Dear Friends,

As the heat of summer continues to hold on for a few more months, how refreshing to focus on yet another great period for French-American relations!

July is symbolic for both France and America since both countries observe their national holidays this month. On July 4, Americans across the U.S. celebrated 239 years of independence with fireworks, barbeques and music, just as they have done for over two centuries. Ten days later, French citizens answered by taking part in Bastille Day celebrations on July 14. For American and French people alike, these holidays evoke a shared appreciation for the democratic ideals on which our two countries were founded.

After the Americans won their independence from the British in 1776 with the help of France, many French people were inspired by the United States’ revolutionary cause, including none other than the Marquis de Lafayette himself. After leading French troops to aid American revolutionaries during the Revolution, Lafayette became a leader in his own country. He even wrote part of France’s “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen” with help from Thomas Jefferson, a close American friend of his. French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian recalled the legacy of Lafayette when visiting the replica of his ship, the Hermione, as it passed through New York on the 4th of July this month, alongside Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Ségolène Royal.

With pride for our countries and the mutual respect we share for one another, France and America not only celebrated national holidays, but collaborated on a number of important matters recently. French Minister of the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector Emmanuel Macron, along with Minister of State for the Digital Sector Axelle Lemaire, attended the French Touch Conference in New York where they spoke about the importance of cross-investment between France and America, which helps both of our economies to thrive today. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Stéphane Le Foll also visited the U.S. to focus on current topics affecting the agriculture industry, including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership as well as the widespread effects of climate change. Having been fortunate enough to receive four ministers on American soil over the last few weeks, I can say that our French representatives are fully engaged with their American counterparts to make progress on issues affecting both of our countries.

And thus, while many of us are soon off to take vacations for a few days or weeks, I can assure you that we remain committed more than ever to strengthening bilateral relations between our two countries, honoring our heritage while looking to the future in Washington and throughout the country.
en bref

In the U.S., Minister Le Foll explores agriculture and trade initiatives

French Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Stéphane Le Foll visited Washington, D.C., Ohio and New York from June 25 to 29 to discuss the Transatlantic Free Trade Agreement and the role of agriculture in the fight against climate change. Minister Le Foll spoke about the link between climate change and food security, meeting with American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman, Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture Michael Conaway and Pat Roberts, and his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

In Columbus, Mr. Le Foll focused on the environmental impact of farming and took part in a discussion on carbon sequestration in soil, a priority for France and the subject of ongoing research at The Ohio State University’s Carbon Management and Sequestration Center.

On June 28 and 29, Minister Le Foll was in New York, where he awarded the insignia of Chevalier in the Ordre du Mérite Agricole to celebrated French pastry chef Dominique Ansel and attended the inauguration of the French stands at New York’s Summer Fancy Food Show. Before returning to France, he also met with Janos Pasztor, UN Assistant Secretary-General on Climate Change.

Charlie Hebdo receives Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity

The Los Angeles Press Club honored French magazine Charlie Hebdo with The Daniel Pearl Award for Courage and Integrity in Journalism at its Awards Gala Dinner in Los Angeles on June 28.

The LAPC gives this award in partnership with Judea and Ruth Pearl, parents of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal journalist who was kidnapped and killed in Pakistan while working as the newspaper’s South Asia Bureau Chief. It recognizes organizations and individuals who show exceptional courage in the field of journalism. Past recipients include Richard Engel, Anna Politkovskaya and Bob Woodruff.

After the LAPC selected Charlie Hebdo for the honor in January, the Pearl family stated of the publication: “We are humbled by their sacrifice which has re-awakened the world to a deadly peril that must be confronted and eliminated.” Charlie Hebdo journalist Antonio Fischetti attended the gala in L.A. to accept the award on behalf of the entire publication.

current events

Minister Emmanuel Macron promotes French tech abroad

Innovative French and American startups. At the conference, he highlighted the potential of innovation to spur economic growth in France: “Entrepreneurs, startups and investors,” he stressed, “are key for the French economy and industry.” While in New York, the minister also met with French and American technology experts and venture capitalists.

