

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

Mr. Guillaume Lacroix

Consul General of France



Thursday, November 29, 2018

Residence of the Consul General

680 North Lake Shore Drive

Chicago, IL

Awards Ceremony

Thursday, November 29 at 6 pm

La Renaissance Française – USA

Delegation of La Renaissance Française in the United States

Program

Welcome by

Guillaume Lacroix
Consul General of France

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

Recognition of Honorees and Presentation of Medals
Guillaume Lacroix and President Duhaime

*La Renaissance Française – USA expresses its appreciation to
Consul General Guillaume Lacroix for his
warm welcome to his residence.*

Medal Recipients – 2018

La Médaille d’Or de La Renaissance Française

Yann Coatanlem

La Médaille d’Or des Valeurs Francophones

Lance Donaldson-Evans

La Médaille d’Or du Rayonnement Cultural

Michael Neiberg

La Médaille d’Or de Solidarité et Valeur

David Reithoffer

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.



Yann Coatanlem

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.



Yann Coatanlem is an economist and a philanthropist. Managing Director at Citigroup in charge of the development of quantitative and econometric Models, he started his career on the Arbitrage Desk of Salomon Brothers in London. Yann is also the founder and president of Club Praxis, a French think tank based in New York that promotes Open Government, Collective Intelligence and Collective Decision.

Recent projects include an ambitious micro-simulation of all tax and social benefit systems in France, in collaboration with the *Institut des Politiques Publiques* and the AXA Research Fund; and a report on the teaching of Economics with Olivier Blanchard, Thomas Philippon, Kevin H. O'Rourke, Salvador Barbera and Bernard Salanié.

As a Foreign Trade Advisor to the French Government in New York, he has participated to the Creative France Campaign with Business France, and is also helping French startups expand in the United States.

A graduate from HEC and ENSIMAG, Yann has contributed to many reports, papers and op-eds in Finance and Economics, and is the author of *Le Gouvernement des Citoyens*, published by PUF (2017), which has just been awarded the Special Prize of the French *Académie des sciences morales et politiques*. He is also a frequent speaker, lately at the Open Government Partnership conference and at the *Institut de France*, where he was invited to speak on Economics and Education.

Yann supports many non-profit organizations: he is the Chairman of the Maison Française of New York University, President of the American Foundation for the Paris School of Economics, and serves on the board of trustees of the European-American Chamber of Commerce, French Heritage Society and Droit & Croissance.

He is *Chevalier* in *L'Ordre National du Mérite*, and is listed in the Who's Who France and in *Le Guide du Pouvoir*.

Lance Donaldson-Evans

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.



Lance Donaldson-Evans is Professor Emeritus of French language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught for 43 years until his retirement in 2011. A native Australian, he completed his undergraduate degree at the University of New South Wales (Newcastle University College), and subsequently an MA in French at the University of Melbourne. He completed a doctorate at the University of Geneva, specializing in French Renaissance literature and culture. His thesis, written under the direction of Jean Rousset, dealt with the poetry of Jean de La Ceppède. He has served as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages at Penn and Chair of the Faculty Senate. In addition to his teaching and administrative tasks, he was also Co-Director of the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business, an innovative program combining degrees in business and arts and sciences, with a strong foreign language component. He personally monitored those who had chosen French as a target language. The recipient of a Lindback Teaching Award, he has authored books and articles on various aspects of French Renaissance literature, as well as on the contemporary French spy novel. One of his publications, *One Hundred Great French Books*, a guide for the general reader to literary works in French from the Middle Ages to the present, was favorably reviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* in April, 2010. He was named *Chevalier dans l'ordre des palmes académiques* in 2008. He currently lives in Media, Pennsylvania with his wife, Mary. When he's not traveling and/or spending time with his three beautiful and brilliant grandchildren, he continues to do research on French poetry of the early 17th century.



Michael Neiberg

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).



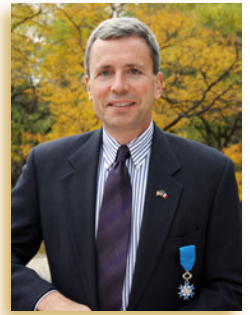
Michael S. Neiberg is Professor of History and Chair of War Studies in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where he teaches history, strategy, and international relations to American and international security professionals. A native of Pittsburgh, he has degrees from the University of Michigan and Carnegie Mellon University. He previously taught at the United States Air Force Academy where he served on the Franco-American Exchange Committee. His published work specializes on the First and Second World Wars in global context. *The Wall Street Journal* named his *Dance of the Furies: Europe and the Outbreak of World War I* one of the five best books ever written about that war. He is also the author of *The Blood of Free Men* about the liberation of Paris in 1944 and the prize-winning *Second Battle of the Marne*. In October 2016 Oxford University Press published his *Path to War*, a history of American responses to the Great War in Europe, 1914-1917 and in July 2017 Oxford published his *Concise History of the Treaty of Versailles*. He is now at work on a history of US involvement in the Middle East from 1942 to 1950 as well as an article on American attitudes toward Alsace-Lorraine in 1918-1919. He won a Truman Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and has twice won the Tomlinson Prize for best book on the First World War. He recently became the first American to deliver the Liddell Hart Lecture at King's College, London.

