

# ALSACE NEW YORK

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

## SPRING LUNCH 2019



*General Jacques Paul Klein*

Once more, **on May 7th** we returned to the Little Frog. The owner Francois Latapie treated us so well at our Christmas lunch that we had to go back and we were not disappointed. It was very well attended about 65 members showed up to celebrate our guest of honor the **General Jacques Paul Klein**. The Vice President Liliane Rubin had the honor and the privilege of giving him the Merit medal from the Union Alsaci-

enne de New York for his long and distinguished career, being an outstanding Alsatian. (see article about his career in the spring issue 2019 of our bulletin). The restaurant was very festively decorated with easter eggs and lamele traditional alsacian little lamb made out of biscuit at each setting we also had our oh so lovely bulletin a real work of art by our own artist Capucine Bourcart.

As always our traditional raffle held during both our Christmas and Spring lunch, was a success thanks to the prizes provided by members and chefs like by Gabriel Kreuther (G.Kreuther) Jean Georges von Gerichten (Jean Georges, Nougatine) or Francois Latapie (Littel Frog) or Yan N'Diaye ( le Moulin à café).

The ambiance was festive. Families came with babies and children, the later had their own little room to play in to their and their parents delight. We all shared news, caught up with old friends, made new ones and even sang songs.

*By Liliane Rubin*





## Alsace Fan Day!

**On August 23rd and 24th 2019**, as an officer of one of the 53 Alsatian associations from all over the world, I attended the 38 th Journée annuelle des Alsaciens du monde, this year in Colmar.

Friday the 23rd was a working day. Gérard Staedel, President of the Union Internationale des Alsaciens called the presidents and representatives of the various Alsace associations to order. We first gathered in the lovely fin-de-siècle Chateau Kiener in Colmar. We were introduced to an ever-growing number of associations from the five continents, the latest being from Zurich, Chicago, The Ivory Coast, Dubai, Benin, Poland, and Marrakech. We also learned that in China, between Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong, there are now 150 members. The New York, Lausanne, and Paris associations will soon celebrate their 150th anniversary, having been created in 1871 to help Alsatians to maintain their French identity after the Prussians annexed Alsace and Moselle in 1870.

At the meeting, we shared our events and experiences from the past year. We also brainstormed on how to grow and reinvigorate our associations. There were ideas such as an Alsatian Fan Day on July 24th, when all Alsatians and their friends would eat flammeküchen. Another proposal is to celebrate St. Nicholas on December 5th by everyone eating gingerbread mannele. Facilitating our bonhomie and imaginations was a delightful crémant offered as aperitif by J. Cattin, accompanied by kugelhopf.



The luncheon was held on the banks L'Etang Sainte-Croix, where Colmar's famous carps are caught. Roasted wild boar and other grilled meats were on the menu. In the afternoon through the ADT (Agence d'Attractivité Alsace), we learned more about Alsace tourism thanks to films, pictures, and lectures. Later, some members of the Union were initiated with great pomp and circumstance into the Beer Brotherhood. To conclude the evening, an excellent dinner, which included all the officials of the town and many from the region, was served at the Bartholdi Restaurant in Colmar.

Saturday the 24th was a day of leisure, allowing some 200 participants to visit Colmar, the birthplace of sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi who created New York Harbor's famous Statue of Liberty. We were able to discover or revisit this most charming city, the capital of central Alsace, with its picturesque streets, famous museums, its beautifully flowered town center, delicious gastronomy, and celebrated wines from the surrounding region. Thanks to President Staedel's organizational skills, the two days went smoothly and were a great success. Members of the New York Union Alsacienne who will be visiting their ancestral home during the month of August should reserve the last weekend of the month to participate in this festive and informative gathering.

Next year in Strasbourg!

*By Liliane Rubin*

## Alsace Fan Day!

**On 24 June**, L'Union Alsacienne de New York celebrated Alsace Fan Day in the lovely garden of the home of Capucine Bourcart, our dedicated Communication Officer, and her dear spouse Laurent Corbel, President of the Club Breton of New York. Members of L'Union Alsacienne and their friends enjoyed the delicious food, the Alsatian wine, the music, but more importantly the friendship prevailing in the Club.