Ms. Lemaire joined Minister Macron in New York after spending two days in San Francisco promoting French Tech and social innovation. During her visit to the West Coast, she met with several startup companies and accelerators, including Fast Forward, Y Combinator and The Last Mile. Additional meetings included visits to Airbnb, Apple and Facebook, a tour of Renault-Nissan’s research and development center, and a conversation with San Francisco’s Chief Information Officer, Jay Nath. Ms. Lemaire ended her trip with a dinner for 2015 ubi i/o participants, a startup program organized by Business France.

After the French Touch Conference, Minister Macron headed to Boston, where he visited the offices of Year Up, a national nonprofit that partners with private businesses to help young Americans receive an education, find jobs and escape poverty. He also held meetings with the city’s leading biotech experts and innovators, stopping at Harvard Innovation Lab and Genzyme.

In the U.S. capital, Minister Macron met with several top-level political and economic officials, including U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew. He also gave a lengthy interview with talk show host Charlie Rose, speaking about current issues facing France, as well as the country’s efforts to expand its businesses abroad.

Defense Minister Le Drian visits the U.S. for 4th of July

French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visited the United States from July 3 to 6. He honored American WWII veterans and visited Lafayette’s ship, the Hermione, in New York, as it sailed past the Statue of Liberty during the naval parade on the Fourth of July. Additionally, he met with a number of U.S. officials in Washington, D.C.

On July 3, Minister Le Drian awarded more than 20 American veterans the Legion of Honor for their contribution to the liberation of France during WWII. Standing beside the Hermione, an exact replica of the Marquis de Lafayette’s 18th century ship, the minister reminded these veterans that “the friendship that unites France and the United States is one of the oldest and strongest friendships,” drawing its roots from the Revolutionary War and continuing on through today. French Ambassador Gérard Araud delivered closing remarks at the ceremony.

On July 6, Minister Le Drian traveled to Washington, D.C., where he met with his U.S. counterpart, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, at the Pentagon. The two officials discussed several crises on which France and the U.S. are working together, notably counter-terrorism efforts against Boko Haram and Daesh (ISIL), as well as the economic situation in Greece. Secretary Carter commended France for its “commitment in the fight against Daesh (ISIL)—a campaign that requires sustained, long-term effort.”

Before leaving the U.S. the minister spoke with U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice and gave a lecture at the German Marshall Fund on the future of French-American cooperation on defense and security. At the German Marshall Fund, he spoke about the priorities of both France and the U.S. in defense missions abroad, noting that “the long-standing close relationship between France and the U.S. is a solid base on which we can both rely” and that “the coming together of our two military forces is proof that we share a common view of threats.”
Arnaud Guillois, Spokesperson and Press Counselor

Since 2012, Arnaud Guillois has served as Spokesperson and Press Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States. During his time in Washington, D.C., Mr. Guillois has overseen a wide range of press activities, from President François Hollande’s state visit to the arrival of Lafayette’s Hermione on U.S. shores. He has also served as editor-in-chief of News From France. Before his departure this fall, he took a moment to talk to us about his experience at the Embassy.

As Spokesperson and Press Counselor at the French Embassy, you have been the editor-in-chief of News From France for the last three years: how has it evolved over this period of time?
The main goal of News From France is to showcase the diversity of the French-American relationship, which has never been stronger than it is today. This diversity is two-fold, shown not only through the different geographic locations we cover, but also through the wide range of topics addressed by the newsletter.

The stories featured in our newsletter are not only out of Paris and Washington—when Stanford decides to open its European hub at Paris’s École Polytechnique, when U.S. governors visit different regions of France, when French ministers and businessmen visit Florida or Boston, or the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas—we want to report on these events, because they show that French-American relations are flourishing, and are not limited to our work in the capitals of our two countries.

Of course, politics is a major theme of many articles in News From France, but we also highlight French-American initiatives in culture, business, technology and higher education each month. The newsletter has evolved and will continue to evolve over the coming months, as we will incorporate a new section on France’s regions and culture to satisfy our readers.

