

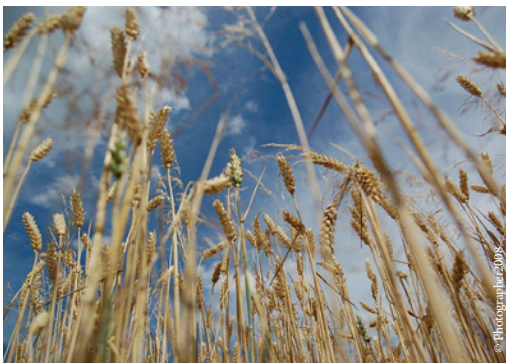
## Christine Lagarde Returns to Washington as Head of IMF



Christine Lagarde, formerly France's Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry, became Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund on July 5. As head of the international organization, Lagarde returned to her former stomping grounds in Washington, D.C., this month.

Shown here, Lagarde celebrates Bastille Day at the Embassy of France on July 14. For more on Lagarde's background and history with the United States, see page four.

## France Offers Solutions to Global Food Price Speculation, Works with G20



Commodity prices have soared for global staples such as wheat, pictured above.

With global food prices at record highs and expected to increase even more this decade, agricultural ministers from the Group of 20 nations met in Paris on June 21 and 22 to discuss solutions to the crisis. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food prices will be 30 percent higher on average this decade than last.

"Rising commodity prices are the main threat to growth," said French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who has made increased transparency of global food markets a priority for the French presidency of the G20 and G8 in 2011. With greater transparency, leaders hope there will be less speculation over the global food supply by investors and stockholders, which would stem food price increases.

During their talks, the agricultural ministers agreed to form the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI), a group that will find ways to

improve the nutritional value and safety of wheat and develop more sustainable means of production. IRIWI will also be responsible for facilitating collaboration between smaller-scale agricultural research organizations on national and international levels.

To meet France's goal of improving transparency in commodity markets, the ministers also agreed to create the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), which will facilitate communication between producing, exporting and importing countries, as well as commercial enterprises and international organizations. By improving collaboration between the different entities of the food market, the ministers hope to improve the reliability and timeliness of information about the market outlook.

Said French Minister of Agriculture Bruno Le Maire of the Paris talks, "The point... was to avoid the 21st century being the century of hunger." Pleased with the consensus, Mr. Le Maire considered that "we have taken part in a historic agreement... this is a tour de force for the international community."

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**AFTER LAGARDE, MUSICAL CHAIRS IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT**

President Nicolas Sarkozy reshuffled his executive cabinet at the end of June. Christine Lagarde's departure for the International Monetary Fund left open her former position as Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry, to be filled by François Baroin. He previously served as Minister of the Budget, and Minister for Overseas Territories, among other positions. Valérie Pécresse took his place as Minister of the Budget and continues to be government spokesperson. She is one of six female ministers serving in the cabinet. In the reshuffle, Laurent Wauquiez took Minister Pécresse's vacated position, and Jean Leonetti became Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in place of Minister Wauquiez. Mr. Sarkozy created a new position, Junior Minister for French Expatriates, filled by David Douillet, a move that anticipates new representation for French abroad in the National Assembly.

**CYCLISTS RACE FOR GLORY IN 98TH TOUR DE FRANCE**

Cyclists once again raced for first place this month in the fabled Tour de France, which ran July 2 - 24. Each year the course changes but always finishes in Paris, with a loop around the Champs-Élysées. This year's route began at the Passage du Gois in east-central France. Twenty-two teams competed for the famed yellow jersey. This year, 34-year-old Cadel Evans became the first Australian and the second oldest person to win the tour since World War II. Evans was runner-up in 2007 and 2008, and in 2010 lost the lead after a crash. The second and third place riders this year were brothers Andy and Frank Schleck of Luxembourg. Said Cadel of his victory, "It's been a beautiful race, and thanks to these two brothers here I think it was a fantastic experience for everyone involved." France's Pierre Roland took home the white jersey as this year's best young rider.



Public Domain

**Solar-Powered Aircraft Breaks Record at Paris Air Show**

It was business as usual at the International Paris Air Show this year, which took place from June 20-26, but one of the 140 aircraft featured made a unique experience for the 138,000 professional and 200,000 general public visitors. Appearing as a special guest was the Solar Impulse, a new aircraft that runs completely on solar energy. Each day, visitors got to see it on the ground and in flying displays, which showcased its silent electric motors.

