecture de Police to pay tribute to the victims of the recent attacks

## French students visit Embassy as part of citizenship program

On March 24, French Ambassador to the U.S. Gérard Araud met with a group of students from the Lycée Français Théodore Monod, a high school in Paris, at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The students were led by Samia Essabaa, an English teacher who organized the trip as part of an educational project focusing on the prevention of racism and anti-Semitism in classrooms around the world. The program, called "Agir pour Apprendre," or "Act in order to Learn," engages students in a historical analysis of discrimination in order to instill a sense of civic responsibility among the next generation, who will ultimately act as catalysts for a more unified society.

Ms. Essabaa and her students were accompanied by Ms. Latifa Ibn Ziaten, founder of the Imad Ibn Ziaten Association for Youth and Peace.

While in Washington, D.C. the students also visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to emphasize their international commitment to the elimination of anti-Semitism.

## Leaders discuss sustainable development at FOCUS 2015



From top left: Special Representative for Climate Change Laurence Tubiana and Peru's Minister for the Environment Manuel Pulgar Vidal speak about goals for COP21 at the FOCUS 2015 Conference, which was hosted by the French Embassy.

From March 5 to 6, the French Embassy hosted over 300 American and French representatives from public authorities, academic institutions, private companies and NGOs at the 2015 Forum of Communities for Urban Sustainability (FOCUS) Conference. The FOCUS Conference served as a forum for U.S. and French community leaders to develop sustainability and resiliency solutions through a mutually beneficial exchange of best practices.

The FOCUS Conference aimed to engage local governments in dialogue on climate change issues in anticipation of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) to be held in Paris at the end of 2015. The objective of the COP21 conference is to achieve a universal agreement on climate change and environmental issues. The active participation and agreement of all nations is imperative to achieving this goal. Initiatives such as the FOCUS Conference play a vital role in securing popular support for COP21 proposals.

The conference consisted of six workshops, during which participants addressed various approaches to sustainability efforts and discussed best practices for fostering more environmentally friendly cities. These workshops covered topics such as transportation and

land use, energy, water and waste management, resiliency, urban policy and community empowerment, and methods of finance for sustainable cities.

Ambassador of France to the U.S. Gérard Araud gave opening remarks at the conference, stressing the importance of dialogue among states, local authorities, businesses and civil society actors in the fight against climate change, as there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to the issue.

Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Peruvian Minister for the Environment and head of the COP20 Climate Conference in Lima, and Laurence Tubiana, France's Special Representative for Climate Change, both spoke about what is at stake for COP21, and stressed that cities and local communities have an essential role to play in the success of this conference.

While Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, expressed the support of the U.S. government, Marie-Hélène Aubert, Advisor to President François Hollande on Climate Negotiations, applauded the exceptional character of this bilateral event between all levels of national and local government, and invited cities around the world to bring shared commitments to Paris.

## French Caucus meets with CRIF President Roger Cukierman



CRIF President Roger Cukierman at the Capitol with Congressional French Caucus members, including Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Steve Cohen and Rep. Ted Deutch, along with Ambassador Gérard Araud.

On March 3, Congressional French Caucus members met with a delegation from the *Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France*, or CRIF, at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The CRIF delegation was led by the organization's president, Roger Cukierman, who spoke about anti-Semitism and urged the caucus members to support

further regulation and suppression of anti-Semitic content by Internet providers on their interfaces. Cukierman's organization, CRIF, is the major umbrella organization of Jewish groups in France and takes an active role in opposing anti-Semitic actions. Cukierman met with members of the Congressional French Caucus to describe the situation in France after January's terrorist attacks in Paris and to discuss how French Jews have responded to the attacks.

Before meeting with members of Congress, Cukierman spoke to a crowd of more than 2,000 people at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Conference in Washington on March 1 and published an open letter in the *New York Times*, entitled "An Appeal to our American Friends." The CRIF's message in the *New York Times* emphasized the strong bond between French and American communities and their mutual dedication to combating discrimination and anti-Semitism. Cukierman stressed that American Internet service providers, search engines, and video hosting companies currently permit the unregulated dissemination of hateful messages, which he therefore believes must be addressed to prevent further radicalization, intolerance and violence.

Roger Cukierman, President of French-Jewish Institutions



Roger Cukierman, President of CRIF, at a meeting of the Congressional French Caucus on March 3.