Beyond News from France, you’re very familiar now with the American media landscape. What major similarities and/or differences do you see between the U.S. media and that of France?
I would say that first of all, our two countries value freedom of speech and the necessity of a free press; that’s what the French and American Republics are built on. What I like about the U.S.—whether I’m working with American journalists or French correspondents here—is that the press holds us accountable. When working with the media, we have to explain what we are doing and why we are doing it.

Hundreds of meetings with journalists over the past three years have helped me to better understand how the U.S. media works, and how the Embassy can improve the way in which it communicates.

I have the utmost respect for the U.S. media—their coverage of all the issues is in-depth and thorough. The American press is a very strong pillar of this democracy—the hard-hitting investigative journalism of the Washington Post led a president of the United States to resign, after all.

Could you tell us what some of the most challenging or rewarding stories covered by the Press Office during your time in Washington were?
When President Hollande visited the U.S. in February 2014, we had roughly 30 events to coordinate in more than two days, in Washington and San Francisco, his two stops during this state visit. This sort of experience is both challenging and rewarding. My team and I didn’t really sleep for several weeks, but it was fantastic, and everybody was proud to be part of this story.

In recent weeks, the coverage of the visit of the Hermione, a replica of Lafayette’s ship, was very strong—a great story, interest from both the U.S. and French press—and it has been a real privilege to follow that.

On a sad note, I was very touched by the solidarity that was shown by the American people following the terrorist attacks in Paris in January 2015. I was moved by President Obama’s visit to the French Embassy—one that was unprecedented—where he signed a condolence book for France and the victims of the attack. When speaking with the press, I had to explain in detail what France stood for and what these terrorist attacks meant not only for my country, but for the rest of the world. This was indeed challenging. When you are a diplomat, your job is to face reality, especially when the situation is complicated or even tragic.

Before coming to Washington, you hadn’t previously worked as a Press and Communication professional. What is it like for a diplomat to assume this role?
When you work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, you have to deal permanently with crises no matter what your position is. Even if you haven’t dealt specifically with journalists before, you are ready, because you have to be responsive, you have to be inventive. You have to prepare speeches, statements and talking points on a daily basis. You have to negotiate and express your country’s position in the most intelligible way.

In my previous postings, at the French Mission to the United Nations, at the Prime Minister’s office, I had to deal with crises and communicate France’s position. For all these reasons, the requirements of this duty did not come as a surprise to me.

What have you enjoyed about living in Washington, D.C.?
I am happy to go back to Paris, but I know that I will be very sad to leave Washington after three fantastic years, and I’m not saying that only because one of my children was born here. In Washington, you definitely feel political power and pressure—you are at the very heart of the United States, and you have so many major national and international bodies, from the White House to Congress, from the State Department to the IMF and the World Bank. At the same time, you have air to breathe, you have a great city with newly developing neighborhoods, and Americans and Washingtonians are very warm. That’s something that I will remember and that I will miss for sure.

French-American Climate Talks held in Denver

In preparation for the COP21 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris at the end of the year, the French Embassies in Canada and the U.S. are hosting the French-American Climate Talks (FACTS), a series of conferences taking place in seven cities across North America. Gathering renowned scientists, NGOs, political figures, journalists and entrepreneurs, these conferences seek to foster discussion about global warming and carbon emissions and identify ways in which climate change can be mitigated while creating employment and economic growth.

The most recent FACTS discussion took place in Denver on June 24. It was attended by various French and American scientists, who discussed the connections between water and quality of life, as well as climate change and health, in Colorado. Mr. Jeffrey Richards, Honorary Consul of France in Denver, was present at the event, and spoke about France and Colorado’s respective views on the effects of climate change. A number of FACTS discussions are set to take place between now and the end of the year in U.S. and Canadian cities, including San Francisco, Miami and Quebec.

Minister Laurent Fabius speaks at UN General Assembly on climate change

On June 29, members of the UN General Assembly, along with representatives from the private and civil society sectors, met at the organization’s New York headquarters for a high-level event on climate change in preparation for the COP21 Union Nations Climate Change Conference. COP21 will, for the first time, seek to achieve a universal agreement on climate, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2 °C.