Michael is married to his wife Barbara, who is a fellow francophone and did a semester abroad in Strasbourg. They have two daughters, Claire and Maya.

David Reithoffer

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.



David Reithoffer started studying French in 8th grade hoping that it would open doors to wonderful things in the future. It did! The day after high school graduation he boarded a plane for France and spent 5 weeks discovering all things French, including French hospitality in the homes of old and young people and everything in between. This kindled a desire to return, so upon entering Hiram College that September, plans to spend junior year abroad were already in the making.

Caen 1974-75 became his junior year abroad. L'Université de Caen offers a comprehensive foreign student program. In addition to taking classes, he joined the University Choir (La Chorale Universitaire de Caen) which opened many doors into French homes and institutions. Being in Normandy, he began to understand one of the many aspects of French-American friendship – the gratitude of the French for USA's involvement in WWII. This opened his eyes to historic Franco-American relations and his desire to further enhance those relations in any way he possibly could.

After moving to Chicago in 1985 and seeing that there were plenty of French speakers around, he co-founded the Groupe Professionnel Francophone in 1990 to provide a friendly and pleasant place for French-speaking people to have a drink and chat, in French! The group's motto is "*C'est la langue française qui nous unit.*" Whatever one's nationality or native tongue doesn't matter – if you're comfortable on your feet in French, you're encouraged to participate at these monthly cocktail gatherings.

David has also been very active with the Paris Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International.

He was decorated Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite in 2012.

Citizen diplomacy is his guiding light. When President Eisenhower created Sister Cities in the 1950's, it was done to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual, one community at a time. This is Mr. Reithoffer's quest.





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.



Guillaume Lacroix
Consul General of France

Guillaume Lacroix became Consul General of France in Chicago on August 29th, 2017. He started his diplomatic career in 1997, and was assigned to the Department of African and Indian Ocean Affairs in Paris, then to the French Embassy in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and to the French Embassy in Washington.

He was also posted in two other diplomatic institutions: at the U.S. State Department as part of the *Transatlantic Diplomatic Fellow* program and at the European External Action Service in Brussels. From 2013 until 2017 he served in the cabinets of French Foreign Affairs Ministers Laurent Fabius and Jean-Marc Ayrault as Counsellor for African Affairs.

Mr. Lacroix holds diplomas from Institut d'études politiques de Paris and Université Panthéon-Assas. He speaks Swahili, a language he studied at Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales in Paris and in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Guillaume Lacroix was born in 1971 in Auxerre (Burgundy). He is married and has two children.



In Memory of Simone Veil

*Honorary President
La Renaissance Française*

Ms. Veil 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.

To learn more about her life, her autobiography has been published in English- *A Life: A Memoir by Simone Veil* – Haus Publishing

La Renaissance Française – USA would like to thank those who have generously contributed this past year.

Sorbonne \$50

Elizabeth Buddy
Marie-Christine Koop
Madeline Turan

Fontainebleau \$250-499

Adele Boufford Baker
Becca & Mike Brodarick
Barbara & Miguel de Bragança
Jacqueline & Bruce Gupton

Versailles \$500-999

Mary & John Emory
Liza & Joseph Forshaw
Elaine Uzan Leary
Zofia & Jean Reno
Margot Steinhart

Chantilly \$100-249

Elyane & Alfred Jones
Gladys Lipton
Rebecca & Jean Paul Valette
Nicole Yancey

Elysée \$1000 +

Bernie & Rosemary Duhaime
Thomas Horn
Jane & Bruce Robert
George & Jeri Sape

Delegation in the United States

Bernard Duhaime – Omaha, Nebraska, *President*
Margot Steinhart, Ph.D. – Glenview, IL, *Vice President*
Past President, American Society of the French Academic Palms
Présidente Honoraire American Association of Teachers of French

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 – USA Past Honorees

La Médaille d'Or de La Renaissance Française

Ariane Daguin – Union, NJ – 2017
Spencer Hays – Nashville, TN – 2016
Nicole Yancey – Newport News, VA – 2015
Ronald W. Tobin, Ph.D. – Santa Barbara, California - 2014
Elyane 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

Florent Masse – Princeton, NJ – 2017
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

Barbara Fales de Bragança – Boston, MA – 2017
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

Marie-Christine Weidman Koop – Denton, TX – 2017
David Graham – Morrisonville, NY – 2016

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.



The Chicago Waterfront

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