The Solar Impulse marks the first time in history that an aircraft has flown successfully for over a day on solar power. On July 8, 2010, the Solar Impulse flew 26 hours straight without any fuel. Everything in and on the plane, including its carbon fiber structure, was designed to save energy. The plane is both strong and light, having a wingspan of 208 feet, but weighing no more than a car (approximately 3,500 lbs.).

Solar Impulse's creators, Bertrand Piccard, a psychiatrist and aeronaut, and André Borschberg, an engineer and pilot, launched the Solar Impulse project in 2003. The two are working on a second prototype, HB-SIB, for which plans are to cross the Atlantic, the USA, and ultimately fly around the world on solar energy.



© Solar Impulse/Jean Revillard/Rozoch

The Solar Impulse, which runs entirely on solar power, debuted in Paris this June.



**Interview with Colonel Brice Houdet, Attaché for Ground Forces, Defense Mission at the Embassy of France**

If you have ever visited the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., you might have noticed quite a few military personnel walking around the compound. These *militaires* are not based in Washington as part of their active duty, but rather as part of France's goal to study U.S. defense strategy, and to foster collaboration between the two countries.

*News From France* sat down with Colonel Brice Houdet, the Attaché for ground forces, to talk about what an average day is like at the Defense Mission.

**Tell me a little bit about the Defense Mission in Washington: What happens there on a daily basis?**

The Defense Mission has two functions at the embassy. The first is to understand U.S. defense policy and repeat it back to France, and to represent French policy to the Pentagon. The second is to organize and facilitate cooperation between the two military powers. This involves sharing and receiving information about training, equipment and doctrine. We need to have a good understanding of what is going on in the U.S. Department of Defense. We work every day on Libya, the Ivory Coast, Afghanistan and other collaborative missions.

**Why is it important for France to have a permanent military presence in the U.S.?**

The United States is the premier military power in the world. France has to be here to understand the shape that war will take in the future. When one loses at war, the stakes couldn't be higher; it's the survival of one's country.

**How does the Defense Mission's work inform diplomacy?**

We have an important role at the embassy because defense policy is a key part of a nation's diplomacy. Our work requires us to reach out to the world. Everything we do has consequences on foreign relations. That is why we have

such close relationships with the diplomats at the embassy, who in turn report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

**How is the Defense Mission following President Obama's decision to draw back troops in Afghanistan? What was the department's response to the decision?**

We don't evaluate policy decisions in our office. Instead, we must understand the evaluations made in Washington and Paris, and explain them to policy makers on both sides. We've tried to gather as much information as possible about the time frame in Afghanistan, to relay it back to Paris.

**What is your role at the military mission?**

I work with the United States Army and Marine Corps. I track everything I can about equipment, doctrine and training, and relay that information between the Pentagon and the Defense Ministry in Paris. I also work on defense policy in Africa, and on veterans' affairs.

I love working with Americans—when they say they will do something, they keep their word.

**What do you think the American public should know about the Defense Mission's work?**

Currently, the military cooperation between the two countries is working extremely well. There have been moments in our history—in 2003, when France decided not to go into Iraq, and in 1966, when President de Gaulle forced NATO headquarters to leave Paris—when the relationship was more difficult.

Today, everything is working well. We share the same views. In 230 years of our countries' coexistence, we have never been at war. I don't think this is by chance—we share common values: human rights, freedom, democracy. The role of the military is to fight to protect those common values for your country. Of course there are differences... we prefer wine, you prefer Coca-Cola.

I met with former Secretary of State Colin Powell this month. He told me, 'our countries have been married for 230 years, and since the very beginning, we have been in counseling.'





## Creativity Festival in Cannes Hosts Social Media, Tech Firms

Known for its annual Film Festival in May, the French city of Cannes is probably not where you would expect to find leaders in social media and technology. Yet from June 19 to 25, the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, which showcases innovation in communication and advertising, drew key industry players including Dennis Crowley, co-founder and CEO of Foursquare; Carolyn Everson, Vice President for Global Marketing Solutions at Facebook and Arianna Huffington, co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Huffington Post, to the Côte d'Azur.

Created in 1954 by a group of worldwide cinema advertising contractors as a way to recognize the quality



Festivalgoers congregate at the Cannes Lions Creativity Festival in Cannes, France

and creativity of promotional films used to publicize the movies at the Cannes Film Festival, Cannes Lions has since become a showcase for creative advertising campaigns in all sectors. In recent years, Cannes Lions has recognized "creative innovations" efforts by advertisers to use social media and technology in their campaigns.