▲ Mr. Roger Cukierman, President of the *Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France*, an organization representing French-Jewish Institutions, visited Washington, D.C. on March 2 and 3 to meet with U.S. congressional representatives and Jewish organizations. During his visit, Mr. Cukierman met with both the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Congressional French Caucus to talk about the Jewish community's place in France, as well as measures to combat hate speech on the Internet. He sat down with *News From France* to speak about his trip and his relations with the Jewish community in the United States.

**What is the CRIF and what is its role?**

CRIF is an association of French-Jewish institutions, and we are responsible for maintaining the relationship between the French-Jewish population and the political sector. There are two other bodies in France—the *Consistoire*, which deals with religious issues, and the *Fonds Social* for social and education issues. It is a federation of seventy institutions in France.

**What is the purpose of your visit to the United States? What is your message to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)?**

We were invited to participate in the AIPAC Conference. We were also invited to speak at the conference. I wanted to mobilize public opinion in America regarding the fact that social media outlets—for example, Facebook, Twitter, and Google—can potentially provide a platform for hate speech. I wanted to talk about that issue because I discovered that the individuals who killed Jews in a school in Toulouse, in a grocery store in Paris, and attacked the Jewish museum in Brussels, and a synagogue in Copenhagen, were all educated not by mosques, not by the press, not by television, but through social media, where hate speech enabled them to become jihadists.

We are in the middle of a world war between Western civilization and jihadism that is spreading not just in the Middle East, not just in Africa, but in Europe as well now. And this is why I believe it

is very important to try to urge social media outlets to adapt to this fight that the Western world is engaging in against the barbaric jihadists—those who are cutting off heads, who are throwing stones at women, who are killing children—and I think that this is a very important issue. Social media outlets were able to combat child pornography. There is no reason why they should not be able to combat racist and anti-Semitic hate messages.

**You just published an open letter in the *New York Times*, asking American companies to remove anti-Semitic content on the Internet. Can you tell us more about your efforts to fight anti-Semitism online?**

I am not an Internet professional; I just want Internet companies to stop enabling the delivery of hate messages. They were able to do it with respect to other issues, they should adapt. They bear a huge responsibility because when kids convert to fanaticism, to jihadism, because of social media, the owners of these companies should realize that they bear a responsibility for these murders. And this is why I am appealing to the American people to see that this is corrected, and it's not up to me to tell them how to do it. They are developing a new civilization of Internet and this civilization should be a civilization of friendship and not of hatred.

**What is your message to the Jewish community in the U.S.?**

The Jewish community in America is very influential in the political sphere, so I rely on them. When I see 16,000 people gathered for the AIPAC meeting in support of the state of Israel, I believe that they are also able to convey my message to the general public.

**What are the challenges of the duty of remembrance today? How can we maintain this remembrance for younger generations to come?**

Well I think that education about the Holocaust is necessary, but I don't think that it's the way to combat anti-Semitism. I think that anti-Semitism should be fought in the schools very early on, at the age of five or six, and the message which has to be brought to the children is not about the Holocaust or secularism, what we call *laïcité*. The major message that needs to be communicated to young people is that you have to respect your neighbor. Whatever his or her religion, whatever the color of his or her skin, a human being is a human being and he or she has to be respected. And this message should help prevent the spread of anti-Semitic, racist ideas among young people.

We see in schools that the word "Jew" has become an insult, which is unbelievable. We have been living in France for the last two thousand years and we have to be protected as if we were pariahs in our own countries. So I think it has to be fought, and I think the best way to fight it is in the schools, very early on, by teaching respect for other individuals. ■

Consulate General of Boston hosts *Hermione* contest

In commemoration of the arrival of the *Hermione*, an exact replica of the ship on which General Lafayette travelled from France to America, the Cultural and Educational Services of the Consulate General of France in Boston organized *Le Vent dans les voiles de l'Hermione*, a contest open to French classes in New England. Students were invited to participate by building an eco-friendly sail that reflects the history of the ship while promoting environmental awareness and responsibility.

In view of the upcoming COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris, each sail was made solely of natural or recyclable materials. While the winner was announced on March 27, during the *Matinée de la Francophonie*, a reception at Milton High School, all sails will be temporarily shown at different exhibition halls throughout the region during the spring and summer months of 2015. Students across the northeastern United States were excited to take part in this initiative, as they wait in anticipation of the official arrival of the *Hermione* in America in a few weeks.