Laurent Fabius, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development and president of the COP21 conference, spoke at the UN General Assembly about the urgency of reaching a durable agreement on climate change. Emphasizing the wide-reaching effects of climate change, Minister Fabius declared, “the threat is global; not a single region would escape the consequences of our inaction.” He is counting on all countries to work together to achieve a unified goal, and remains hopeful that in five months, he’ll “be able to speak on behalf of all of us and say, ‘the Paris 2015 agreement has been adopted.”
On 226th anniversary of Bastille Day, French pride shown in Paris, Washington, D.C. and beyond

A holiday with history

The history of Bastille Day dates back to the summer of 1789, when France was troubled by widespread popular unrest. The monarchy, led by King Louis XVI, was spending large amounts of money with little to show for it. The French population paid high taxes, allowing the king to live a life of luxury while most of the country suffered. In the days leading up to Bastille Day, tensions were exacerbated by the king’s refusal to approve the new Assembly and his dismissal of the popular finance minister, Jacques Necker. On July 14, 1789, popular dissent boiled over. A crowd began to form in the center of Paris, growing larger and more agitated by the minute. The group ran to the Hôtel des Invalides, where they stole thousands of rifles. Lacking gunpowder, the mob turned to the Bastille. In addition to being a warehouse for munitions and powder, the Bastille was used as a state prison, and was a dark symbol of King Louis XVI’s power. At the Bastille, the prison’s governor agreed to speak with the angry mob, but negotiations quickly degenerated into chaos. The Bastille guards opened fire, killing hundreds of people. The governor of the Bastille, Bernard René Jourdan, marquis de Launay, called in a rescue team to support his guards. When the team arrived, to everyone’s surprise, they joined the fray on the side of the mob. With the weapons and skills of the rescue team, the mob soon overtook the guards, storming the Bastille and releasing its prisoners. At the time, the Bastille contained only seven prisoners, however, the storming of the Bastille represented a watershed event in the course of French history. When informed of the day’s events, King Louis XVI is reported to have asked “is this a revolt?” to which his messenger responded, “No Majesty, this is a revolution.” The building was destroyed and the governor killed, starting a chain of events that would lead to the execution of many members of France’s aristocracy and years of revolt and unrest. From the turmoil a new rule would emerge, and the establishment of the first French Republic. To this day, Bastille Day marks the end of monarchy and the birth of French sovereignty.

A worldwide celebration

Today, the story of the courageous citizens who took part in the storming of the Bastille lives on in France and around the world. This year, as usual, Bastille Day celebrations were held throughout the French capital. Hundreds gathered for an evening of music and dancing at the Bal du 14 juillet in Paris, a series of outdoor festivals in a number of city streets and squares, including the Place de la Bastille, where the famous prison once stood.
On the morning of July 14, the annual military parade was held on the Champs Elysées, attended by President François Hollande and other top government and military officials. In the evening, fireworks lit up the sky behind the Eiffel Tower, a splendid display for the City of Light.

In the United States, residents of Washington, D.C.—home to thousands of French expatriates—celebrated the French national holiday with a number of events. The French Embassy hosted the Comité Tricolore’s “Lafayette Returns to America” on July 10, honoring the Marquis de Lafayette and his ship, the Hermione, which returned to U.S. shores this summer. The soirée featured music, dancing and delicious French food from local restaurants.

On July 14, the Embassy held a reception for the Fête Nationale, attended by French citizens residing in the region. Over 2,000 guests enjoyed various hors d’oeuvres and listened to the American and French national anthems, performed by French-Cameroonian singer Francis Jocky. Ambassador Araud gave opening remarks at the ceremony, as did former French Prime Minister François Fillon. Christine Lagarde, managing director of the IMF, was also present at the reception.

Events throughout the U.S.

Beyond Washington, Americans took part in Bastille Day festivities throughout the U.S.

In San Francisco on July 14, French Consul General Pauline Carmona awarded nine American World War II veterans the French Legion of Honor, remembering their sacrifices and contribution to the liberation of France and of Europe over 70 years ago. She was also invited to raise the French flag over City Hall, an initiative of the Mayor’s Office of Protocol and the San Francisco-Paris Sister City Committee to honor the friendship between the two cities.

