

La Renaissance Française – USA Awards Ceremony and Reception

under the auspices of

His Excellency Gérard Araud

Ambassador of France to the United States

Président d'Honneur of La Renaissance Française – USA

Presiding

Bertrand Lortholary

Consul General of France in New York



Monday, June 27, 2016

Consulate General of France in New York

934 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY

History of La Renaissance Française

La Renaissance Française was founded in 1916 as a private cultural organization by French president Raymond Poincaré in anticipation of the allied victory in World War I. Its original mission was to facilitate a return to French language and culture in the regions of Alsace and Moselle after years of German domination. As this objective was accomplished between the two world wars, the association was recognized as a public non-profit organization benefiting from the patronage of the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, of Defense, and of Education.

In recent years, La Renaissance Française has broadened its mission to include the promotion of French culture generally, as a cradle of humanism and respect for all beliefs and nationalities. In the 1980s the organization extended its reach to include all French-speaking countries. Accordingly, delegations were formed in countries recognizing French as an official language such as Switzerland and Belgium, along with Argentina, Canada and Romania. La Renaissance Française continues to establish and encourage delegations worldwide, including the United States, and has formed, or is in the process of forming, delegations in China, Italy, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco and Russia.

M. Denis Fadda currently serves as international president of La Renaissance Française in Paris. His background includes roles as: *Professeur des Universités, Fonctionnaire international, Administrateur de l'Université Senghor d'Alexandrie, Membre de l'Académie des Arts, Lettres et Sciences de Languedoc, and Président (h) de l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer de France.*

His Excellency Gérard Araud, Ambassador of France to the United States, serves as *Président d'Honneur* of the Delegation in the United States. Mrs. Jane Robert is the Honorary President of the United States Delegation. Madame Simone Veil, former *Ministre d'Etat*, past president of the European Parliament and current member of the *Académie française*, serves as *Présidente d'Honneur* of La Renaissance Française in Paris.

Founding in the United States

On October 9, 2009, the United States Delegation of La Renaissance Française held its first official meeting at La Maison Française at New York University, courtesy of Professor Tom Bishop. La Renaissance Française – USA continues its cooperative tradition of Americans selecting honorees in the United States to be considered for awards by La Renaissance Française in Paris. We express our appreciation to Antoine Guerrier de Dumast, immediate past president of La Renaissance Française, at whose initiative the Delegation in the United States was founded.

Awards Ceremony

Monday, June 27, 2016 at 6 pm

La Renaissance Française – USA

Delegation of La Renaissance Française in the United States

Program

Welcome by

Consul General Bertrand Lortholary

History of La Renaissance Française by Bernard Duhaime

President, Delegation in the United States

Recognition of Honorees and Presentation of Medals

Consul General Lortholary and President Duhaime

*La Renaissance Française – USA expresses its appreciation to
Consul General Lortholary for his warm welcome
at the Consulate of France.*

Medal Recipients – 2016

La Médaille d’Or de La Renaissance Française

Spencer Hays

La Médaille d’Or des Valeurs francophones

David Graham

La Médaille d’Or de Solidarité et Valeur

Rebecca Brodarick

La Médaille d’Or de Solidarité et Valeur

Jacqueline Gupton

La Médaille d’Or du Rayonnement Cultural

Daniel Brondel



Spencer Hays

La Médaille d'Or de La Renaissance Française

This medal recognizes persons who have rendered eminent and exceptional service in areas supported by La Renaissance Française.



Spencer Hays is the majority stockholder and Executive Chairman of the Southwestern Company, a company which for almost 160 years has recruited and trained college students for door to door sales of educational materials. While remaining true to its core mission, the company's umbrella now includes 14 companies specializing in such areas as fundraising, financial planning, consulting and recruitment.

In addition, the graduate of Texas Christian University is the founder and majority stockholder of the Tom James Company and Senior Executive Chairman of Individualized Apparel Group, which has eight factories, a linen mill, a woolen mill and a worsted mill along with apparel companies such as Oxxford Clothes and Gitman & Company.

He and his wife Marlene are avid collectors, who own one of the most extensive collections of the works of the Nabis (Vuillard and Bonnard) as well as other late 19th and early 20th century works by French and European artists and an extensive collection of French antiques. In furthering American and French cultural ties he and his wife Marlene have generously shared many of their works of art with the French community, including a collection of some of their works of art at the Musée d'Orsay in 2013. They live in Nashville, Tennessee and have apartments in New York and Paris.