French immersion program to open in Houston schools

The French-English Bilingual Education Committee is planning to open a French immersion program within the Houston Independent School District (HISD) starting in 2016.

This new initiative aims to boost the presence of francophone students in the region.

In order for this program to be approved, the committee submitted a list of 600 program candidates to HISD before March 2015, in grades ranging from pre-K to second grade. Students entering the program are not required to speak French. Furthermore, parents may register their children even if they are under the age of four in order to express interest in the program. Once the immersion program is implemented, the school will still remain part of the HISD public system, and it will be located within one of the schools in the HISD district.

With 638 registrations by the end of March, the initiative proved successful, showing strong support for Houston's efforts to expand its French programs, as well as encourage appreciation of French language and culture.

## Goût de France / Good France celebrates French gastronomy around the world



Clockwise from top left: a dinner held in honor of Goût de France / Good France at the Château de Versailles; a display of macarons featured at the event at the French Consulate General in New York; a chef prepares a dessert created by Christophe Tanneau-Kervran, head chef of the French Ambassador's Residence in Washington, D.C.; attendees of the dinner at the French Ambassador's Residence listen to Ambassador Araud's opening remarks.

**O**n March 19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development launched its first international celebration of French gastronomy, Goût de France / Good France. The project, which was launched in partnership with decorated chef Alain Ducasse, invited restaurants from around the world to design menus featuring a well-balanced French-style meal to serve on this occasion. The initiative was inspired by chef Auguste Escoffier, who created the “*Dîners d’Epicure*” (Epicurian Dinners) in 1912, with the goal of serving the same menu, on the same day, in several cities around the world. More than 1,300 restaurants in 150 countries were selected to participate in Goût de France / Good France, with over 45 in the United States.

### Gastronomy: a global tradition

The traditional French meal marks important moments in the lives of individuals and groups: births, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, achievements, reunions. French gastronomy signifies togetherness, the pleasure of taste, and the balance between human beings and the products of nature.

Historically, the gastronomic meal respects a fixed structure, beginning with an *apéritif*, containing at least four successive courses, and ending with liqueurs. “*Gastronomes*,” those with a serious interest in gastronomy, respect the historical implications of the multi-course ritual and ensure that its memory and ceremony live on for future generations.

In 2010, French gastronomy—a vital aspect of French culture—was added to UNESCO’s “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” list. This list is designed to safeguard important cultural traditions worldwide, promoting the global recognition and appreciation of art, dance, industries, and cuisines.

March 19’s Goût de France / Good France initiative marked the first worldwide event to celebrate French gastronomy after it was named to this prestigious list.

### Washington, D.C. celebrates

At the Ambassador’s Residence in Washington, D.C., a high-level dinner was attended by American and French chefs, representatives of the tourism industry, and journalists. The Residence’s head chef, Christophe Tanneau-Kervran, designed a menu especial-

ly for the occasion featuring two French food items recently approved for commercial export to the U.S.: Ariane apples and Bayonne ham.

French Ambassador Gérard Araud spoke at the dinner about the importance of French cuisine in the United States, noting that America is the biggest market for French gourmet food exports outside of the European Union, with an average growth of 8 percent per year, totaling 4 billion dollars in 2014. The ambassador reiterated that this evening would be a celebration of French gastronomy worldwide, focusing on “values of sharing conviviality, pleasure and respect for good food and togetherness.”

Jean-Robert Pitte, President of the French Mission for Food Heritage and Culture, was a featured guest at the dinner. Mr. Pitte played an essential role in getting the French gastronomic meal added to the UNESCO list. Séverine Bonnie, from Château Malaric-Lagravière, introduced the wines and courses served to guests, and the Distilled Spirits Council in the U.S. presented a collection of French digestifs.

Elsewhere in Washington, a similar dinner was held at Ici Urban Bistro, where chef Franck Loquet created a gourmet seven-course menu following the gastronomic guidelines. It included Branzino



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tartare and radish salad, a fine woodland mushroom tart with truffled goat cheese mousse, Atlantic salmon “mi-cuit,” herb crusted lamb loin, a selection of French cheese and a three-chocolate crémeux.

