

ALSACE New YORK

News Bulletin of L'Union Alsacienne of New York
and the Friends of Alsace in America

L'Union Alsacienne of New York

150th Anniversary!

***Dear Friends
of the Union Alsacienne of New York,***

This year, the Union Alsacienne of New York is celebrating its 150th birthday : the relationship between Alsace and the United States is a very important one.

Let us remember Miss Liberty, this wonderful Alsatian lady, who has welcomed millions of immigrants, arriving in this land of opportunities in the harbor of New York, not to forget the very name of America, which was put together at the beginning of the sixteenth century by two scholars, one being Matthias Ringmann, a true Alsatian from Eichhoffen.

We would normally have gathered as friends and families, to celebrate such an important anniversary, within our Alsatian traditions. Due to the pandemic, this has not proved feasible : as a result, many of our activities have been postponed. We have decided that the main Gala will take place in June of 2022.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate our current President Andréa Markson for her leadership under these difficult conditions as well as the entire Board. We welcome Renée Pecot-Xenakis and Jérôme Degrevé, who have accepted to join us and work on our future projects.



L'Union Alsacienne of New York has withstood all of the challenges and global events that took place over the past 150 years and we shall continue to do so for all of our members in both happy and difficult times. This is what the Union Alsacienne is about.

Happy Birthday to our beloved Union Alsacienne !

Francis Dubois
Past President

The Untold Story of the Christmas Boxes

This past Christmas, all of our dear members received a surprise holiday package in their mailboxes. This gift was offered in consideration of the events caused by the global pandemic that we continue to experience into the new year 2021.

Indeed, without the opportunity to meet physically for months, we wanted to demonstrate that we are endlessly thinking of you all in these difficult times.

Many of us had not returned to Alsace for several months and close to a year, so we thought a few gifts from our beloved region would hopefully port some happiness and comfort.

For the organizational logistics, first we relied on the dedication of our dear member, Liliane Braesch-Rubin, who brought back many presents (kilos!) from the occasion of her last trip to our lovely motherland!

The Bredeles were made in New York by a fantastic team formed by all members of our NY office, and we were fortunate to count on the formidable hospitality of Capucine Bourcart

and Laurent Corbel to gather in their home, of course in compliance with sanitary rules. After assembling all the raw materials, including copious amounts of butter, came the delectable dilemma of which recipes to select.

After a tough debate selecting among several ancestral family Bredele recipes, we implemented an industrialized strategy that Henry Ford himself would have approved. The pastry chefs and packing logisticians of l'UnAl were never idle and were worthy of the historical reputation of hardworking Alsations. The result of this hard

and social distanced effort, we managed to produce more than ~ 1 5 0 0 Bredeles and prepares ~ 1 0 0 packages for you, our dear friends.

Every great adventure with efforts usually has a happy ending, and as you can imagine for the UnAl, we finished around a table, with good food, wine, and friends, as we wished and imagined for you all.

By Jérôme Degreve



Xavier Ritsch and Jérôme Degreve



Liliane Braesch-Rubin and Marc Seybold



Ella Bourcart and the Christmas boxes

Greetings through Cards from Our Members

"Thank you for the surprise [Christmas Box] you sent...My husband, brother-in-law and Jaqueline all went to the ecole hoteliere in Strassbourg. We had a restaurant and would visit your (Marc Seybold's) Dad at his restaurant...Best wishes for 2021." L.S.

"Season's Greetings and a New Year filled with new Alsatian club activities!" J.K.

"Heartfelt thanks for the sweet gift. It is rewarding to be remembered like this after almost 35 years. I am impressed you signed the card each individually." J.A.

"A much belated thank you for the wonderful holiday "cadeau" last year. What a lovely thought by you and the Board. My first time

tasting the 'bredele' which I enjoyed enough to make myself – a good recipe....Keep up the good work!" K.



2021 - 2022 CALENDAR

To celebrate its 150 years, l'Union Alsacienne is pleased to invite you to participate in the following events

2021

MAY
Virtual Wine Tasting

24th JUNE
Alsatian Fan Day

13th SEPTEMBER
Malgre Nous event
@ 7PM at the National Arts Club

18th SEPTEMBER
Steuben Parade
5th avenue

NOVEMBER
New York Marathon

DECEMBER
Christmas Lunch

2022

10th JUNE GALA - 150th Anniversary @
at the National Arts Club

ALSATIAN WEDNESDAYS
WILL BE BACK VERY SOON!
STAY TUNED!

