

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

Bénédicte de Montlaur

Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy



Monday, October 2, 2017

Cultural Services of the French Embassy

972 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.

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, October 2 at 6 pm

La Renaissance Française – USA

Delegation of La Renaissance Française in the United States

Program

Welcome by
Bénédicte de Montlaur

Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy

History of La Renaissance Française by Bernard Duhaime
President, Delegation in the United States

Recognition of Honorees and Presentation of Medals
Bénédicte de Montlaur and President Duhaime

*La Renaissance Française – USA expresses its appreciation to
Cultural Counselor Bénédicte de Montlaur for her
warm welcome at the Service Cultural of the French Embassy*

Medal Recipients – 2017

La Médaille d’Or de La Renaissance Française

Ariane Daguin

La Médaille d’Or des Valeurs Francophone

Marie-Christine Weidman Koop

La Médaille d’Or du Rayonnement Cultural

Florent Masse

La Médaille d’Or de Solidarité et Valeur

Barbara Fales de Bragança

La Médaille d’Or de Solidarité et Valeur (2016)

Jacqueline Gupton



Ariane Daguin

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.



Ariane Daguin is the owner and CEO of D'Artagnan, the renowned gourmet food purveyor. Famous for providing humanely-raised meats, from game and foie gras to organic chicken and prepared charcuterie, the name D'Artagnan is synonymous with top-quality food produced with care.

For a 7th generation of a long line of chefs in Gascogne, Southwest France, a career in food might have seemed natural, but Ariane decided to pursue an academic degree at Columbia University. While working part-time for a New York pâté producer, Ariane was in the right place when the opportunity to market the first domestically produced foie gras presented itself. She founded D'Artagnan in 1985 as the first purveyor of game and foie gras in the U.S. Devoted advocates for natural, sustainable and humane production, Ariane and D'Artagnan have been at the forefront of the organic movement in America, pioneering organic, free-range chicken (years before the USDA allowed the word "organic" on the label) and humanely-raised veal. This passionate path towards excellence without compromise takes its roots in a deep respect of French Gastronomy and French traditional animal husbandry.

In addition to running D'Artagnan, developing new products and researching innovative and ecologically responsible methods of production, Ariane is on the board of the French-American Chamber of Commerce in NY, and she is on the City Harvest Food Board. Recognized in 1994 by The James Beard Foundation "Who's Who of Food and Beverage in America," Ariane is now a member of the Awards Committee. In 2005 Ariane received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Bon Appetit magazine and, in September 2005, was named both Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'honneur and Officier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite. Her memoir, D'Artagnan à New York, was published by Grasset in 2010. She lives in New York City with her daughter Alix.

Marie-Christine Weidmann Koop

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.



Dr. Marie-Christine Weidmann Koop is originally from Cannes, where she grew up. She moved to the United States as a student and holds a Ph.D. from Michigan State University. She is professor of French and Director of the French Summer Institute at the University of North Texas in Denton, where she teaches advanced courses in French civilization and culture. She has published several books and articles, mostly on issues related to contemporary France, and she is a regular presenter at national and international conferences. She is currently editing a forthcoming volume on the French education system. Her contributions to the profession have been recognized by her university, and she is the recipient of several national and international awards. She was named a Knight, and then an Officer, in the French Order of Academic Palms and she received a medal from the Quebec Order of Francophones in America. She has also received several national awards in the United States: Excellence in Teaching Award from the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) and the Nelson Brooks Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Culture from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). She has secured several grants from the American, French, Belgian, Swiss and Quebec governments to organize seminars for French teachers abroad. She was department chair for eight years and is past president of the American Association of Teachers of French. She is now Assistant Editor for The French Review and serves on the editorial board of Contemporary French Civilization.





Florent Masse

La Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Cultural

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).