French General Consul Olivier Serot-Almeras attended this delicious celebration of the merits of French cuisine, its capacity for innovation, and its emphasis on sharing, enjoying, and respecting the principles of high-quality, environmentally responsible cuisine. The Washington-based restaurant is located in the Sofitel Hotel in Lafayette Square, and proudly supports *Petits Frères des Pauvres* (the American Fund of the Little Brothers of the Poor). Five percent of the proceeds from the dinner were donated to this organization.

**Dinners from New York to Paris**

Throughout the United States, guests enjoyed French cuisine as part of this unique event. Participating restaurants across the Midwest included Bistronomic, Café des Architectes, Chez Moi, Cyrano’s Farm Kitchen and Les Nomades, all in Chicago, as well as Le Voltaire in Omaha, Nebraska.

Twelve restaurants in New York were selected to participate in Goût de France / Good France, and the Consulate General hosted an event featuring a variety of French delicacies, including *macarons* from Parisian bakery Ladurée, *crêpes* filled with duck rillettes from d’Artagnan, and *escargots* prepared by Sébastien Baud, the Consulate’s resident chef.

On the West coast, too, participating restaurants showcased modern and innovative French cuisine. Among these restaurants was San Francisco’s Café de Presse, a café resembling a Parisian tabac that offers baked goods and international publications. On the occasion of Goût de France / Good France, the Café de Presse offered a *Prix Fixe* menu featuring foie gras and pan roasted monkfish, as well as *profiteroles*, or cream puffs, for dessert. Like many of the restaurants that participated in the initiative, Café de la Presse donated 5 percent of its profits to a charity organization, Meals on Wheels America.

Five other California establishments also participated: Restaurant Tapenade in La Jolla, 2 French Chicks in Agoura, State Fare Bar & Kitchen in Rancho Mirage, Church & State in Los Angeles and On Sunset, a restaurant located in the Sunset Boule-

vard Hotel.

Beyond the coast, chefs in Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and Florida were among the 45 U.S. restaurants showcasing French gastronomy on this special occasion.

Across the Atlantic, at the Château de Versailles, a large Goût de France / Good France celebration featured the event’s founding partners Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius and chef Alain Ducasse. Chef Joël Robuchon prepared an elegant and innovative menu for guests, featuring such dishes as toasted French-grown quinoa with truffle cream and salmon tartare topped with caviar. Jane Hartley, the U.S. Ambassador to France, was present at this dinner, and spoke about the sharing of gastronomical traditions as an inherent part of French-American friendship.

March 19 was an opportunity for all citizens of the world to celebrate French cuisine together. This important initiative cemented the place of the French gastronomical meal as an indelible part of culture not only in France itself, but at restaurants and in households across the United States and beyond. 

## United States leads foreign investment in France

A recent study conducted by Business France outlining the advancements and growth of French foreign investment identified the United States as the largest investor in France in 2014. Foreign investment has increased steadily in France and around the world, jumping 8 percent in overall investments between 2013 and 2014. American companies and investors are currently involved in 186 projects in France, resulting in the creation of over 5,400 jobs. With a 12 percent market share, France is the second most popular destination in Europe for American investment, after the United Kingdom.

Among the many companies who established locations in France last year were Amphastar Pharmaceuticals, Hexcel Fibers, and Fashion GPS. Amphastar Pharmaceuticals specializes in injectable drugs and inhalants, and recently opened a new site for the production of insulin in Éragny-sur-Epte, in the Picardy region. Hexcel Fibers, a leading producer of carbon fiber and materials used in the aerospace industry, established a new plant for the production of the chemical polyacrylonitrile in Roussillon, located in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. American company Fashion GPS opened a commercial office in Paris to strengthen its presence in continental Europe. Through these three examples alone, American business ventures in France created 230 new jobs.

## Life Sciences competition opens in Los Angeles

The Office for Science and Technology at the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles has announced that they will provide funding to promote participation in scientific competitions, contests, and games specializing in life sciences. The goal of this new partnership is to encourage students and researchers to participate in exchanges, as well as collaboration between French and American scientists, while promoting research.

In order to participate in any of these competitions, teams must be composed of both American and French citizens. Participants are eligible to compete in any life sciences competition, with the only requirement being that they must be affiliated with either country. The Office of Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the U.S. will select between four and eight applications to receive a grant for an amount ranging between 1,000 and 2,500 Euros. Applications for funding must be submitted by April 19, 2015.