Spencer is a founder of American Friends of Musée d'Orsay, as well as a member of the Executive Committee, the Steering Committee and chairman of the Gifts of Art Committee.

For his support of French culture, Hays received the Médaille des Arts et Lettres from the Academie des Beaux Arts de l'Institut de France from the French government and was named an Officier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur by the French government.

David Graham

La Médaille d'Or des Valeurs francophones

This medal recognizes those who devote themselves to the development or tightening of linguistic or cultural ties between France and other countries sharing the French language, or to the development of the French language and culture in their country.



David Graham has been a foreign language teacher and supervisor for more than fifty years. Since winning a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study the French of Haiti, Africa and Canada in 1985, Professor Graham has presented lectures and workshops on Quebec culture, history, cinema, the Acadian diaspora, and Franco-American migration. He is internationally known, having participated in seminars and symposiums in Belgium, Montreal and Quebec City as well as San Antonio, San Jose, Boston and Seattle in the United States.

Professor Graham has sought to infuse language instruction with real-life, authentic materials centered on Francophone popular music, cinema and sports. While teaching on Long Island he developed a Hockey Night with the New York Islanders program, whose learning module was cited in the volume *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*, published in 2006 by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

Since 2004 Professor Graham has been at Clinton Community College, where he has been recognized for his leadership in the area of Quebec Studies. He has received five professional development grants from the Clinton Community College Foundation for further study and seminar attendance in Quebec.

Professor Graham obtained three grants from the Ministry of International Relations of the Government of Quebec to begin the Quebec Culture and Society course and one in sponsorship of the Quebec Cinema Festival. In 2013 he received a grant from the Adirondack Foundation's Foreign Language Enhancement Fund in support of the International Experience in Quebec course.

As a member of the Clinton Cultural Affairs Committee, Professor Graham has been instrumental in bringing to the CCC campus three Quebec-themed concerts, a film, a live stage play and a live concert to benefit the city of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. In May of 2016 he will receive the State University of New York's Chancellors Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching.





Rebecca Brodarick

La Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

This medal distinguishes persons who have devoted themselves to public service, or to social works of a charitable, philanthropic, civic or sporting nature, intended to improve the quality of life.



Becca Brodarick and her husband hosted their first French exchange student in 1989 in an effort to expose their four young children to international cultures. Over the next decade, many other students from France and the Côte-d'Ivoire would spend summers at the Brodarick home. Becca became the Kentucky State Coordinator for Nacel Cultural Exchanges, placing sixty to ninety French and Spanish students and their teacher-chaperones with Kentucky families each summer. Mentoring these students through the challenges of adapting to life in America had the unintended, but positive and long-lasting, effect of exposing Becca to French language and culture.

Inspired by a growing love of French culture, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching French from the University of Louisville where she was a member of Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society.

Becca taught all four levels of high school French in Louisville, Kentucky. With a strong belief in the value of student exchanges, Becca traveled to France with her own students, as well as groups of Nacel students.

She served on the Board of Directors of l'Alliance Française de Louisville (AFL) from 1998-2011 and was President of AFL from 2000-2003, and Executive Director from 2003-2006. AFL presented Becca with the *Médaille d'Or* (Member of the Year) in 2002 and again in 2012.

From 2006-2012 Becca served as a board member of the Federation of Alliances Françaises, U.S.A. where she held positions as Corporate Secretary and Co-Vice-President.

She has been a strong advocate for the growth of French programs and organizations in her local community and beyond for almost 30 years. What started as hosting a French exchange student grew into a lifetime commitment to championing the culture and ideals of the French community.

Jacqueline Fouquereau Gupton

La Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

This medal distinguishes persons who have devoted themselves to public service, or to social works of a charitable, philanthropic, civic or sporting nature, intended to improve the quality of life.



Jacqueline Gupton was born in Fontainebleau, where she attended the Lycée International, followed by two years of studying English in London. She then relocated to Germany, where she worked in computer software development for the U.S. Department of Defense.