This joyful celebration also coincided with the departure of the current President, Benoit Meister, who is being reassigned with his family to Denver, Colorado. Ms Françoise Cestac, former Vice President of the Club bestowed upon him the medal of L'Union

Alsacienne de New York and this in recognition for his work, commitment and dedication to the Club... He will be replaced, on a temporary basis, by Francis Dubois, currently First Vice-President and this until the next elections.



## Bastille Day!

L'Union Alsacienne was very present **on 14 July** to celebrate Bastille Day 2019 at its traditional Street Fair on 60th street, from Fifth Avenue to Lexington Avenue.



*Olivier Cadic, Senator for French citizens living abroad*

*With Anne-Claire Legendre, France Consul General*



Abounding with Bretzels and delicious pastries, Alsatian music played by an accordionist from Mulhouse, the Union Alsacienne booth attracted myriad of visitors, not to mention French personalities, led by the Honorable Anne-Claire Legendre, Consul General of France in New York. This event was a beautiful testimony of Alsatian joie de vivre!



## New Racing Strasbourg Shirts for our Alsace soccer team in New York !

**On September 19**, Pier 40 stadium : Racing Alsace New York, the 7-side soccer team of L'Union Alsacienne, received its new shirts offered by Marc Keller, President of the Racing Club Strasbourg. A great gift to celebrate three years of Championship of the Alsatian team, which took part to its first quarterly Urban Soccer League in March 2016...to win it Mai 31, 2016! The team - with its facebook page Racing Alsace New York - has been created by members Sylvestre Gug, Thierry Kranzer, Florian Nguyen, Alexandre Boesch, Thomas Strub and Julien Oury and is actually playing its 12th quarterly league. A first team had been launched in 2005 by members Thierry Kranzer, Florian Nguyen David Bonnerot and Pierre Weinstein but did not last, due to lack of players. RC Alsace New York is now gathering 15 players, including 3 Bretons, 1 Catalan and 1 Basque. Racing Alsace is looking for sponsors to cover the 6000 dollars costs of a year league (4 quarterly championships).



Florian NGUYEN (Kingersheim), Laurent GAUTHIER (Bretagne Ouest), Julien OURY (Schirmeck), Mathias PETER (Strasbourg), Sylvestre GUG (Haguenu), Julien PE COUD-BOUVET (Lyon), Georges ROLLINS (Dynamo Breuschwickersheim) Yannick GUILLEMOT (Oberschaffolsheim), Jose LACUNZA (Pampelona), Lambert ROLLAT (Bretagne Sud), Laurent VAN HOLLEMERSCH (Stattmatten), Thierry KRANZER (Waldhof Saasheim)  
Missing on picture : Jeremy DOLE (Bretagne Centre) et Jeremy DAGUERRE (Pays Basque Nord)

By Thierry Kranzer

## Steuben Parade

L'Union Alsacienne joined the marchers on Fifth Avenue from all over the United States, Germany, Austria and Switzerland to celebrate Count von Steuben.



The event took place on **21 September**. The Alsatians in traditional costumes enjoyed the colorful music and dance groups, and the magnificent floats. The Grand Marshal of the 62nd Steuben Parade was H.E. Emily Margarethe Haber, German Ambassador to the United States. A day to remember !

## 24 members of the ROTARY Colmar Bartholdi in New York

24 members of the Rotary Colmar Bartholdi made it to New York October 26 to 31 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their Rotary Club.

They chose this date to honor the Statue of Liberty which turned 133 years on October 28.

The Group of Colmar and a Group of Members of L'UnAL were welcomed on



Liberty Island to mark this double birthday by Diana Pardue, head of cultural affairs of the National Park Service.

During their trip the Group was guided by Thierry Kranzer and Francis Dubois to visit the United Nations Headquarters on October 31 before joining the Halloween Parade on Sixth Avenue.