The pattern of arts festivals adapting more technology-oriented components has also appeared

in the USA. South by Southwest (SXSW), the annual music festival held in Austin, Texas, introduced its first SXSW Technology Summit this March. Leaders in the tech industry met over two days in Texas to discuss innovations in twenty different countries, including France.

## CEO of French Company Total Lectures in Washington, D.C.



Total CEO Christophe de Margerie lectures on current and future energy practices

Christophe de Margerie, CEO of French multinational oil company Total, spoke about the future of energy in Washington on July 12, as part of the Kalorama lecture series at the French Ambassador's Residence. "We have to be energy mix committed and focused," he stated, while explaining the composition of an "energy mix": fossil fuels, renewables, and non-fossils, such as nuclear. He cited the recent Deepwater Horizon and Fukushima incidents as challenges to which the industry is currently responding. Mr. de Margerie said that Total is committed to progress in not only the realm of safety, but also in efficiency. In a statement for Total, he said the company believes it can "strike a balance between a steady energy supply, growth, and the protection of lives and the environment." He spoke of Europe's place as a leader in controlling carbon emissions, and said he was also impressed by what he considers U.S. Senators' deep knowledge on related issues.

## Congressional French Caucus Promotes Franco-American Relations

As part of long-standing efforts to maintain close ties to France, a long-time friend and ally of the United States, the United States Congress created in 2003 the Congressional French Caucus toward "promoting partnership and cooperation, enhancing U.S.-French relations in all fields and facilitating a better understanding of the essential relationship" between the two countries, according to a statement by its House co-chairs.

The Congressional French Caucus currently includes 102 members from both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Last month, Congressional French Caucus leaders celebrated the Renaissance Française in an event in the Rayburn Building on Capitol Hill that recognized five Americans who have raised the awareness of France and the French language to people living in the United States. Afterwards, the Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre, invited Members of Congress and others to a reception he hosted at his residence in the



L-R: U.S. Sen. John Boozman, Ambassador Delattre, U.S. Sen. Scott Brown and U.S. Rep. Dan Burton

Kalorama neighborhood of Washington, D.C. in honor of the French Caucus.

"From Yorktown and Lafayette to the beaches of Normandy, our two countries have always stood shoulder to shoulder to promote the values of freedom and democracy," said the Ambassador. "French-American relations have never been closer than today. And we all know the key role played by the French caucus in this respect."

On August 2, the French Caucus will sponsor a roundtable discussion in the Senate on nuclear energy, with the head of the French Atomic Energy Commission presenting France's nuclear energy policy, including how France is addressing nuclear safety issues and its management of nuclear waste.

Several of the caucus' members represent districts with significant French diaspora and history, including the co-chairs Sen. Mary Landrieu (LA), Rep. Russ Carnahan (MO) and Rep. Michael Michaud (ME). The other co-chairs are Sen. John Boozman (AZ), Rep. Dan Burton (IN) and Rep. John Campbell (CA).

## SUMMER FESTIVAL EVOKES EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FRANCE

The Hillwood Estate in Washington, D.C., gave Washingtonians the opportunity to experience eighteenth-century France during its French Festival on July 16 and 17. The museum hosted the daytime component of the two-day festival in partnership with the Alliance Française, which hosted a soirée at their headquarters on Saturday night.

The classy affair provided a taste of French life in the 1700s, aiming to take attendees "back 300 years to a time when ladies curtsied, men bowed, and courtship came alive in outdoor garden settings." On Saturday and Sunday, at the Hillwood Estate grounds, participants were able to hear talks about the museum's French collections, participate in traditional games such as hoop-tossing, and tour the gardens. The New York Baroque Dance Company and Opera Lafayette also gave live performances on the grounds. An evening party hosted by the Alliance Française featured a silent auction, music, dessert crêpes, and a DJ mixing traditional and modern French music. Wine and cheese were also served at the party, *naturellement*.

## IN N.C., CREPE TRUCK MAKES NEW FANS OF FRENCH CUISINE

The food truck phenomenon that's taking America by storm (and by street) would be remiss to forget French cuisine, which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has deemed as "intangible cultural heritage." Among the mobile taco, pizza and ice cream options in North Carolina, at least, a crêpe truck by the name of Parlez-Vous Crêpe sells French dishes. Based out of Carrboro, NC, the truck can be found this summer at festivals, swim meets, and at "Food Truck Rodeos" selling savory and sweet options. Creator Jody Argote is passionate about "French cuisine, education, and creative use of seasonal local produce." She learned the craft of the crêpe while living and working in Beaune, France. One of her favorite crêpes is "La Bonne Maman:" brie cheese, apple butter, sliced Granny Smith apples and a spring mix. Their full menu can be viewed online at [www.parlezvouscrepe.com/](http://www.parlezvouscrepe.com/).