L'Union Alsacienne de New York 150 th Anniversary Concert



L'Union Alsacienne of New York celebrates 150 years in 2021. It is the oldest French club in New York, of which there are over seventy counted.

Founded in 1871, the organization strives, today, to be a supporter of Alsatian culture and history while inviting friends and lovers of Alsace to join and "live" its many beautiful aspects vicariously through our organization.

On February 8 th , we opened our Anniversary celebration with a concert hosted by the prestigious National Arts Club, located in the former Samuel Tilden residence in Grammercy Park, New York City. A landmarked Victorian Gothic Revival brownstone, National Arts Club has occupied this address since 1906. Samuel Tilden was voted twice governor of New York and nominated Democratic presidential candidate in 1876. Fort Tilden, located in Queens, New York, is named after the famed politician.

Before the recital, Francis Dubois, member of the Board of Governors of the National Arts Club as well as Board Member of L'Union Alsacienne of New York, gave a tour of the parlor and dining area of the mansion. Of note was the Tiffany glass panel above a mantel found in the parlor which was used in scenes of the movie "Titanic". The cocktail "Manhattan" is touted to have been created at the bar inside the residence. Afterwards, attendees were led to the Tilden mansion's former

living room where the performance took place. Only a dozen persons could make up the audience due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, this lent to the intimate setting and memorable musical experience.

On piano, Fulbright Scholar and laureate of numerous awards, Tatjana Rankovich holds her BM and MM degrees from the Julliard School and her Doctorate from Rutgers University. At this concert, she performs on a SteinwaySons piano. Milan Milisavljevic is Principal Viola with



the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. He plays, at this concert, a viola made by Joseph Curtin of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jane Chung is a dedicated chamber musician and studied under a Fulbright grant in Vienna. For this concert, she performs on a 1782 Joseph and Antonius Gagliano violin. Sumire Kudo, an active soloist and chamber musician, is a member of the New York Philharmonic. Ms. Kudo graduated from Tokyo's Toho School and the Julliard School.

The program, for the evening, included musical compositions dating to the 18 th and 19 th centuries with the composers having strong associations with the city of Strasbourg, France. "Piano Trio in F Major, B.429" was composed in 1784 by Ignaz Pleyel, an Austrian-born French composer of

the Classical Period. In 1783 he would move to Strasbourg, France to work alongside Franz Xaver Richter, the maître de chapelle at the Strasbourg Cathedral. In 1785, Pleyel would leave Strasbourg for Paris to lay the foundation for his piano-making business. Pleyel pianos received world-renowned acclaim winning many prizes at international expositions.

For the second piece, composed in 1882 by Emile Waldteufel, "Les Patineurs, Op. 183", invokes visions of the graceful skater's waltz. The composer was born at 84 Grande Rue in the center of Strasbourg, France, in 1837 and hails from a Jewish Alsatian family of musicians. Throughout his lifetime, Waldteufel is credited with nearly one hundred music compositions, the majority of them being waltzes.

Piano Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, K.478 brought Rankovich, Milisavljevic, Chung and Kudo together for the last piece to be played for the evening. Composer Wolfgang Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1756. Mozart is considered a classical musician.

The young Mozart travels to Strasbourg in 1778 after an unsuccessful stay in Paris. Although, he did not compose during this one-month sojourn there, it did afford Mozart the opportunity to play on the finest organs of St Thomas Church and Temple Neuf. He makes the acquaintance of the maître de chapelle Franz Xaver Richter (the same one known to Pleyel) at the Strasbourg Cathedral would leave the world of music with over one thousand compositions including symphonies, operas, quartets and quintets.

The opening concert for the 150 th Anniversary of L'Union Alsacienne de New York was enjoyed as the musicians graced us with their talent as we experienced a symphony-style performance. They played passionately and because of this the audience could better understand the pieces and what the composers

intended to convey. The musicians were very skilled in the different styles the L'Union Alsacienne of New York 150 th Anniversary Concert composers wrote into the music.

The audience showed their appreciation and admiration with rousing applause and a standing

ovation! The same concert was replayed on Youtube on February 16, 2021 which received, to date, over 400 views.

By Renée Pecot-Xenakis

Miss Liberty



The Union Alsacienne of New York is celebrating its 150th anniversary. It is a great opportunity to celebrate the most famous Alsatian in the world.

Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor from Colmar (Alsace) internationally known for being the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, whose official name is "Liberty Enlightening the World." This is one of the most famous sculptures in the world. It was a gift from France to the United States to celebrate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence.