In the U.S., Jacqueline attended the University of North Carolina and worked in the French Department, in charge of their Exchange Program with l'Université de Lyon. After moving to Greenwich, CT with her husband, she assisted the "Welcome Wagon" organization by founding and leading "les Francofilles," an organization dedicated to promoting social and cultural interchanges between francophones. She also tutored in French at the local school, and served on the Board of the Alliance Française for twenty years, where she organized l'Alliance du Soir French-language conferences and a French "cine-club." Working with volunteers from l'Accueil New York (ANY), she also helped organize "cafés rencontres" for lonely French retirees.



In 1998, the Guptons purchased Rocklands, a historic property near Gordonsville, VA. They have spent fifteen years on its restoration, including adding a formal French-style garden, relocating a 12th-century stone tower from France and re-assembling a 17th-century Virginian farmstead.

As CEO of Gordonsville Preservation Associates, Jacqueline has led the transformation of the center of this historic town. She has also worked jointly with Nicole Yancey to help establish a Sister City program between Gordonsville and Thoré-la-Rochette (the village of Rochambeau). She has continued to participate in the Alliance Française of Charlottesville, and has hosted several major events, including a joint fund-raiser with the English Club in commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown, with attendees including descendants of Washington, Saint-Simon, Cornwallis and Rochambeau!

Living near Montpellier, home of James Madison, she and her husband have established the Gupton Library there, and she has also assisted the Montpellier staff in the translation of French documents and in purchasing furniture in Paris identical to that owned by the Madison family. Finally, and most importantly, Jacqueline is a mother of two and grandmother of four, all of whom, together with her dogs and cats, are completely bilingual!



Daniel Brondel

La Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Culturel

This medal recognizes persons who have rendered distinguished service in the following fields: French language, literature, fine arts, science and technology, artisans, promotion and visibility of the French patrimony (including traditions and artistic heritage).



Daniel Brondel is the product of both French upbringing and American college and graduate education. He graduated from high school in the United States and attended college in Atlanta at Georgia State University. His upbringing and early music training in France prepared him for some of the most enriching practical training, particularly as French diction coach for the Grammy Award-winning Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus. The competition prizes and awards he won during those years gave him a competitive edge toward acceptance at the world-famous Eastman School of Music, in Rochester, NY, for his graduate studies. Academic and performance scholarships were instrumental in his earning a Master's Degree at Eastman and pursuing doctoral studies in his field.

Through his studies, performances and professional experiences, he has aspired to become a well-rounded musician. His musical and technical skills have been recognized in national organ competitions and critically acclaimed opera performances, and they have prepared him for the requirements of high-profile church positions, both in Rochester and in New York City. His position as Associate Director of Music at New York's Saint Patrick's Cathedral, which he has held since 2008, entails among others the management of the organ recitals series, which features concert organists from all over the world. He actively encourages and invites French colleagues to play concerts at Saint Patrick's Cathedral each season, and he has had the privilege to be invited to perform organ concerts in notable churches and cathedrals in France. In his concerts he always plays a balance of French and American music. In his duties as organist at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, he often performs French organ music spanning from the baroque to the romantic to contemporary, because it is rarely heard over here.

He had the great honor of directing his youth choir (the Cathedral of Saint Patrick Young Singers) and playing the organ during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to New York in April 2008, and once again this past September for Pope Francis' visit to New York.

His personal and professional mission is to make this a better world by bridging the cultures of France and America and by improving the lives of others through his music making.

Bertrand Lortholary

Consul General of France in New York



Mr. Bertrand Lortholary took up the post of Consul General of France in New York on September 1, 2012.

Mr. Lortholary joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after graduating from the Institute of Political Science (Sciences-Po) in Paris, the University of Paris-Dauphine, the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), where he studied Chinese, and finally from the National School of Administration (ENA).

He began his career at the Quai d'Orsay as a member of the Directorate of Africa and the Indian Ocean team, where he mainly followed the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He later joined the Political Affairs General Director's staff, where he stayed from 1998 to 2001.

His career continued in Washington where he served as an exchange diplomat at the State Department, then at the French Embassy, where he followed Asian and African political matters between 2002 and 2005. Following his years in Washington, he served as a political adviser in Beijing from 2005 to 2008.

Mr. Lortholary served as the French President's advisor on Asian and Oceania matters from 2008 to 2012.