# Christine Lagarde: A Return to the United States, for a Place on the World Stage

The international community has been buzzing with the news of the appointment of former French Minister for the Economy, Finance and Industry, Christine Lagarde, as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Lagarde is the first woman to lead the IMF, and the eleventh director since the fund's creation in 1944. Lagarde comes to the position with experience in both the private and public sectors; she spent the last six years working in the commerce and agriculture departments for Prime Ministers Dominique de Villepin and François Fillon.

Lagarde said upon her appointment, "the IMF must be relevant, responsive, effective, and legitimate, to achieve stronger and sustainable growth, macroeconomic stability, and a better future for all." As head of the organization, which provides financial support to developing and needy economies, Lagarde promises to address uneven recovery from the 2008-2009 global economic crisis.

Lagarde had the approval of the U.S. early on in her candidacy. Said U.S. Treasury Secretary, Timothy Geithner, in June, "Minister Lagarde's exceptional talent and broad experience will provide invaluable leadership for this indispensable institution at a critical time for the global economy." Lagarde is no stranger to the United States, or to Washington, D.C. She attended high school just outside D.C., and for many years worked as the Paris head attorney of American law firm Baker & McKenzie.

## Washington-Educated

Lagarde's relationship with America began when she enrolled in the prestigious Holton-Arms School, a private girls' school in Bethesda, Maryland. Mary de Pinho, a retired teacher who taught at Holton-Arms for 35 years, remembers Lagarde well. "She was an uncommonly mature teenager. She was sophisticated ... but also unpretentious and unprepossessed."



Lagarde meets U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at a July reception in Washington.

**"She was an uncommonly mature teenager. She was sophisticated... but also unpretentious and unprepossessed."**

*-Mary de Pinho, Lagarde's former teacher*

De Pinho recalls that Lagarde had many friends and participated in extracurricular activities like swimming and modern dance.

Soon after graduating, Lagarde completed an internship on Capitol Hill, like many young, policy-

mindful people in Washington: spend time as an intern on Capitol Hill. She worked for American economist and former U.S. Representative and Secretary of the Treasury, William Cohen.



Lagarde as Minister for Agriculture in 2007.

of the National Assembly... actually addressed me in English, probably just to pull my leg." Lagarde's openness to American professional culture does not stop with language. While working as Finance Minister, a position to which she was appointed in 2007, she strove to innovate France's work culture. She worked to reduce spending, raise the retirement age and reform France's pension laws and 35-hour workweek.

Several global publications have ranked Lagarde among the most influential people in the world. The Financial Times called her the "Best Finance Minister of the European Union" in 2009. In 2010, Forbes magazine ranked her the 17th most powerful woman in the world. Foreign Policy magazine ranked her 22nd on its list of Top 100 Global Thinkers.

Despite her busy schedule, Lagarde devotes time to health and fitness, including swimming, running, and yoga. She is a vegetarian and abstains from alcohol. In addition, she is a staunch supporter of women's rights. "She is an aggressive spokesperson for the advancement of women in everything," said Edwin Truman, of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Indeed, Christine Lagarde is the first woman ever to set economic policy for a Group of Eight nation.

## American Firm, Global Stage

In 1981, Lagarde joined American law firm Baker & McKenzie as an associate specializing in antitrust and labor cases. She made partner within six years and became head of the firm in Western Europe. In 1995, she joined the executive committee and, four years later, became Baker & McKenzie's first female chair. She became president of the Global Strategy Committee in 2004 and persuaded the firm to open the European Law Centre in Brussels.

Lagarde's English has been described as "impeccable." Lagarde once told to NPR that "one of the Communist members



Lagarde in Paris in 2005, then Minister of Trade.



## Biomedical Conference Highlights French Research Support

President Nicolas Sarkozy welcomed attendees to the third international meeting on biomedical research in Paris on June 10. He described the meeting in a speech that day as “a very useful initiative which I wholly support.” The conference, organized by the Alliance for Research and Innovation in Health Industries (ARIIS) and the Alliance for Life and Health Sciences (AVIESAN), brought together representatives from 21 human and veterinary medicine organizations to focus on this year’s topic, infectious diseases. At the conference, President Sarkozy spoke of France’s continued dedication to eradicating infectious diseases, saying “France is duty-bound to deliver when it’s a matter of international solidarity, and despite the tight financial situation ... France will fulfill her duty.”