Los Angeles welcomed a new French Consul General, Christophe Lemoine, with a celebration at the French Residence in Beverly Hills, attended by almost 500 guests. Online community French Tuesdays also hosted guests in Los Angeles on the evening of July 14 at the Sofitel hotel.

The highlight of Bastille Day events in the Midwest was the Chicago French Consulate’s free outdoor festival at Daley Plaza, featuring live entertainment, performances and activities for all ages. Attendees sampled crêpes and French pastries from local vendors, tried their hand at the classic French yard game pétanque and bid on French raffle items including an Air France trip to Paris. The Chicago festival was so successful that French Consul General Vincent Floreani received several congratulatory letters from city officials, including Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, who wrote that he “looks forward to continuing to build upon the relationship between Chicago and France in the coming years.”

And of course, New Orleans honored its French heritage with one of the world’s largest Bastille Day Festivals, featuring live local music, a dog costume contest, and the Bastille Day Regatta at the New Orleans Yacht Club. On July 14, French Consul General Gregor Trumel participated in an annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Joan of Arc statue on Decatur Street.

While the origins of Bastille Day stem from a violent and bloody event that arose from a disaffected people in search of a revolution, today the tone of the holiday is nothing but celebratory. From coast to coast, thousands honored their French connections in cities such as Atlanta, Boston, Mobile, Charleston, Nashville, Sarasota and Orlando. Even the Alliance Française of Puerto Rico joined in, hosting “Francia de Fiesta” on July 11 in honor of both Bastille Day and World Music Day. The number and variety of Bastille Day celebrations this month highlight France’s expansive global impact, proving that the spirit and values of the French Revolution—Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité—continue to resonate with both French citizens and Americans over 200 years later.
en bref

Cisco Systems to invest in France

On July 7, American communications technology firm Cisco Systems announced a preliminary list of French startups in which it plans to invest.

In February, Cisco’s CEO John Chambers declared that his company would dedicate $100 million to the French Tech ecosystem, stating that “the time to invest in France’s future is now…with more startups than any other European country at the Consumer Electronics Show this year, and a strong infrastructure in place, France is primed to embrace the latest technology transition: digitization of everything.”

The list of Cisco’s potential investments includes Actility, an internet service and smart energy management provider. 6Wind, a Parisian startup that designs software to solve performance challenges for telecom and cloud infrastructure companies, will also receive a large investment from Cisco.

The company also plans to build “The Camp,” a digital innovation campus in Aix-en-Provence that will unite researchers, teachers, businesses and startups in a single location to promote collaboration.

Details on how the rest of Cisco’s money will be invested in this initiative are to be announced in the near future.

Ubimobility’s Connected Cars France program looks to the future of transportation

Ubimobility 2015 is an accelerator program started by Business France and Bpifrance focused on the development of autonomous vehicles. This year, French transportation companies submitted their latest work to the program in the hopes of traveling to the United States to develop partnerships with major players in the American automotive industry.

Among the companies that presented their most advanced technology, eight were selected to bring their projects to the U.S. From June 14 to 30, these French transportation professionals traveled to Detroit, Chicago and San Francisco to meet with think tanks, suppliers, and potential partners and investors in the hopes of making their entry into the North American market. Representatives from companies such as General Motors, Tesla and Google participated in the Ubimobility program, offering participants advice on how best to present their work to clients. The French companies’ projects include the development of self-driving cars and the creation of smartphone applications that connect to cars in order to make driving safer, easier and cheaper.

French Touch Conference promotes startup investment

The second annual French Touch Conference took place in New York on June 24 and 25. The conference is an annual summit promoting French-American collaboration, innovation and creativity in business. The two-day event featured guests from French and U.S. companies, a startup competition, roundtable discussions and networking events.

The French Touch Conference is sponsored by La French Tech, a government organization fostering startup growth in France and abroad, and AXA, a French investment banking firm. This year, more than 50 French and American businessmen and women presented their ideas at the AXA Center.