By Thierry Kranzer

## Strasbourg & Alsace Bring Genuine French Christmas Magic to New York City

The Marché de Noël de Strasbourg is coming to New York from 6 to 22 December: since 2009, it traveled around the world, from Tokyo to Moscow, Beijing, Seoul and Taipei . Organized by the municipalities of Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse , it will be inaugurated 5 December in presence of the New York Mayor Bill de Blasio.

For three weeks in December, the Marché de Noël will consist of 30 Chalets , located in the southern part of Manhattan, in Bowling Green facing our Ms Liberty , the



Alsace will prove to be the attractive and welcoming province at the heart of Europe !



Statue of Liberty, the perfect venue for the occasion.

The chalets will present and sell arts and crafts from Alsace, food delicatessen, such as kougelhopfs , bredele or spicebread. Other Chalets with focus on cultural activities.





**Remembering D-Day**

June 6 marked the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, when Allied forces began the liberation of Western Europe. It was arguably the most critical single day in America's effort to help rid the world of Nazi tyranny. D-Day is remembered, too, as a pivotal moment in establishing America's role as a world leader after World War II. But, let us not forget the unique role played by an Alsatian, Philippe Kieffer, the commander of the French battalion who participated in the Allied Expeditionary Force.

Philippe Kieffer, born in Port-au Prince, Haiti, to an Alsatian family, obtained a diploma at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales

and became a bank director in New York City. On 2 September 1939, aged 40, he volunteered for military service and joined the French Navy. He left for London in June 1940 and joined the Free French Naval Forces, the day they were founded.

On 6 June 1944, Philippe Kieffer, recently promoted to capitaine de corvette, landed in Normandy, near Ouistreham, designated as Sword Beach; he led his men personally. He himself was wounded twice, hit by a shrapnel but refused to be evacuated for two days. He rejoined his unit a week later. He was among the first members of the Free French Forces to enter Paris in August 1944.

Commander of the Legion d'Honneur, Compagnon de la Liberation, Philip Kieffer passed away in 1962 after a long illness.



Philippe KIEFFER

**A New York artist at MAUSA**

Having an artist from New York in Neuf-Brisach is not boring. Traveling through Asia, the California street art artist based in New York, Elle, made a small detour via Zurich for the new MAUSA of Neuf Brisach.

We met the New York artist to tell her about the links between Alsace and New York. During her stay in Alsace she went to see the Statue of Liberty, the other one, which was erected on the grounds of Miss Liberty, in Colmar. The MAUSA, Museum of Urban Art, is an exceptional place and a formi-

dable cultural bridge to America and Alsace. Its location at the intersection of three borders (France, Germany, Switzerland).

By Thierry Kranzer



**The Colmar Treasure: A Medieval Jewish Legacy**

**Exhibition Overview**

A cache of jeweled rings, brooches, and coins—the precious possessions of a Jewish family of medieval Alsace—was hidden in the fourteenth century in the wall of a house in Colmar, France. Discovered in 1863 and on view in an exhibition at The Met Cloisters, the Colmar Treasure revives the memory of a once-thriving Jewish community that was scapegoated and put to death when the Plague struck the region with devastating ferocity in 1348–49.

A generous loan of the Musée de Cluny, Paris, the Colmar Treasure is displayed alongside select works from The Met Cloisters and little-known Judaica from collections in the United States and France. Although the objects on view are small in scale and relatively few in number, the ensemble overturns

conventional notions of medieval Europe as a monolithic Christian society. The exhibition points to both legacy and loss, underscoring the prominence of the Jewish minority community in the tumultuous fourteenth century and the perils it faced.



**Celebration of the Boston - Strasbroug sister city association**

A sold-out vernissage for an art exhibit kicked off the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the BOSTON/STRASBOURG SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION.