## Ambassador Araud promotes French business in South Carolina



Ambassador Araud meets with representatives of Areva at the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina.



From March 16 to 17, Ambassador Gérard Araud travelled south for his first official visit to South Carolina, during which he focused in particular on France's economic partnerships in the region.

During this visit, Ambassador Araud had the opportunity to visit the sites of several French companies operating in the U.S., including Michelin, Areva and Nexans. The ambassador's first stop was Michelin, a French tire manufacturing company whose headquarters are based in Greenville, S.C. Michelin, a major French-American business partnership, employs about 8,900 people in South Carolina alone, with more than 17,000 across America. Ambassador Araud also met with representatives of Areva, a nuclear and renewable energy company based in France, at one of the company's sites near Aiken, S.C. This particular site oversees construction of the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility, a multi-billion dollar project.

Following his meetings with Michelin and Areva, Ambassador Araud visited Charleston, a historic city with a strong French influence. During his visit to Charleston, the ambassador had the opportunity to visit yet another French company with a presence in South Carolina, the newly opened Nexans location in the north of the city. Nexans, a company which manufactures electrical, data, and specialty cable products, is yet another French business that has locations in the U.S. The Nexans plant in South Carolina specializes in high tension cables (500 volt) especially designed to go underground. This particular plant plans to test the production of submarine cables as part of a phase II trial.

Around 30 French companies in the construction, automobile, chemical and electronic sectors are present in South Carolina. Altogether, French companies in this state employ about 16,000 Americans, thanks to French-U.S. investment.

## Paris named capital of Airbnb home-sharing by U.S. CEO



Brian Chesky, Co-founder and CEO of Airbnb, speaks with Bruno Julliard, Deputy Mayor of Paris, at Paris's city hall.

Airbnb.com, launched in August 2008, is an online marketplace where those looking for a place to stay in different cities can rent space from people who choose to lease rooms, apartments and houses independently through the website. The start-up company has seen enormous growth since its inception—currently Airbnb is available in over 33,000 cities in 192 countries, and is continuing to expand. As a greater number of individuals begin to participate in the so-called “sharing economy”—wherein individuals offer their services to others without third-party intervention—the Airbnb marketplace has proved attractive to travelers seeking cost-effective lodging from hosts that may offer insight to tourists in a new city. One of the most successful cities for Airbnb users is also the number one tourist destination in the world: Paris.

On February 26, American Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky named Paris the global capital for rentals between individuals at a conference with French entrepreneurs. Since 2008 when Airbnb was created, over 1.8 million tourists have flocked to the French capital, making it the largest market worldwide. The French government is committed to welcoming more visitors and consistently identifying new ways to keep the tourism industry flourishing—these efforts include the support of companies such as Airbnb.

Chesky spoke with Paris Deputy Mayor Bruno Julliard about two important issues for both the city and Airbnb: the tourist tax and the application of the French ALUR law. Following the passage of the 2015 Finance Bill and a vote by the Paris Council, Airbnb will now collect a tourist tax on behalf of its Parisian hosts and users. Additionally, Airbnb will reinforce the ALUR law, which regulates the leasing of properties in the country. Although individuals offering short-term rentals through their residences are permitted to do so through Airbnb, residences dedicated solely to short-term leasing must be classified as commercial rental property. Through this cooperation, Airbnb and the French government will continue to enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship.

The start-up company announced that Paris will play host to the Airbnb OPEN Conference in November 2015, which will bring more than 6,000 participants together for the first time outside of the company's founding city of San Francisco. As hundreds of thousands of tourists continue to flock faithfully to the City of Light, one can be sure that many of them will be staying with loyal Airbnb users.

## Two new Cézanne works uncovered by Barnes Foundation

▲ For decades, the works of French painter Paul Cézanne have been highly sought-after by professional and amateur art collectors alike. Few, however, succeed in acquiring any undiscovered treasures. Recently, the Barnes Foundation, an art collection in Philadelphia specializing in American and European works, discovered two unfinished Cézanne sketches on the back of two watercolors that had been purchased by art collector Albert C. Barnes in 1921.