This fiscal year, France will spend 20 billion euros on research and higher education. President Sarkozy emphasized how many diseases continue to take millions of lives, even ones that had been thought to be eradicated, such as tuberculosis. “We can’t afford to slacken our efforts,” he told the assembled group of scientists.



President Sarkozy addresses an international group of researchers in Paris.

## French Robotics Co. Receives Public- and Private-Sector Support



The Nao, a product of Aldebaran Robotics, is used as a research tool and is capable of face recognition

French company Aldebaran Robotics has raised \$13 million in new venture funding from Intel Capital and existing partners. Aldebaran is world-renowned for their small, dancing, web-accessible robot, Nao, used as a research tool at universities across the world. A new, improved model came out this June, featuring developments such as face recognition.

Founder and CEO Bruno Masionnier said in a press release, “Our products have the flexibility to provide solutions across a range of applications and this investment will play a huge role in helping drive manufacturing efficiencies and further our research capabilities to help the business’ expansion into new markets.”

Aldebaran also made headlines earlier this year when the French government allocated 5 million euros of public funds for a project called Romeo. When released on the market, the four-and-a-half foot, 88-pound human-like robot will provide services to the elderly, such as assistance in household chores. Prototypes will be tested by patients of the Institut de la Vision (Vision Institute) this fall, and could be on the market by 2015.

## Moët Hennessy to Plant Sparkling Wine Vineyards in China

Leading champagne maker Moët Hennessy will plant a 163-acre vineyard, accompanied by an on-site winery, in China to locally produce sparkling wine under the Chandon label for the growing Chinese market. The new vineyard will be a joint venture with the Chinese agricultural firm Ningxia Nongken. Moët Hennessy will own 60 percent of the vineyard, although it will have sole ownership of the winery, and Nongken will own 40 percent.

The vineyard will be located in the Helan Shan region of northwest China. Home to the country’s fourth largest farmland area, the climate and soil are ideal for wine production. France’s Pernod Ricard group already



Moët Hennessy plans to begin selling Chinese-grown sparkling wine in 2014.

produces wines in the same region. In addition, the region’s economy produces half of the world’s cashmere, serves as a popular film location, and attracts tourists to Genghis Kahn’s death site.

The wine industry considers Asia is one of the company’s “last frontiers” since it already produces wine in California, Argentina, Brazil, and Australia. Moët Hennessy will produce wine in China using traditional methods and with the same grapes used in champagne: chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. The new Chinese-grown sparkling wine should be ready to drink in three years.

### CALL FOR HELP ON THE WEB MOBILIZES FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Last month Frenchman Louis van Proosdij Duport made the news by engaging his online audience in discussion over changes in his medical situation. Duport is a successful entrepreneur who has battled quadriplegia for 27 years after a childhood sports accident. According to his blog, he “designed [his] life to push the boundaries of disability” and made his daily routine nearly autonomous, only relying on others for 2 hours a day. In June, he exposed several negative changes in care imposed by his healthcare provider through his blog and Twitter, and in doing so, mobilized the government. He described the stress he was under and his loss of control and sense of autonomy. Citing the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of Disabled Persons, statements from Santé Service and other bloggers’ stories, Duport made a legal case for help. The reactions he got caused French officials to respond quickly. Eric Besson, French Minister of Industry, Energy and the Digital Economy, wrote on the social network site Twitter, “I am asking my cabinet to respond to this quickly.”

### LUC OURSEL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF AREVA



French public energy company Areva underwent a change in leadership on June 30, indicating a new shift in direction for the organization. New President of the Executive Board, Luc Oursel, took over from Anne Lauvergeon, who led Areva for the past ten years. Mr. Oursel was elected by a government advisory board. The nuclear giant, which is 90 percent owned by the government, has been in operation since 2001. Its central mission is to seek power development options that minimize carbon use, with an emphasis on nuclear power. The group is also increasing focus on renewable energy. Prior to his nomination, Mr. Oursel served as head of marketing for the company. As chairman, one of Mr. Oursel’s primary goals includes creating new nuclear safety provisions after the Fukushima disaster in Japan.



Curators at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) have pieced together modern artworks once owned by famous collectors, the Stein family, on display at the SFMOMA until September.