Florent Masse is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of French and Italian and Director of L'Avant-Scène, the French Theater Workshop at Princeton University. He is the Artistic Director of *Seuls en Scène*, Princeton French Theater Festival that he has curated annually since its creation in 2012. Alongside his studies at the University of Lille, he trained as an actor and director at Lille National Theater under Daniel Mesguich and later pursued his theater studies at Amherst College, MA as a Levy-Despas Fellow and teaching assistant in the Department of French (1999-2001). This is when he created the program of L'Avant-Scène, which originally mixes linguistic and dramatic training. At Princeton since 2001, Florent Masse has been able to develop and enrich L'Avant-Scène's curricular and co-curricular programs. He has directed about fifty full-length productions of popular and celebrated plays in the French theatrical canon, including plays by Feydeau, Molière, Racine, Corneille, Claudel, Marivaux, Musset, Ionesco, Lagarce, Koltès and Pommerat. He has collaborated with Princeton University Center for French Studies, and has lectured on the program of L'Avant-Scène at various institutions. He has initiated several theater enrichment programs for his students abroad, and has brought to Princeton a list of prominent French theater artists to perform or direct master classes such as Guillaume Gallienne, Pascal Rambert, Pierre Niney, Sandy Ouvrier, Loic Corbery, Daniel Mesguich, Clément Hervieu-Léger, Olivier Py, Denis Guénoun, Lukas Hemleb, Judith Henry, Nicolas Bouchaud, Arthur Nauzyciel, Audrey Bonnet, Anne Alvaro, Guillaume Vincent, Xavier Gallais, Caroline Guiela Nguyen, Stanislas Roquette, Tiago Rodrigues, Rodolphe Dana, Elise Vigier, Mohamed El Kathib, and Benjamin Lazar. In January 2017, he was named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by French Minister of Culture Audrey Azoulay for his attachment to French culture and his action in favor of its promotion in the United States.

Barbara Fales de Bragança

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.



Barbara (Suki) de Bragança has had a passion for France and the French language and culture since her youth. She was raised in Venezuela by American parents and mastered Spanish early, but her love of French was kindled by a sixth grade teacher who inspired her through French cuisine, film and fashion.

Her educational studies of French at Wheaton College (BA in 1977) led to a year abroad program with Smith College in Geneva in 1975-76, and she taught French to undergraduates while working on an MA in Comparative Literature from Florida Atlantic University between 1977-1979. Suki was introduced to the Alliance Française as a student in Paris in 1972-73. Little did she know at the time that her adult life would center around the Alliance Française of Boston/Cambridge as President of the Board, and board member since 1988 with a position as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the National Board of the Federation des Alliances Françaises, USA from 2010-2016.



As Chairman of the Bal du Printemps in Boston, she helped to stage “bals” with elaborate costumes and historic themes. This well-known annual event attracted many young people to the Alliance Française along with the social elite of Boston, resulting in additional funds for the school of the Alliance Française and its expansion. When the Alliance Française merged with the French Library (now known as the French Cultural Center), Suki remained active on the Board where she is to this day, creating a scholarship there for outstanding Teacher of the Year, along with a Mosaïque Cultural Committee and Fund to further enhance the cultural offerings at the FCC.

Suki was formerly active in groups such as the French Heritage Society and the Swan Society which she co-founded to assist the Curator of European Decorative Arts at the MFA, Boston. She has served as co-Chair of Literary Lights for Children at the Boston Public Library, and remains active as a Trustee at the New England Conservatory of Music, and as an Overseer Emeritus at the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 2009, France bestowed her with the Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite. Suki and her husband Miguel have three children who have put their languages and service into action as citizens of the world. They reside a part of the year in Paris to allow direct contact with this country and culture that the entire family holds so dear - a tribute to the de Bragança heritage.



Jacqueline Fouquereau Gupton

La Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur 2016

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!

In Memory of Simone Veil

*Honorary President
La Renaissance Française*

It is with sadness that we report Simone Veil passed away in June at the age of 89. She has been acknowledged as one of the world's most courageous, powerful and influential women and was one of the most popular public figures in France.