Auguste Bartholdi was born in Colmar in 1834 and died in Paris in 1904. In 1836, after the death of his father, the family moved to Paris. In 1852, he graduated from the lycée Louis-le-Grand, then he studied architecture and painting at the National School of Fine Arts.

His professional career began when he received his first major order through his hometown, Colmar.

In 1865 offered the young nation of United States a colossal statue to seal the Franco-American friendship. Bartholdi was chosen as architect and sculptor. In 1871 Bartholdi New York chooses a small island at the entrance of the bay, ideal situation because it would be seen by anyone entering or leaving the city.

In 1874, he began to work on the Statue of Liberty, with Gustave Eiffel to consolidate the structure. This work took place in Paris until 1884. This statue, which is his masterpiece, was staged in central Paris in 1885, then disassembled, then reassembled definitively in 1886 in the United States and inaugurated the 28

October 1886. "A Triumphant voyage. The crowd, the military parade, the navy parade, the speeches, the tribute to Bartholdi"

Auguste Bartholdi was also the sculptor of the Statue of Lafayette at Union Square and many more works in France like the famous Lion de Belfort



Want to know more about Bartholdi? In Colmar, the Bartholdi museum located since 1922 in the house where the sculptor Auguste Bartholdi was born (Colmar 1834 - Paris 1904), is entirely dedicated to presenting the artist's work. Family furniture, personal souvenirs, models, drawings, paintings, engravings and photographs are presented on three floors.

By Véronique Banzet

Galette des Rois



For the first time in l'UnAl's history, we organized a unique event around the famous "Galette des Rois". As most of you know, the Galette des Rois is a famous French pie made of frangipane, a sweet almond-flavored custard in between two layers of puff pastry. Each Galette comes with a crown, a trinket called "la fève" and baked directly into the pie.

The Galette des Rois is typically eaten each year on the day of the Epiphany and whoever gets the slice with the "fève" gets the right to be the king or queen for the day.

In partnership with l'Association des Bretons de New York ("BZH") and the Paris American Club, l'UnAl put together a sale of Galettes des Rois and 100% of the profits were sent back to the 5 following New York bakeries who baked these delicious pies:

L'Atelier Sucré - Simon Herfray
www.ateliersucreny.com

Cannelle Pâtisserie - Jean-Claude Perennou
<https://cannellepatisserie.com>

Choco-o-Pain - Clémence Danko
www.chocopainbakery.com

Éclair Bakery - Stéphane Pourrez
www.eclairbakery-nyc.com

Mille-Feuille - Steven Kelly
www.millefeuille-nyc.com

L'UnAl also took care of the logistics by setting up 4 pick-up locations throughout New York to make it easier for customers to get their Galette des Rois.

This event would not have been such a success without the hard work, dedication and gracious help of the following people: a huge thank you to all l'UnAl committee members who worked hard to make this event happened. . And Thank you to Laurent Corbel (member of the Bureau of BZH), John Bennett (President of the Paris American Club), and the Moulin a Café (www.lemoulinny.com).

In this difficult Covid environment for restaurants and retail shops in particular, we were glad to participate in helping out these bakeries and look forward to building on this first successful edition to organize this event again next year!

By Andrea Markson (President of L'UnAl)



The Stockbrunna

Greetings lovers of Alsatian culture! We are well aware of the diaspora of Alsatis around the world. Wherever they laid their stakes they have had an impact on their community. But, here is a different story...

The **Stockbrunna**, cultural association of Lautenbach, a village in Alsace, France, has just published the fifth work in a collection dedicated to Alsace called "Rupture et Transmission" (Breakdown and Transmission). The body of work explores the Alsatian language, the varied regional accents and pronunciations in the regions an throughout different time periods in history.

Headed by Dominique Rosenblatt, the body of work had twenty-five contributors. Interestingly, one of the contributors is Pavel Del Angel Montiel. This Mexican arrived in Alsace 8 years ago.

He first worked in a heating company, which gave him the idea for a thesis. "I noticed that the boss often spoke Alsatian with the customers, but only those with salt and pepper hair! I wondered why the young people don't speak Alsatian, too"

Montiel explained. He then conducted about fifty interviews, at home in Munster, but also in Mexico. Montiel continues, "I was interested in the influence of representations on linguistic practice and therefore took two examples: Alsatian, and P'urhépecha, an indigenous language of Mexico"

Montiel, also, noted. "Alsatian is considered a good springboard for working in Switzerland or Germany and it is also the dialect of the family, of the roots. What several people have also mentioned to me is the harsh sound of the language and the fact that they think it is hard to learn. But if a Mexican can do it, I believe anyone can do it!"