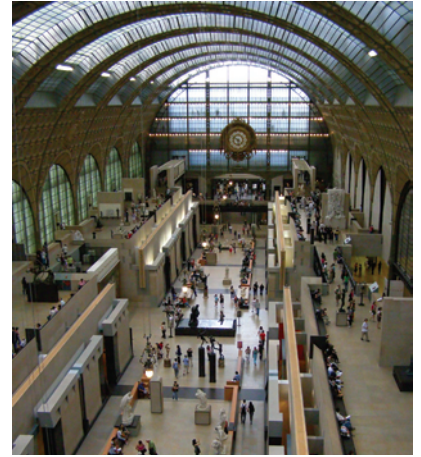
Transplants from San Francisco, Gertrude Stein and her family were among the first collectors of modern art in Paris during the early 20th century. Between their Rue de Fleurus and Rue Madame apartments, the family displayed an extensive collection of works by Matisse and Picasso. Gertrude and her siblings counted these artists among their friends, and Gertrude was frequently depicted in their work. The San Francisco exhibit features works from the famous collection and narration on the history of the Steins' lives in Paris and the United States, and their relationships with the artists. SFMOMA will host various curator talks on the Steins and the painters whose careers they supported, as well as poetry readings and film screenings.

### CAR-SWAP WEBSITES HELP OWNERS, DRIVERS SAVE MONEY

Thanks to the Internet, those in France needing a car can avoid most expenses by using websites devoted to matching up car owners with potential renters. Sites like Voiture Lib, Livop and CityZenCar allow people to rent cars directly from car owners for hours, days, or even weeks, with an average cost of about 3 to 10 euros per hour. With Voiture Lib, the owner and renter meet beforehand to exchange the car's papers and a deposit. With Livop, the owner can leave his or her keys in a "Livop-box" installed on the car and accessible to the renter. The sites also provide a way for both owners and renters to rate their experience dealing with the other. A unique insurance contract applies, where the renter's conduct will not affect the owner's insurance rates. It is a win-win situation according to Livop president, Kieran Connolly, where car owners can make an extra buck and renters can "avoid the biggest expense—financing a car."

## American Friends of the Musée d'Orsay Makes Paris Debut

The American Friends of the Musée D'Orsay (AFMO), a nonprofit organization that raises money and publicizes for the Musée D'Orsay and the Musée de l'Orangerie, hosted over a hundred Americans and Anglophones in Paris earlier this summer for its inaugural cocktail soirée. U.S. Ambassador to France, Charles Rivkin, and his wife, Susan Tolson, the Honorary Chair of AFMO, received museum officials, journalists, and heads of expatriate organizations in Paris at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Paris. Funds went to support a variety of the museum's resources for Americans, and promote French exhibits in America and vice-versa. AFMO also used funds raised to restore objects of art in the Orsay and renovate the museum to include a "graphics arts" gallery, scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Access to art is not the only opportunity AFMO provides its members, however, as they can serve on committees like the Paris Committee, which coordinates Anglophone outreach, and the Avant-Garde Committee, which continuously searches for young patrons. For more information, please see: <http://aforsay.org>.



Formerly a train station, the Musée d'Orsay is now France's foremost Impressionist museum.

## The Creators Project Hosts DJ at the Grand Palais in Paris

On the second-to-last night of the Anish Kapoor sculpture exposition at the Grand Palais in Paris, The Creators Project invited DJ Richie Hawtin to perform in the museum. Funded by Intel, the American computer hardware company, in collaboration with Vice magazine, an international social and arts publication, The Creators Project supports multimedia arts production and dissemination, including hosting performances at global arts centers like the Grand Palais. The Hawtin performance was held on the annual Fête de la Musique, a national holiday which took place this year on June 21. British sculptor Anish Kapoor's Leviathan has been in the great nave of the Grand Palais as part of the Monumenta project, which invites an internationally known sculptor to create an installation for the space each year.



A scene from the concert given by DJ Richie Hawtin, with Anish Kapoor's sculpture as a centerpiece.

Said Kapoor of the creation, "My ambition is to create a space within a space that responds to the height and luminosity of the nave at the Grand Palais. Visitors will be invited to walk inside the work, to immerse themselves in color, and it will, I hope, be a contemplative and poetic experience." The interactive nature of the installation made it a unique venue for a concert.

"It's the project of the moment," wrote Jean-Sébastien Stehli in a Le Figaro Madame blog entry about the event. As part of La Fête de la Musique, the event was free and open to the public.