"Art on Sculpture: 26 études" paired 13 artists with 13 scientists in each city. Environmental themes were the subject of each work of art which was accompanied by commentary by a scientist. The French Cultural Center presented the exhibit for 7 weeks and included a

wine tasting, cooking class, gourmet dinner, and painting workshops related to the exhibit theme.

Next up is the signature musical event of the anniversary year. Strasbourg-born Blaise Déjardin, Principal Cellist for the Boston Symphony, will offer BSSCA members a private performance at the residence of French Consul Arnaud Mentré. This concert reminds us if the origin of the jumelage; it was thanks to the inspiration of Charles Munch, Boston Symphony Conductor and Strasbourg native, that Boston and Strasbourg were twinned in 1960.

The celebrations continue throughout the year with dinners, concerts, cultural activities, and an exchange of first responders.

Boston most cordially invites New York Alsatians to share our celebrations.

By Mary Louise Burke





**Alsace Gastronomic Dinner in Washington (Great Falls), October 15, 2019**

Jacques Haeringer, organized a gastronomic Alsace Dinner at L'Auberge chez François, October 15 in collaboration with the Trimbach wine, based in the picturesque town of Ribeauvillé, since 1626.

Special guest and host, Jean Trimbach, representing the 13th generation of the Trimbach family joined the event. Jacques Haeringer's invitation quoted " Papa's Alsace,

our homeland, and a beautiful wine region situated amongst the rolling hills and quaint medieval villages of northeastern France" The multi-course "dine and wine" experience included a Coquille de Crustacés, Shrimp, crabmeat, lobster, scallops, salmon, garden herb remoulade sauce served with a Trimbach Gewurztraminer 2015. It was followed by a Poached Pike Quenelle with Chanterelles, Julienne of Carrots, paired with a Trimbach Pinot Gris "Reserve Personnelle" 2014. Roulades de Sole aux Herbes, Leeks, Spätzle

**The Haeringer: an Alsatian gastronomic dynasty!**



Alsatian American Madeleine Haeringer, Executive Producer of Vice News on HBO, won several prizes at the News Emmys on Tuesday in New York. Madeleine is the daughter of Jacques Haeringer, Chef of Alsatian Auberge chez François in Washington, created 60 years ago by Francois Haeringer from Obernai.

Haeringer received his American immigration visa and moved to Washington, D.C. to work in his uncle's restaurant. He was young and spoke no English but soon mastered both the language and the palates of Americans.

He left Washington in 1950 and moved to Ketchikan, Alaska to run a hotel kitchen on the frontier. Following the birth of their first son, the family returned to Washington, D.C., where Haeringer began working at the Three Musketeers on Connecticut Ave. In 1954, he took over the restaurant, naming it Chez François. Fast forward 20+ years... instead of retiring at age 57, Haeringer decided to fulfill his dream of opening an "auberge" – a family inn prevalent in his native Alsatian countryside. After finding the perfect six acres of rolling green hills in Great Falls, L'Auberge Chez François opened

were paired with a Trimbach Riesling Grand Cru "Geisberg" 2013. Last but not the least, the Bettelman Grand-Mère Cécile, Grandmother's bread pudding with house made Tahitian vanilla sauce.

For more details about this temple of Alsace Gastronomy: L'Auberge chez François: 332 Springvale Rd, Great Falls, VA 22066

[www.laubergechezfrancois.com](http://www.laubergechezfrancois.com)

in 1976, and became a family business. Eldest son Jacques, by then a chef in his own right, became Chef de Cuisine. The dining rooms are filled with Haeringer family heirlooms and murals depicting scenes of Haeringer's home, and Papa's legacy lives on in the French countryside of Northern Virginia.

By Thierry Kranzer



**New Website**

We are very proud to announce you the creation of the new website of l'Union Alsacienne of New York!