His Excellency Gérard Araud Ambassador of France to the United States

*Président d'Honneur
La Renaissance Française – United States*

Gérard Araud is a career diplomat and was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States in 2014. He previously held numerous positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, notably including that of Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, Ambassador of France to Israel, Director General for Political Affairs and Security, and most recently, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in New York from 2009-2014. Mr. Araud has developed specialized knowledge in two key areas: the Middle East and strategic and security issues, and he was the French negotiator on the Iranian nuclear issue from 2003 to 2006. At the Security Council in New York he contributed to the adoption of resolutions on Libya and Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and the Central African Republic, and participated in debates on the Syrian and Ukrainian crises.



Simone Veil de l'Académie française

Honorary President — La Renaissance Française

Simone Veil is acknowledged as one of the world's most courageous, powerful and influential women and is one of the most popular public figures in France. She was the first elected President of the European Parliament, and also served as President of the Judicial Commission for this powerful group. From 1973 to 1979 she served as France's Minister of Health. The recipient of honors in France, the Ivory Coast, Spain, Morocco, Germany, Greece, Venezuela, Italy, Belgium, Israel and the United States, Simone Veil is known for her work on behalf of women's rights, adopted children, older adults and immigration. When Simone Veil was 17 years old, she and her family were deported to the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen. They suffered unimaginable atrocities. Her parents and her brother died in the camps. Simone Veil and one sister survived. This tragic experience has given her exceptional lifelong personal courage. Her autobiography has been published in English: *A Life: a memoir of Simone Veil* – Haus Publishing.

La Renaissance Française – USA Past Honorees

La Médaille d'Or de La Renaissance Française

Nicole Yancey – Newport News, VA – 2015
Ronald W. Tobin, Ph.D. – Santa Barbara, California - 2014
Élyane Dezon-Jones, Ph.D. – Sarasota, Florida - 2014
Robert D. Peckham, Ph.D. – Martin, Tennessee - 2013
Elizabeth Rohatyn – New York, New York - 2012
Jane and Bruce Robert – St. Louis, Missouri - 2012
Ambassador Craig Roberts Stapleton – Greenwich, Connecticut - 2011
Amory Houghton – Corning, New York - 2010
Rebecca Valette, Ph.D. – Newton, Massachusetts - 2010

La Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Culturel

Daniel Johnnes – New York, New York – 2015
Jerome Henry Rudes – New York, New York - 2014
Bernard Métais, Ph.D., P.E. – Berkeley, California - 2013
Ryan Brown – Washington, DC - 2012
Katharine Branning – New York, New York - 2011
Hugh Macdonald – St. Louis, Missouri - 2010

La Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

Adèle Boufford Baker – Manchester, NH – 2015
Elain Uzan Leary – New York, New York - 2014
Claude Lambert – San Francisco, California - 2013
Robin Masee – Brooklyn, New York - 2012
Reid Henri Lewis – Elgin, Illinois - 2011
Lance Armstrong – Austin, Texas - 2010

La Médaille d'Or du Mérite Francophone

Gladys C. Lipton, Ed.D. – Bethesda, MD – 2015
Carl J. Ekberg, Ph.D. – Winchester, Virginia - 2014
William C. Carter, Ph.D. – Birmingham, Alabama - 2013
Mary B. Emory – Milwaukee, Wisconsin - 2012
Christopher Paul Pinet, Ph.D. – Bozeman, Montana - 2011
Albert Valdman, Ph. D. – Bloomington, Indiana - 2011
Adam Steg – New Orleans, Louisiana - 2010
Robert L. Miller – New York, New York (selected by Delegation in Italy) – 2010

Delegation in the United States

Bernard Duhaime – Omaha, Nebraska, *President*
Margot Steinhart, Ph.D. – Glenview, Illinois, *Vice President*
President, American Society of the French Academic Palms
Liza Forshaw – St. Louis, Missouri, *Secretary*
Jane Robert – St. Louis, Missouri, *Honorary President*
Elyane Dezon-Jones, Ph.D. – Sarasota, Florida and Paris, France
Mary Emory – Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Thomas Horn – San Francisco, California
Elaine Uzan Leary – Miami Beach, Florida
George Sape – New York, New York
President, American Society of the French Order of Merit

La Renaissance Française Delegation in the United States

Mission Statement

La Renaissance Française – USA, the American Delegation of La Renaissance Française, founded in Paris in 1916, aims to recognize persons who have raised awareness of the French language and francophone cultures among people living in the United States. The American Delegation will act at all times in harmony with the policies of La Renaissance Française.



Consulate General of France in New York

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