Simone was the first elected President of the European Parliament, and served as President of the Judicial Commission for this powerful group. She also served as France's Minister of Health. Simone was the recipient of honors in France, the Ivory Coast, Spain, Morocco, Germany, Greece, Venezuela, Italy, Belgium, Israel and the United States. She was 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 and suffered unimaginable atrocities. This tragic experience gave her exceptional lifelong personal courage.

Her autobiography has been published in English- *A Life: A Memoir by Simone Veil* – Haus Publishing.



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.

Bénédicte de Montlaur

Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy

As Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy in the United States, Bénédicte de Montlaur facilitates French-American cultural relations and supports French universities and arts, literature and education organizations in the United States. She also serves as the Permanent Representative of French Universities in the United States and develops French-American higher education exchanges, creating opportunities for researchers, scholars and students to collaborate.

A seasoned diplomat, Montlaur has held several notable positions as a political and human rights advisor and negotiator, with her experience focusing primarily on the Middle East. Most recently, Montlaur served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for North Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, where she also taught international relations and diplomacy at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. From 2008 to 2012, she was Political Advisor for the Middle East to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, after three years as a negotiator on Africa and the Middle East at the United Nations Security Council for the French Mission to the United Nations. Montlaur also held positions at the French Embassy in Syria from 2005-2008.

Drawing from her background working in the Middle East, Africa and France, Montlaur aims to promote an image of France as a diverse and inclusive nation through French and Francophone cultural initiatives in the United States. She also strives to fuel a spirit of intercultural debate and mutual understanding between France and the United States.

Montlaur completed sociology studies at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Ulm) and public affairs and Middle Eastern studies at Sciences Po, Paris.

Beyond her vast experience in international relations and diplomacy, Montlaur is a polyglot – she speaks French, English, Arabic and Spanish and is a New York culture enthusiast. In New York she served as Vice President of the *Carrefour de la Francophonie*, a social advocacy organization dedicated to New York’s French-speaking families. She was also a member of the *New York Times* literary critic Liesl Schillinger’s book club and created an original exhibition of photos entitled “Islam and the City” on New York’s relationship with the religion.



*The Board of Directors of La Renaissance Française – USA
would like to thank those who have generously contributed.*

Chantilly level \$100 - \$250

Mrs. Carrie Bolster-Houghton
Mr. Daniel Brondel
Mr. Daniel Johnnes
Dr. Gladys Lipton
Ms. Madeline Turan
Mr. and Mrs. Jean-Paul Valette

Patrons Contributing at the Fontainebleau level \$250 - \$500

Ms. Adèle Boufford Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brodarick
Mr. Claude H. Lambert

La Renaissance Française – USA Past Honorees

La Médaille d'Or de La Renaissance Française

Spencer Hays – Nashville, TN – 2016
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 Brondel – New York, New York – 2016
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

Rebecca Brodarick – Louisville, KY – 2016
Jacqueline Gupton – Gordonsville, VA – 2016
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

La Médaille d'Or des Valeurs Francophones

David Graham – Morrisonville, NY – 2016

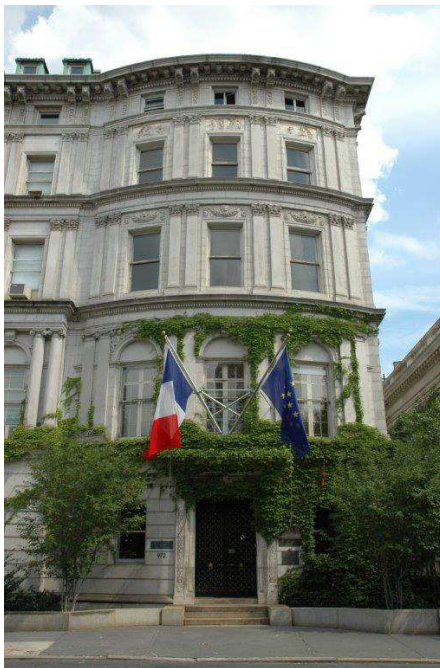
Delegation in the United States

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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.



Services Culturels de l'Ambassade de France

*For information on La Renaissance Française:
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<http://larenaissancefrancaise.org>*