Barnes acquired the two watercolors, entitled the “*Chaîne de l’Etoile Mountains*” and “*Trees*,” from Leo Stein, who—along with his sister Gertrude—was an avid collector of modern European art. When Barnes purchased them, he was likely unaware that he had in fact acquired four Cézanne works. A recent paper conservation treatment revealed two previously unknown Cézanne works—one in graphite and one watercolor—on the reverse side of the watercolors. This important discovery provided unique insight into how the artist worked. Cézanne often drew on both sides of the paper in his sketchbooks, producing thousands of drawings during his career. While some of these sketches were done in preparation for oil paintings, many allowed the artist to experiment with line and color.

The newly discovered unfinished pieces attracted a large amount of attention from Cézanne scholars. New additions to Cézanne’s body of work are extremely rare, so the discovery of previously unknown



A sketch discovered on the back of one of Cézanne’s watercolors, entitled “*Houses in Landscape with the Pylon du Roi*.”

pieces is extremely important.

From April 10 through May 18, the Barnes Foundation will display Cézanne’s works in double-sided frames that will allow them to be viewed from both sides. Barbara Buckley, Senior Director of Conservation and Chief Conservator of Paintings at the Barnes, oversaw this conservation effort, which was carried out in partnership with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

## The Month of Francophonie is celebrated throughout the U.S.



The official logo for the International Day of Francophonie, which took place on March 20 and was organized by the International Organization of Francophonie. This year’s theme was “*My planet is close to my heart*.”

▲ March marked the annual “Month of Francophonie,” which promotes a diverse range of francophone, or French-speaking, cultures. The International Organization of La Francophonie was created in 1970 to unite the estimated 274 million French speakers worldwide. March 20 is recognized as the International Day of Francophonie, commemorating the global language of French.

Around the United States, cultural events were held throughout the month, celebrating the unifying elements of the language around the world. On March 27, the Washington-based organizations Smithsonian at 8 and Francophonie D.C. hosted *La Grande Fête* at the French Embassy’s Maison Française. This cultural festival brought together embassies and representatives from the francophone world for a night of food, drink, giveaways, and music. Special guests included the world-famous Haitian singer Emeline Michel and DJ

Princess Slaya, who showcased music from Africa, the Caribbean, and Europe.

From Boston to Houston, French communities throughout the United States celebrated the Month of Francophonie with film festivals, educational events, music, and food. The Consulate General of France in Houston organized the French Cultures Festival, which took place throughout the month of March in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. This particular celebration of Francophonie included a French writing contest, exhibitions featuring French artists such as Picasso and Rodin, and concerts by David Guetta and the classical guitarist Thibault Cauvin. The Consulate General of Boston hosted a French festival at Milton High School on the occasion of the International Day of Francophonie, inviting students from schools all over the city to share what they had learned in their French classes and learn more about the Francophone world.

## Michel Houellebecq speaks at Albertine Books

On March 4, contemporary French writer Michel Houellebecq discussed his latest novel, *Soumission*, at the French-English bookstore Albertine in New York City. *Soumission*, a satirical work, imagines the political climate of France under a new political party.

Often controversial, Houellebecq’s works provoke impassioned reactions, and the panelists leading the discussion tried to get at the heart of why his books draw this attention from readers. The moderated discussion was followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Panelists included Albertine’s Deputy Director Tom Roberge and French novelist Catherine Cusset. An associate professor of classics at Yale University for 12 years, Cusset has authored 10 novels, including *Un brillant avenir* (winner of the Prix Goncourt des Lycéens in 2008). Her work has been translated into 15 languages.

## An American in Paris makes its Broadway debut

A stage adaptation of *An American in Paris*, inspired by the famous 1951 film, premiered at the Palace Theater on March 13 in New York.

This romantic story about the relationship between a beautiful French girl and an American soldier is set in the enchanting city of Paris, where both dream of a new life in the aftermath of the war. Throughout the show, the couple’s love is expressed through dances set to some of the greatest music and lyrics ever written. The musical features George Gershwin’s 1928 orchestral compositions, including such classic songs such as “I Got Rhythm,” “S Wonderful,” “But Not For Me,” “Stairway to Paradise,” “Our Love Is Here To Stay,” and “They Can’t Take That Away.” When the film was released to the public, it was a hit, and Gene Kelly garnered an Academy Award for his performance.

In 1993, *An American in Paris* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as being culturally, historically and aesthetically significant.

This new stage version was directed by acclaimed ballet choreographer Christopher Wheeldon. The re-imagined production will bring a taste of Paris to Broadway this spring, drawing tourists and locals alike.

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