[www.alsace.nyc](http://www.alsace.nyc)

You will find all information about the association: our board members as well as the history of the association. Also, you will through the website get informed about our upcoming events. For those, you will be able to subscribe to our events directly from it! Our current and past newsletters are available there too. Do not hesitate to use it as a tool to communicate with us, to share with others and to contribute to it as well! If you want to give us some feedback, please contact us: [contact@alsace.nyc](mailto:contact@alsace.nyc)

**SAVE THE DATE !**

**We are going to elect our new board in February 2020! Stay tuned! We need your vote!**

Beginning of 2020, you will receive in your mailbox a ballot for the election of the new board which will be representing the UnAl for the next two years.

We need your vote!

If you have any questions, please write to us: [contact@alsace.nyc](mailto:contact@alsace.nyc)

**UNAL BOARD NEWS**

**Benoit Meister**, our president moved to Denver, Colorado with his family. We are very sad to see him leaving New York and our association. We would like to thank you for having been so active, devoted and an very efficient president for that last 2 years. We wish him all the best for his new life in Colorado!

**Francis Dubois**, 1st Vice-president is replacing Benoit Meister as a Acting President a.i. We thank him for taking over this important position !

**Lauren Zoebelein**, recently joined our board as secretary. Lauren first started learning French when she was 12 years old. When she was in 8th grade, her French teacher was Liliane Rubin. She first learned about the Union Alsacienne in 2012. Lauren has lived in Washington, DC, Paris, Brussels, Zurich and moved to Manhattan in 2019.

**Thierry Kranzer**, our former president left New York with his family for 2 years and settled during this time at Niedermorschwirth. He is now back in New York and we are happy to welcome him! His position at L'UnAl today is trustee.

**Do you have your Alsatian Passport?**



Make sure to have your Alsatian Passport!

**\$10**

Contact us: [contact@alsace.nyc](mailto:contact@alsace.nyc) if you want to receive yours!



### Catoche: An Alsatian in New York!



Catoch

Alsatian expatriate in Paris for over thirty years, I admit having kept a side first degree and psych-origid typical of the East. A little

incivility and I start a quarter turn: arrive late, throw a butt in the street, cross out of the nails ... My loved ones exhort me to let go, to free myself from the libertarian yoke of my origins. Themselves perceive any injunction, any new pedestrian area, non-smoking, limited speed ... as an insult to their individual freedom.

All watched? Let them cross the Atlantic and they will see how much, compared to New York, we Easterners are small players. Big Apple, it's Big Mother, with its "Must" and "do not do" at every nook. At the exit of the toilets, a small poster is waiting for you "Have you washed your hands well?" In the subway, a drop-down menu (because a poster would not have not enough) reminds you of all the rules to follow. At your door, no Trick or Treetts for Halloween if you have not given your written and signed authorization beforehand ....

Paradoxically, New York remains the lightest and "Playful" city I have ever seen. It feels like growing wings in the middle of red lights and flashing signs. Because at New York, one becomes again a big child, let loose in the playground

of a gigantic kindergarten. And Big Mother shouted not so, do not do that, she's in her role, and we in ours: "Z'leit lava", which translates from Alsatian could give: Do whatever you want!

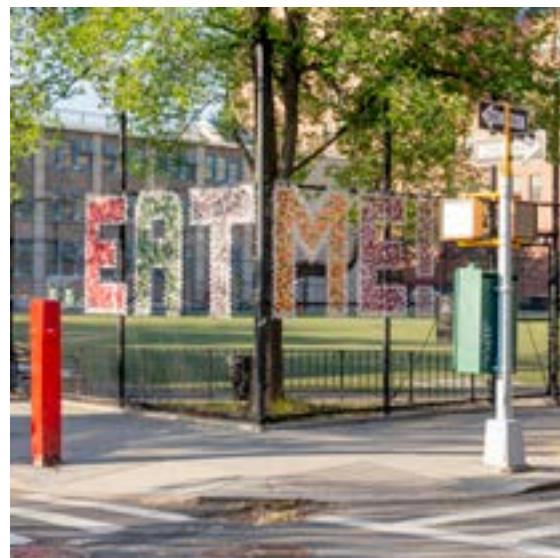
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### ALSACE ART IN THE STREET !

