

# FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE

## PRESS KIT

1943-2023

## 80 Years of French-American Friendship

FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE MAGAZINE

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Previous page: Cover illustration for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *France-Amérique*  
by artist Francesco Bongiorno, May 2023. © Francesco Bongiorno/France-Amérique

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# Introduction

## 80 YEARS OF FRENCH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

*France-Amérique* magazine is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!

On May 23, 1943, at the height of World War II, a group of exiled French citizens in New York City came together in a Fifth Avenue office to publish the first issue of a weekly newspaper. The initial objectives of *France-Amérique* were to unite the French community in the United States around a Francophone media outlet, raise awareness of the Free French cause among the American public, and support the resistance movement led by General Charles de Gaulle.

Eighty years on, the newspaper has become a bilingual French-English monthly magazine. *France-Amérique* has left behind

its political activism to pursue four contemporary goals: encouraging intercultural dialogue; supporting Francophone linguistic and cultural communities in North America; offering educational material for learning French; and celebrating French *art de vivre* and culture in all its diversity, including art, music, fashion, gastronomy, literature, crafts, and tourism.

Today, *France-Amérique* analyzes contemporary France, from protests against pension reform to *Emily in Paris*. Our journalists strive to strike a balance between the realities and fantasies of France – much to the delight of our readers, who include French citizens based in America, French-Americans, Americans with Francophone heritage, and Francophile Americans learning French.

As the oldest French press outlet still in operation in North America, *France-Amérique* also resonates with the Francophone regions of the United States and Canada – the historic bastions of Quebec, New England, and Louisiana, far-flung outposts such as Missouri, and new Francophone hubs including Harlem, Miami, and Houston. A constantly changing mosaic shaped by history and migration.

Lastly, *France-Amérique* works to promote the French language in the United States. The magazine covers French education news and publishes a comprehensive, biannual guide to dual-language schools and programs in the U.S.A. from Alabama to Wisconsin. Bilingual since 2015, the magazine also helps students,

*“France-Amérique helps us move past our misunderstandings and enjoy the best of both worlds.”*

Guénola Pellen, director

teachers, university professors, and occasional learners looking to develop their knowledge of French language and culture.

Every month, like a bridge extended between Europe and North America, *France-Amérique* continues a mission that began 80 years ago. To celebrate such a longstanding commitment and to champion French-American friendship, several events will be organized this year and next, including receptions, conferences, a traveling exhibition, a coffee-table book, and more!







# Our History



## KEY DATES

### A Newspaper Born from the French Resistance

Founded by French exiles in New York City, *France-Amérique* was created to fulfill a mission: to raise awareness of the Free French cause among the American public and to support the resistance movement organized by General Charles de Gaulle.

### A Tribute to the President

On the front page of *France-Amérique*, Jean-Paul Sartre paid tribute to Franklin D. Roosevelt, who passed away on April 12, 1945, and recounted his meeting with the 32<sup>nd</sup> president of the United States a few weeks earlier. "In the end, he embodied the freedom of America, without me even realizing it," wrote the philosopher.

### The U.S. Edition of *Le Figaro*

In the 1950s, *France-Amérique* became the "international edition" of French newspaper *Le Figaro*. Every week, readers discovered news from France and the rest of the world, along with a selection of articles about the French community in the United States. Meanwhile, *France-Amérique* journalists penned articles for the American section of *Le Figaro*. This partnership continued in various forms until the mid-2000s.

### De Gaulle's American Tour

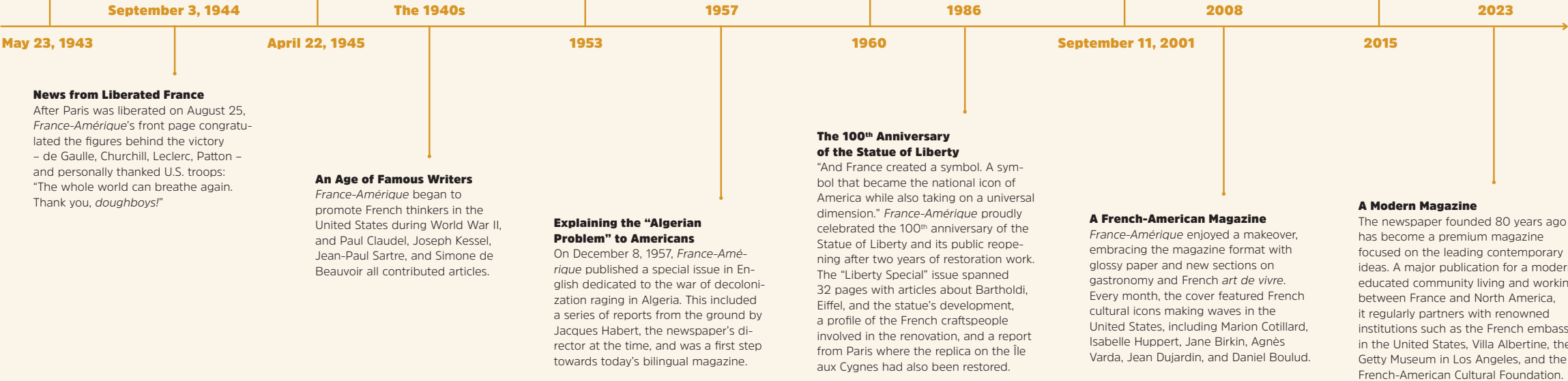
Montreal, Toronto, Washington D.C., New York City, San Francisco, New Orleans... In the spring of 1960, *France-Amérique* covered the official state visit of President Charles de Gaulle to Canada and the United States, where he met President Dwight Eisenhower. Seven years later, in Montreal, *France-Amérique* was in the VIP gallery and witnessed de Gaulle give his famous speech and declaring "Vive le Québec libre !"