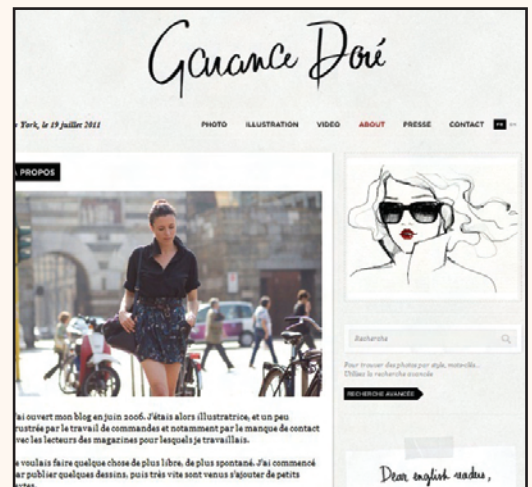
DJ Hawtin's goal for his performance in Paris was to create a dialogue between his music and the Kapoor sculpture. In 1998, Hawtin released an album called "Consumed" that was similarly inspired by Anish Kapoor's work.



### FRENCH BLOGGER PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL FASHION

Garance Doré is a French illustrator, fashion enthusiast, and most famously, blogger. She began her site, [garancedore.fr](http://garancedore.fr), in 2006. In her own words she "wanted to do something a little more free, more spontaneous... and decided it could be a great way to get feedback about my work." She posts illustrations with short snippets about her life, videos and portraits. One illustration on the main page now shows a woman with wavy hair putting on sunglasses, with the caption "Faut-il donner son âge?" ("Should one give their age?")

The page can be navigated in both French and English. She also has travel, collage, beauty, and fashion week categories, as well as a "my favorites" section. She attributes her photographic inspiration to famous American street fashion blogger Scott Schuman of The Sartorialist, whom she is currently dating. Though the blog started as a hobby, its success now has her giving talks and consulting for international brands.





## American High School Show Choir Tours France, Monaco

Students from the show choir of Washington, D.C.'s Duke Ellington School of the Arts performed for international audiences this month in a two-week tour of France and Monaco. For most of the high school's group members, the trip was their first time outside the United States.

From July 2 through 16, the students sang at eight venues across the two countries, in cities such as Paris and Cognac, with a culminating performance in Beaune on Bastille Day, France's most important national holiday. Showcasing American music for their French and Monégasque audiences, the performance included musical styles such as classical, R&B, Motown, Broadway, and gospel music.

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts is a public high



Students from the Duke Ellington School Show Choir perform American popular songs while on tour in July.

school located in Washington, D.C. Its mission is "to nurture and inspire passion for arts and learning in talented students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to develop their artistic skills." The award-winning show choir, which has been operating since 1986, has taken the stage with artists such as Stevie Wonder and Maroon 5 and given concerts for President Barack Obama and his family.

The 27 student and alumni members of the choir raised

most of the funds for the trip themselves through local performances. Support was also provided by the Washington embassies of France and Monaco to the United States as well as organizations and individuals. For more information, please see [www.maisonfrancaise.org](http://www.maisonfrancaise.org).

## California Celebrates Its French-Basque History, Gastronomy



Basque chef Gérald Hirigoyen, here with Consul General Romain Serman

San Francisco saw the celebration of a special part of French culture earlier this month when the Consul General of France, Romain Serman, honored chef/restaurant author Gérald Hirigoyen with the French Mérite Agricole.

For the past two decades, the Basque native has helped spread French identity in the Bay Area through his two restaurants, Piperade and Bocadillos, which serve traditional Basque cuisine, as well as wine and tapas.

Elected chef of the year by San Francisco Magazine and Food and Wine Magazine, Hirigoyen is one of thousands of Basque expats living in California. The state is home to over 20,000 Basque natives, over a third of the total Basque-American population, most of which reside in the San Joaquin Valley between Stockton, Fresno and Bakersfield.

Basque immigrants flocked to the region in large numbers in the 19th and 20th centuries, attracted by the gold rush and the valley's agricultural economic opportunities. In the 1960s, the Western Range Association specifically recruited Basque immigrants to work as sheepherders in the region.

Bakersfield continues to host a large Basque community today, with Basque culture permeating the city's identity. The city is home to the Kern County Basque club, which sponsors the Kern County Basque Festival each Memorial Day weekend offers the most Basque restaurants of any city in the United States.

## Franco-Lebanese Writer Elected into the Académie Française

The Académie Française, the pre-eminent authority on French language and literature, elected on June 23rd the Franco-Lebanese novelist and journalist Amin Maalouf to their 40-seat group. Maalouf started writing as a 22-year-old in 1971, covering conflict in the region leading up to the civil war in Lebanon. He emigrated to Paris with his wife and three children when war broke out. In France he wrote his first book, *The Crusades Through Arab Eyes*, in 1983. In 1993, Maalouf received the Prix de Goncourt, an award of "the best and most imaginative prose work of the year" for his novel, *Le Rocher de Tanios* (The Rock of Tanios).

