



PARIS AMERICAN CLUB
NEW YORK

WELCOME

The Paris American Club brings together individuals, businesses and citizens who share an interest in France and the United States. Its social gatherings and events preserve a tradition begun by Benjamin Franklin's "Sunday dinners" in Paris in 1777 and are aimed at furthering the development of Franco-American friendship.

MEETINGS



The Club gathers the first Thursday of each February, March, April, May, October and December, and the second Thursday of January (Annual Business Meeting) and September.

The spring luncheon, which closes the season, is held on a Friday in June.

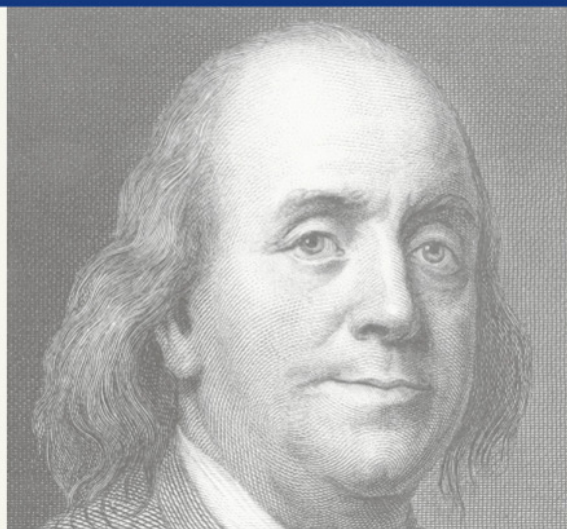
The Club's Annual Gala Dinner is held the first Thursday of November.

Other events of interest to Club members are scheduled *à l'improviste*.

Members and guests typically gather to meet and greet with Champagne. Lunch opens with a toast to the Presidents of the French Republic and the United States; members then introduce their guests. After the main course is cleared, a guest speaker gives a brief talk on a topic of interest while dessert and coffee are served. Guest speakers have included the French Ambassador, the French Consul General of New York, prominent writers, artists, historians, educators and members of the business community.

Guests are welcome at any luncheon.

HISTORY



Benjamin Franklin's Sunday dinners in Paris, established during the American Revolution, were the precursors of both the American Club of Paris and the Paris American Club in New York. World War II led directly to the formation of the Paris American Club.

By the late 1930s the large American professional colony in Paris was an established and integrated part of Parisian life. Nazi aggression changed all of that. As the Germans advanced across the continent, the prospects for Americans living in Europe grew increasingly dim. The invasion of Poland in September 1939 put out the last lamp of peace. Americans in Paris, reluctantly and sadly, began leaving for home.

As the American colony moved bag, baggage and hopes back to the United States, most members settled in New York, and all were curious as well as heartbroken about developments in Europe. In restaurants, on street corners, at private parties, whenever two Americans from Paris met, they asked anxiously about their City of Light. But their hopes began to fade when the German divisions turned south toward Paris, and then were completely extinguished when Paris fell on June 10, 1940.

Shortly afterward, a few former Americans in Paris began meeting at the Brevoort Hotel in New York for lunch. Raymond Harper, an international lawyer, was

the lunch's moving spirit, though he sent out no announcements and made no phone calls. The news got around by word of mouth. At first there were five or six for lunch, then 10 or 12, soon 25 or 30.

In late 1940 the Brevoort lunches became, without much fanfare, the Paris American Club of New York. Dues were kept reasonable, Harper was elected president and agreement was reached to meet for lunch on the first Thursday of each month. That was about it. No constitution or bylaws were adopted; no membership qualifications were stipulated. The New York colony that had once been the American business and professional colony in Paris wanted to remain in touch with itself and with France. The Club was organized solely to realize that simple goal.

Some members returned to Paris following its liberation and the end of the war. Most did not, however, and the decision was reached to continue the Club as a Franco-American institution of mutual regard and goodwill. Today, the Club's membership is about equally divided between American and French government, business, professional and private individuals.



Hotel Brevoort, New York City 1929, Rudolph Bunner,
New York Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS

Each applicant must have a sponsor and a co-sponsor, and must be introduced to at least two members of the Membership Committee.

The application will be reviewed by the Membership Committee and then the applicant's name will be published in the Club's monthly notices. If no objection to a proposed member is voiced by the membership within 15 days, the Membership Committee will then consider the applicant approved, and advise the new member of his or her admission.

Initiation Fee \$200

Annual Dues \$200



THE AMERICAN CLUB OF PARIS



Club members are welcome to attend luncheons at the American Club of Paris, 34, avenue de New York, 75016 Paris, whenever scheduled; information may be found on its website www.americanclubparis.org or by calling its secretary at 33.1.47.23.64.36.

The American Club of Paris, one of the oldest non-diplomatic American institutions in France, provides Americans in Paris with opportunities to meet and also helps preserve the special ties have bound the United States and France for more than two centuries.



CERCLE DE L'UNION INTERALLIÉE



Club members may avail themselves of the facilities of the Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, www.union-interalliee.fr, 33, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, 75008 Paris, upon presentation of their PAC membership card. A guest membership, valid for 14 days and nonrenewable, will be issued upon presentation of an introductory letter from the Paris American Club.

Founded in 1917, at the time of the official entry of the United States into World War I, the Union Interalliée provided moral and material resources to officers and personalities of the Allied nations. Its home, the Hôtel Henri de Rothschild, is one of the most beautiful mansions in Paris.

LE PARIS AMERICAN CLUB, UN CLUB PAS COMME LES AUTRES!

Historique, remontant au 18ème siècle et qui commença avec l'un des pères fondateurs des Etats-Unis, Benjamin Franklin, à qui le Paris American Club lui doit son nom. Franklin, qui séjourna à Paris entre 1776 et 1785 pour défendre la cause américaine, avait pris l'habitude d'organiser des dîners pour remonter le moral des Américains à Paris pendant la guerre d'indépendance.

Au fil des siècles, les Américains de Paris continuèrent à se rassembler autour d'un repas et à discuter de sujets d'actualité. Au début de la seconde guerre mondiale la plupart des Américains de Paris regagnèrent les Etats-Unis, surtout à New York, où ils décidèrent de continuer la tradition de se retrouver et de parler des nouvelles de France.

Le Paris American Club n'est pas un club comme les autres puisqu'il ne possède pas de lieu permanent, ce qui donne une flexibilité de fonctionnement et permet de proposer des droits d'inscription raisonnables. Fidèles à la tradition de Franklin, les membres se retrouvent autour d'une table une fois par mois (en général, un bon restaurant français) pour déguster un repas à la française tel qu'on le faisait autrefois. Si vous souhaitez un retour à la source, le Paris American Club vous conviendra.

A chaque déjeuner, le Club accueille un invité de marque, issu du corps diplomatique, du monde des affaires, de la culture ou de l'art, qui traite d'un sujet relatif aux relations franco-américaines.

Le Paris American Club est un club d'Américains francophiles qui accueille aussi beaucoup de Français résidant aux Etats-Unis. Ses déjeuners permettent un rapprochement entre Français et Américains de tous secteurs et peuvent assister ceux qui viennent d'arriver à New York.



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