Gaël Duval, founder of the French Touch Conference, said that with this conference, he and his team hoped to “build a bridge between alternative ecosystems, promote innovation and creativity.” Describing the event as a “business conference with a French taste,” Duval boasted that companies attending possessed “a mix of creativity, audacity, and business.”

The winner of this year’s startup contest was Rebagg, a New York based company that buys and sells used designer handbags. Rebagg was started by French entrepreneur and Harvard Business School Graduate Charles-Albest Gorra.

Noteworthy speakers included Emmanuel Macron, French Minister of the Economy, Industry, and the Digital Sector and Axelle Lemaire, French Minister of State for the Digital Sector. When speaking at the conference, Minister Macron encouraged French companies to seek opportunities abroad in order to succeed: “In France, we have great entrepreneurs, but we have a lack of funding for them… We have to lift barriers between domestic and global markets. One of the key strengths of the U.S. market is that from day one you’re already thinking global. We have to lift these global barriers and that is precisely one of the key purposes of the French Tech.” With the business and technology sectors of France and the U.S. becoming increasingly connected, initiatives such as the French Touch Conference are likely to develop further in the coming years.

Paris air show attracts vendors from around the world

The air show was inaugurated by President François Hollande. Prime Minister Manuel Valls also made a speech before the event opened to the general public.

This year, 296 official delegations from 91 countries took part in the show, a four percent increase from the previous year. Not only did the PAS include spectacular flight displays, but also opportunities for aspiring aerospace professionals, such as a competition challenging students ages 12 to 18 to design rockets that could carry two raw eggs to take flight and land safely. The American team took home the final prize this year. Two of the show’s standout products were the Airbus A350 jetliner and the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner. Airbus outsold Boeing at this year’s air show, selling 421 aircraft totaling $57 billion.

An electric aircraft, the E-Fan 2.0, was another innovative product shown at the PAS. Along with the company’s goal of developing a 100-person electric passenger plane in the coming decades, the E-Fan 2.0 marks a significant step towards environmentally sustainable passenger flights.
Members of Paris Saint-Germain, a professional soccer club based in Paris, train in New Jersey during the first days of their U.S. tour.

This summer, French powerhouse soccer team Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) played three games in the United States as part of their North American tour for the 2015 International Champions Cup.

On July 15, they set up camp in New Jersey, 45 minutes from New York City. Between days of intense pre-season training, the team competed against other international soccer clubs. Starting in Toronto on July 18, PSG squared off against SL Benfica, winning 3-2 against the Portuguese team with goals scored by Jean-Kevin Augustin, Lucas Moura and Lucas Digne, who secured the team's win in the 79th minute of the match.

During the rest of their time in the U.S., PSG took on Fiorentina in Harrison, N.J., where they reigned victorious once again 4-2, with goals from Blaise Matuidi, Jean-Kevin Augustin and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who scored a strike. The team continued on to Charlotte, N.C., where they took on Chelsea, followed by a match against Manchester United in Chicago. The club is France's best professional soccer team at the moment, and is supported by a large base in Paris. Last year, PSG won the French national championship and made it all the way to the quarter finals of the Champions League tournament, the most competitive in Europe.

The theme of PSG's North American tour was "Paris loves US," focusing on the connections between the team and its fans in the United States. Not only does PSG run Academies for more than 1,000 young players in New York and Miami, but it also attracts business—the U.S. is the club's number-one international territory for online merchandise sales. The International Champions Cup provided an opportunity for PSG to train for its upcoming season while developing its presence internationally, holding open autograph and photo sessions and hosting children for training days as part of the PSG Foundation's "Dream Bigger" mission.

Statue of Liberty marks its 130th year in the U.S.

June 17 marked 130 years since “Liberty Enlightening the World,” now known as the Statue of Liberty, was first presented as a gift from France to the United States. The idea for the monument was proposed in 1865 by French political thinker Edouard de Laboulaye, who believed that a sculpture honoring the United States—which shared common ideals with France—would inspire the French people to call for a return to the cause of democracy.