The Stockbrunna group promotes traditional music and dances, from Alsace and elsewhere. This organization was responsible for assisting in publishing the book which includes a CD of their music tracks. According to Paul-Philippe Meyer, retired music associate, "Alsace

is a land of music. The region has a lot of musical ensembles, and there is something for everyone! Everyone can find their happiness in Alsace"

By Renée Pecot-Xenakis



BYLAWS REVISIONS

Keeping UA going through COVID has made us realize our Bylaws aren't the only thing that needs updating. Up until COVID we had relied on a series of 5 or 6 different software systems including manually updated and shared spreadsheets to manage the organization.

COVID pushed this approach to the breaking point and so we evaluated a number of different options to move forward. One called Wild Apricot bubbled to the top. Over the next few months we will be migrating our different systems to it.

Benefits include a consolidated membership system. Members will be able to see and update their own profiles at will as well as find other members of UA. Dues renewal notices and payment will be fully automated.

Sponsors and donors will also have a simple Web interface for making payments and donations.

Events will now include automatic notifications, online ticket sales, Q code checkin and rosters.

Members will have an app they can download to receive event notifications, make ticket purchases and get Q codes for simplified event check in.

Wild Apricot will also consolidate our financial reporting reducing the workload in managing the organization.

Polls and electronic voting are also part of the system. We will provide future updates as we migrate to the new system and learn all its features.

We're looking forward to using these to make UA even better and to help all of us to get more out of being part of a society of fellow Alsatians and friends...stay tuned.

By Marc Seybold

A full version of the Bylaws is sent to you with this newsletter. You can also review them on our website : <https://www.alsace.nyc>

NEW LOGO for the 150th ANNIVERSARY of L'UnAl

February 23 rd is the Union Alsacienne de New York's official birthday! A century and a half ago, Alsatians living in New York came together to found this organization and this week we celebrate the oldest French club in New York City in existence today.

For its 150 th Anniversary there are great programs in the works with the culminating event of our Grand Gala which will take place in New York in **June 2022**. We



are honored by Alice Monier of **Alice Monier (Graphic Studio)** in Paris (www.alicemonier-studio.com) and **Alexander Kolancian (Ak Graphic Design and Visual Identity Solutions)** for their assistance in designing the commemorative logos for our association. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, please stay tuned to our Facebook page for announcements.

By Renée Pecot-Xenakis

An Alsatian Success Story in the Hamptons: Pierre Weber



This is where Pierre Weber, a 5th generation Alsatian bakers, made his nest.

Pierre's unique location on main Street in Bridgehampton is in the heartbeat of the charming and extraordinary Hamptons.

Pierre Weber came to America from Obernai to run the Marathon in 1983. He never left, opened his own patisserie in Manhattan, then moved to the Hamptons. The menu is full of Alsatian specialties, such as the Omelette du Curé d'Obernai, the tarte Flambée or, last but not least, the Vacherin à la Liqueur Massenez! Certainly worth the trip ...

He is sharing his vision of an elegant, chic yet casual establishment with

the support of the sophisticated and Euro friendly New Yorkers and Hampton locals.

Hip, classic and festive from day one, Pierre's restaurant was established in May of 2002 and never closed one day ever since! Member of the Union Alsacienne for many years, Pierre will welcome you, wholeheartedly!

Merci vilmols, Pierre !

By Francis Dubois

TELEPHONE?

An artist friend proposed to me to be part of an art project called Telephone. Telephone? "It is just like the kids' game. A message is whispered from one person to another and changes as it is passed."

Each participating artist received the image of a work of art (it could be a painting, a poem, music...) , gets inspired by it and creates a new piece, which is then sent to another artist. It is really interesting to see what came before, what came after...

I received a poem from Jane Brunette, an artist located in San Rafael. After executing the work based on her poem, Jane and I discussed our experience and the inspiration of our works for the Telephone project. Her poem speaks about an exchange of love letters during World War I, and my work is inspired by the letters exchanged by my Alsatian great-grandparents in 1915. Our exchange revealed that her family is from Alsace and their village was constantly occupied and control of the village often changed hands, from the Germans to the Prussians to the French, which forced them to emigrate. This is how they came to the United States.

I found it fascinating that through this project, which connected over 800 artists from 493 cities in 73 countries, I made contact with an Alsatian descendant. What a coincidence!