**Capucine Bourcart**, Alsatian artist working and living in Harlem received the Artist Award Public Art Initiative from Marcus Garvey Park Alliance in New York to create a public art piece EAT ME! This provocative installation is a metal mosaic of about 1,500 printed metal squares which is hung on the chain-link fence at the Eugene McCabe field on 120th st. and Park Avenue. The photographs to be used for this sculptural photo-assemblage are details of healthy foods, especially fruits and vegetables. The topic of this piece is nutrition, a global health challenge especially present in Harlem, which faces problems of overweight and obesity. The project's goal is to remind the public, especially the young, that nutritious food and good eating habits help us to stay healthy.

ON VIEW UNTIL JUNE 2020!



EAT ME! At Eugene McCabe Field at the corner of East 120th and Park Avenue

### ALSACE IN SHOW BUSINESS !

*Red carpet in Los Angeles for Semper Fi!*

**Henry Alex RUBIN**, the son of members Liliane and James Rubin, recently directed a feature-length film called Semper Fi (the motto of the U.S. Marines). It is also being shown in Europe as Brothers in Arms. Distributed by Lion's Gate, following its New York theatrical run, the film is available for rental on Amazon Prime video rentals. Henry also directed Disconnect (2012) and the Oscar-nominated documentary Murderball (2005). He is perhaps best known for his two public service television and internet publicity shorts against firearms, the first of which won the grand prize at Cannes for best publicity film. The second, recently released, was written up in newspapers across the country and in Europe for its highly emotional content. Both were produced for Sandy Hook Promise, the organization of parents and neighbors of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. They may be viewed on YouTube.



Sarah Michler, Henry Rubin, Charlotte McNeill, Georgia Rose Rubin.

### 4 NEW MEMBERS

**Jérôme Degreve** - 30 years old, was born and raised in Strasbourg (Contades neighborhood) and schooling in Kleber College and ORT High School. He arrived for the first time in New York in 2016 to finish my MBA in international business at Baruch College. He met Lizette on this occasion on April 2016. They got married in April 2018 and since live in Brooklyn (Bedford Stuyvesant). He works for a company named LDE, based in Molsheim, and which is the most important school bookseller in France. In love with his homeland, he is delighted to join the Alsations associations of New York.



**Lizette St Hilaire - Degreve** - Wife of **Jérôme Degreve** she was born and raised in New York and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She works as a Global Equity Research on Park Avenue. She spent five years in France between 2001

and 2006, and loves French culture! According to her husband, her level of French speaking is quite good! Just after she met Jérôme, she went to see him in Alsace on his return from New York. She immediately felt in love with Strasbourg and Alsace. Since she has returned

there many times! If you ask her where she feels best in the world, she will answer that it is in the countryside house of Jerome's parents in Wildersbach in the Bruche Valley. She seriously intends to come to live in Alsace in the coming years!



**Marie-Catherine Weber** - Marie-Catherine Weber was born in Strasbourg and left Alsace in 2001 to study finance in Paris. After several years in structured finance in Paris she

had the opportunity to come to New-York to work in aircraft and project finance. Marie-Catherine is a jazz fan, coffee addict and buddy photographer!

**Virginia Foster** - Virginia is a new member of l'UnAl sponsored by General Klein. She works and lives in Palmyra, Virginia.

### NEW BIRTH



UnAl is delighted to announce the birth of **Julia LR** daughter of member **Josiane Ambiehl**. Her parents, Josiane and Ned, are both international civil servants

of the United Nations (UN). Josiane is currently Director of the Decolonization Unit in the Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding of the United Nations. A native of Geiswasser (68), DESS in International Relations, Josiane studied in Strasbourg. It is also in Strasbourg that she met for the first time our member Jacques Paul Klein. Since then, our two members have been conversing in Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin. Congratulations to parents and little Louis the big brother of Julia!

**We are looking for Sponsors!**

**If you want to support us  
contact us:**

**contact@alsace.nyc**

**Thank you!**



**L'Unal is looking  
for volunteers  
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