The iconic statue was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, who chose New York's Bedloe's Island as the location because it was visible to every ship entering New York Harbor, at the "gateway to America." Construction began in 1876, with French architect Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel building the statue's iron framework. When finished, Lady Liberty was shipped from France to the U.S., then reassembled by scores of U.S. workers, many of whom were immigrants. The Statue of Liberty was finally unveiled on October 28, 1886, before a crowd of more than one million people. A replica of the statue can be seen in Paris to this day, a lasting symbol of liberty, freedom, and French-American friendship, on the Îles aux Cygnes.

The head of the Statue of Liberty was displayed at the Paris Exhibition of 1878 before being brought to the U.S.

Boston Consulate holds Hermione sail contest

In honor of the arrival of a replica of the Marquis de Lafayette’s Hermione, the Cultural and Educational Services of the French Consulate in Boston organized a contest for French classes in New England. The contest, entitled "Le Vent dans les voiles de l’Hermione," challenged middle and high-school students to use eco-friendly materials to construct a sail and to decorate it with a slogan promoting environmental awareness.

Seven classes submitted entries with detailed descriptions, slogans and photos, from which three winners were selected. The first winner, Hope High School, chose the slogan, “Aux eaux, hommes des deux mondes! Notre planète en vaut le coup!” or “Look to the water, men of both continents! Our planet is worth it!”

The second, Mount Everett High School, put their own spin on a popular American phrase with “On ne vit qu’une fois, mais le monde doit vivre éternellement!” (“You only live once, but the world must live forever!”) Finally, York High School landed a winning spot with their simple message: “Ouvrez les yeux!” (“Open your eyes”).

The winning schools were honored at the residence of French Consul General Fabien Fieschi on June 29.

In April 2015, the Contemporary Theater Fund granted the Association Théâtre du Bout du Monde in Nanterre funding for its project “From the Bronx to the Seine,” a theater exchange between French and American students.

A collaboration between the Bronx Theater Company and the Théâtre du Bout du Monde, this project offers teenagers in underprivileged areas the opportunity to work and act with students from another country.

Over the past year, the French and American groups worked to put on a play together, meeting twice a month via Skype to share written work, develop material, and even perform acting exercises together. The end result is an adapted version of Louis Calaferte’s “Three Beggars and a Rich Man,” which the students will perform in both French and English.

On July 3, 6 and 8, participating students from the Bronx traveled to Nanterre to present the play with their French counterparts. After successful performances in the U.S., the French teen theater company will travel to New York to showcase a second collaborative piece in the Bronx and in Manhattan in 2016.
News From France
A free monthly review of French news & trends

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arnaud Guillotis

EDITOR
Benoît Cormier

MANAGING EDITOR
Courtney Vinopal

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Courtney Vinopal

STAFF WRITERS
Rosalie Daniels, Elliot Frank, Cristina Martin

To change your address, subscribe (for free) or unsubscribe, please contact:

NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY
PRESS & COMMUNICATION OFFICE
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182

Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6040

www.franceintheus.org
info@ambafrance-us.org
@facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
@franceintheus

Gates Foundation will fund vaccines in 6 countries

On June 26, the French Development Agency signed a partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, pledging €100 million to increase immunization coverage in six French-speaking African countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad.

The funds from the agreement will support existing healthcare programs and make new vaccines more accessible in these countries in order to strengthen their healthcare systems.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Bill Gates and Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, all attended the signing of the contract at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

Bill Gates spoke highly of France’s actions to promote sustainable healthcare around the world. Recognizing that this partnership would “ensure that hundreds of millions of children receive basic vaccinations and a healthy start in life,” Gates said that “France has consistently played a pioneering role in financing programs designed to strengthen health systems. Despite a challenging economic environment, today France reaffirms its dedication to international cooperation.”

At the signing, Minister Fabius spoke of the importance of these global healthcare initiatives, stating, “healthcare is of capital importance as part of our international action, not only because it is an essential component of development, but also because it is closely linked to human rights and the safety of peoples.”

Bill Gates and Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris on June 26, when a partnership was signed between the French Development Agency, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.