More about Telephone <https://phonebook.gallery/>

By Capucine Bourcart

Here is the poem of Jane Brunette:

*what we leave behind
body of crumpled paper
discarded words
given shape by twine wrapped so tenderly
by the old woman
who kept bundled letters on the arms of her couch—
love words
from the front lines
of the big war
when they both
knew
what mattered
and spindleman
sets that body spinning
sentences trailing delicate lines of grey smoke until
she is a prayer flag
he is a prayer flag
we are all prayer flags
tattered
by wind*

Which inspired me to create this 3D work:



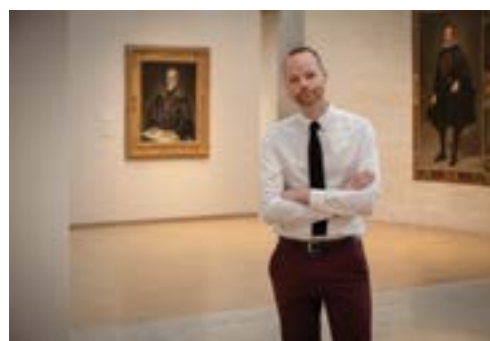
A Strasbourger Heads Up the World's Largest Collection of Spanish Art and Literature Located in NYC

It's our honor and pleasure to report that we have a young Strasbourger who became Director of the Hispanic Society Museum and Library in upper Manhattan.

For the first time, this museum will be curated by an Alsatian, Guillaume Kientz, who arrived on the job in 2019. Mr. Kientz has been quite busy getting to know the area around the museum, which lies between 155th and 156 th streets and Broadway.

Closed for renovations since 2017 and Kientz will assist in breathing new life into the museum. Unlike his previous position at the Louvre, Kientz intends to engage the surrounding community in the endeavors of the institution.

The institution is located at the heart of the Hispanic community and their active involvement is of utmost importance to the newly relocated Alsatian.



Guillaume Kientz is a French historian who was employed in the paintings department at the Louvre in Paris, France before joining as head of European art at

the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

To read more about the newly installed curator of the Hispanic Society Museum and Library, please go to the following article published by the New York Times in December, 2020:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/17/arts/design/guillaume-kientz-hispanic-society-museum.html>

Please join the Bureau and membership in welcoming Guillaume Kientz to our L'Union Alsacienne of New York community!

By Renée Pecot-Xenakis

New Member of L'UnAI board! Renée Pecot-Xenakis



Renée is a native New Yorker who works as a Compliance Officer for a foreign bank in the city.

With her parents born in Europe, she was raised in a polyglot household teaching her the love of languages. Her undergraduate work included French and German as well as Economics, she, also, possesses an MBA in Economic Crime Management.

During summer vacations in her youth, Renee traveled to Soultz (next to Guebwiller) where her grandmother was born and neighboring Germany to visit other relatives. Renée's father was born in Paris and her grandfather is Breton. Being passionate about Alsatian

culture and the region Renee was happy to find Union Alsacienne of New York marching in the Steuben Parade in 2016.

Since 2019 she has been helping with activities and recently joined the Board. She is excited to assist the organization in various capacities, reaching more members and making new friends.

Welcome on board Renée!

NEW MEMBERS

Merryn Liesel RITSCH

Welcome the marvelous baby Merryn Liesel Ritsch who was born in New York on March 11th 2021 at 12:50 AM.

L'Union Alsacienne of New York is so happy to count this new member ! Merryn was born from the love of our dearest Xavier Ritsch, treasurer and super active member of L'UnAI, a native from Truchtersheim in Alsace and of his dearest wife Michelle born in the Philippines and raised in New York City.

They are thrilled to be starting this new chapter of their life and are thanking their family and friends for all their support. They are impatient to share with baby Merryn cultural traditions from Alsace and from the Philippines that they cherish so much and to take her to visit those beautiful places.

We look forward to seeing Merryn very soon. An Alsatian outfit is ready for her to be worn.



Famille VAN HOLLEMEERSCH

Stéphanie and Laurent Van Hollemeersch grew up respectively in Sessenheim and Stattmatten.

They arrived in 2018 with their daughter Julie. Their second daughter Léa was born in New York.

Laurent is an avid soccer player and plays for the Alsacien Soccer team of New York , he is a fervent supporter of the RCS (Racing Club de Strasbourg.)

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



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Acting President Andréa Markson - Editors: Capucine Bourcart, Francis Dubois, Jérôme Degreve,
Liliane Rubin-Braesch, Xavier Ritsch, Marc Seybold and Lauren Zoebelein

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