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alain Juppé described Maalouf's work as a "crossroad between Mediterranean identities and friendships" and a "reflection of the wonderful diversity of francophony." His books have been translated into more than 20 languages. At the Academy, he will work

on a variety of projects in his lifelong term. The group's responsibilities include publishing the official dictionary, awarding prizes, and deciding authorized vocabulary and grammar. Maalouf's election follows the 2009 death of famed anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss.



Journalist and novelist Amin Maalouf joins the Académie Française.

### BIG CONCERTS FOR PETIT PRICES

Music lovers will be happy to hear that despite these difficult economic times, good concerts are not out of reach. Thanks to an innovative approach by the event promotion company Gérard Drouot Productions, concertgoers can now hear many artists for a price much lower than the traditional one-band concert with "Create Your Own Festival." For 150 euros, music lovers have access to five concerts organized by Gérard Drouot, featuring bands like rock guitarist Jeff Beck, the rock-jazz group Chicago, and jazz-fusion band Return to Forever who played earlier this month. According to Patrice Bouchon, Production Director at Ivoire Music, this is a "discount" that "works great with tourists, and corresponds to the public's needs. Even with a limited budget, the public can benefit from a maximal choice of renowned artists while still benefitting from an advantageous price."

### FASHION WEEK COMES TO PARIS

Paris is one of the four major fashion capitals of the world, which is why enthusiasts the world over watch runway shows with bated breath at the biennial Paris Fashion Week. During the event, designers set the upcoming season's style by showing haute couture, ready-to-wear women's clothing and men's fashions. From July 4-7 this year, industry professionals and participants - including French Minister of Culture Frederic Mitterand - and saw the upscale designs of Christian Dior, Givenchy, Chanel, Jean Paul Gaultier and many others. Of note, the collection shown by Giorgio Armani Privé was dedicated to the Japanese tsunami victims. The beauty of Paris was also on display, as events were held at the Musée Rodin, Trocadéro Area, and even the library of the Lycée Henri IV. France's success in this elite luxury industry is due in part to its rich history and strong organization. The Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture (Trade Union of High Fashion) dates back to 1868, and is now part of the Fédération Française de la Couture, du Prêt-à-Porter des Couturiers et des Créateurs du Mode (French Federation of Fashion, Ready-to-Wear Makers and Fashion Designers) which helps plan Fashion Week, and runs a school of design in Paris.

## Bals Populaires also Popular in America



French and non-French alike celebrated Bastille Day at traditional bals populaires..

French culture was on proud display across the United States for July 14, France's premier national holiday. *La Fête de la Bastille*, or Bastille Day, commemorates the anniversary of the 1789 storming of the famous Bastille prison in Paris, which sparked the French Revolution. Cities throughout the U.S., including New York, Chicago and Seattle, held celebrations of the event for French natives and enthusiasts.

In line with French tradition, many locations also hosted a *bal populaire*, or a free party open to the public. The New York City celebration aimed to recreate the ambiance of the French tradition, typically attended not by elites, but by ordinary citizens. Chicago hosted 5k and 8k runs during the day, followed by an evening *bal populaire*. In Los Angeles, extensive festivities included street performers, French food and a raffle to win airplane tickets to Paris.

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## Md. Superintendent Receives Medal for French Programs

The Superintendent of Maryland's Prince George's County, Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., was honored with France's *Palmes Académiques*—the country's highest award for academic excellence—in a ceremony held June 24 at the residence of the Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre, in recognition for Dr. Hite's commitment to French-language offerings.

The Ambassador praised Dr. Hite's record of achievement and his implementation of both the DELF (French Language Diploma) and DALF (Advanced French Language Diploma), exams recognized by the French government. "You have ... strived to open Prince George's County public schools to the



Dr. William R. Hite, Jr., here with his wife, Deirdre, and Amb. François Delattre

world, notably the Francophone world," said the Ambassador. "Under your direction, these schools have become incredibly dynamic in the area of linguistic immersion, attested by the fact that your county is home to one of the very rare high school-level French immersion programs [in the U.S.]" Dr. Hite also spoke at the ceremony, describing his efforts to implement French in Prince George's

County. And he thanked his wife for supporting his long hours at the office.

"She opted to spend most of that time without me," he explained, "except, of course, when it came to visiting Paris for my work."

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