### Unity and Division

Following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, *France-Amérique* journalists worked directly in Manhattan and covered the reconstruction of Ground Zero. Two years later, the Iraq War and Jacques Chirac's refusal to join it made the front page. This sparked the era of "French bashing" and "freedom fries."

### *France-Amérique's* New Identity

In May 2015, *France-Amérique* acquired the monthly *France Magazine*, published in English by the French embassy in Washington D.C., and became the first French-English bilingual magazine in the United States. The publication welcomed additional pages and more photographs, and its cover designs were entrusted to French artists such as Olivier Tallec, Léa Morichon, and Thomas Hayman.



"This role as a witness to history explains the longevity of *France-Amérique*."



# Hall of Fame

WHO HAS WRITTEN FOR *FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE*?



Franz-Olivier Giesbert **JANET FLANNER**  
Frédéric Mitterrand MICHEL LE BRIS  
**SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR** Léopold Sédar Senghor Jules Romain  
René Cassin Azouz Begag Joseph Kessel **CLAUDE LÉVI-STRAUSS**  
**JEAN-PAUL SARTRE** PAUL REYNAUD Elaine Sciolino PAUL CLAUDEL Maurice Schumann  
Amédée Ozenfant André Maurois **CHARLES DE GAULLE** Jacques Chirac  
WALTER LIPPMANN Claire Goll  
**ROMAIN GARY** Adam Gopnik ALBERT CAMUS  
Lindsey Tramuta



# Calendar

## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



As part of *France-Amérique's* 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have planned a series of events on the theme of French-American friendship. These celebrations will continue until 2024!







## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



## 1. MAY 2023: THE ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Eighty years after its first edition was published on May 23, 1943, *France-Amérique* is continuing to celebrate French-American friendship with a symbolic issue. For the cover, artist Francesco Bongiorno drew an original take on the Statue of Liberty – a gift from France to the United States, and an enduring emblem of the friendship between our two countries – and replaced the torch with a birthday candle.



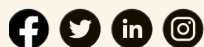


## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



## 2. ■ MAY 2023-2024: FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE, THE SAGA

Every month, our historian-in-residence Diane de Vignemont dives deep into the *France-Amérique* archives to showcase the major events that have defined French-American relations. The series of articles will serve as a connection between the past and today's magazine. The first chapter in this saga focuses on the Battle of New York and the launch of *France-Amérique*.





## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



### 3 ■ MAI 2023-2024: THE FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE CONFERENCES

Throughout both this anniversary year and 2024, the magazine will be hosting conferences, presentations, and discussions, both in person and online, on several important themes for *France-Amérique*. These include the history of the magazine, French-American relations, and the Francophone press in North America. Depending on the theme, these events will be hosted by Guénola Pellen, the director of *France-Amérique*, our historian-in-residence Diane de Vignemont, or editor-at-large Guy Sorman.







## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



### 4 ■ FALL 2023-2024: **FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE, THE TRAVELING EXHIBITION**

September will be the chance to celebrate together and inaugurate an exhibition designed in the style of a trip back in time. Through the *France-Amérique* archives, objects, testimonies, and videos, visitors can relive 80 years of French-American friendship, from the joyful scenes following the liberation of Paris to the generosity of American patrons after the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral. This shape-shifting exhibition will be opened in New York City, and will then tour the United States and France before traveling back across the Atlantic to our Chelsea offices in Manhattan.







## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



## 5 ■ 2023-2024: OPERATION ARCHIVES

Working at the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, our historian Diane de Vignemont is continuing her research and digitalization project. The resulting database will be used to create an online platform open to researchers, journalists, students, and the public.







## THE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



### 6 ■ 2023-2024: **FRANCE-AMÉRIQUE, THE BOOK**

The unique archives and articles published as part of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *France-Amérique* will eventually be brought together in a coffee-table book. This beautifully illustrated work will shine a light on French-American friendship – in the past, the present, and the future.



# Find Out More

## ASK US YOUR QUESTIONS



To find out more about *France-Amérique*, our magazine, our history, the events organized as part of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, or to schedule an interview with us, please send us an email at [communications@france-amerique.com](mailto:communications@france-amerique.com). We would love to hear from you!



### **Guénola Pellen, director**

The heart and soul of *France-Amérique*! After completing studies in literature and spending time in London, Guénola trained on the job as a journalist, covering current affairs in the projects for French newspaper *Ouest-France* in the wake of the 2005 Paris riots. With her subsequent master's degree in bilingual journalism from the Sorbonne, she set out for America. From 2009 to 2019, she first headed up the culture section of *France-Amérique* before becoming the editor in chief. Since 2020, she has been the director of the magazine, which she is managing and rejuvenating from Paris and New York City.

#### **A FEW IDEAS:**

- 80 years: a proudly longstanding press publication
- Her journey at *France-Amérique*, from intern to director
- The pandemic and how she led the magazine without ever missing an issue
- Managing an international team, in two languages, across five different time zones



### **Diane de Vignemont, historian-in-residence**

An archive expert specializing in Charles de Gaulle and Free France, Diane is *France-Amérique*'s historian. She studied at Sciences Po and Oxford, spent time working at the Musée de l'Armée in Paris, and co-edited the catalogue for the exhibition *1940 ! Paroles de rebelles*. Drawing on her training as a journalist, she immerses herself in the *France-Amérique* archives every month to showcase the events that have defined French-American relations. The result is a series of articles connecting the modern magazine to its past.

#### **A FEW IDEAS:**

- The history of *France-Amérique*
- The context of *France-Amérique*'s creation: New York City during World War II
- Charles de Gaulle, the godfather of *France-Amérique*
- The evolution of the publication, its content, and its format



### **Guy Sorman, editor-at-large**

This French-American economist and author (*The Conservative Revolution in America*, *Made in USA*, *In Praise of Giving*) is the magazine's essayist. This former professor at Sciences Po and Stanford splits his time between France, his birthplace, and the United States, his adoptive country, and is proud of his dual citizenship – and his two passports. Each month, he offers his unique analysis and commentary on transatlantic current affairs.

#### **A FEW IDEAS:**

- French-American relations, past and present
- The love-hate relationship between France and the United States
- From Tocqueville to #MeToo, how ideas travel across the Atlantic
- The challenge of dual citizenship during elections



# Feedback



## A WORD FROM OUR READERS

Comments taken from our latest customer survey

**“The magazine strengthens the links between France and America.”**

Ludovic, France

**“C’EST CHIC!”**

Thomas, Minnesota

“It’s iconic. As a French-American, I am very proud of your magazine.”

Éric, Colorado

**“I LOVE THAT IT’S BILINGUAL.”**

Sue, France

“The articles keep me connected to my Francophone roots.”

Léola, Connecticut

**“I teach French at an Alliance Française and your articles are very useful!”**

Elisabeth, Arizona

**“GREAT MAGAZINE!”**

Kevin, Ontario

**“It is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the culture, the history, the beauty, the traditions, the language, and the seductive mystery of France.”**

Donald, Virginia

“So glad to see it in the mailbox every month! I know I will have several days of Francophile and Francophone bliss!”

Anne, Missouri

**“I love being a subscriber, it takes my study of language and culture to a new level.”**

Allison, California

“An informative and beautifully designed magazine for those of us straddling the two cultures”

Véronique, France

**“ESSENTIAL.”**

Marilyn, Massachusetts

“It’s a great concept. I love the fact that I can read about France in French, and then in English to check. Or directly in English if I feel lazy!”

Amy, Illinois

**“Very high standard of writing and translating.”**

Jonathan, California

“I enjoy the quality of the magazine and it being a bridge between France and America.”

Nicolas, France





# PRESS IMAGES

## PAINTING A THOUSAND WORDS



01



02



03

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01  
Guénola Pellen, the director of *France-Amérique*, at the magazine's office in Chelsea, New York City, March 2023. Photo by Kate Stremoukhova, courtesy of France-Amérique

02  
The January 2023 issue of *France-Amérique* (right) and the one from June 20, 1943, at the magazine's office in Chelsea, New York City, March 2023. Photo by Kate Stremoukhova, courtesy of France-Amérique

03  
The cover of the first issue of *France-Amérique*, published on May 23, 1943. Courtesy of the New York Public Library

04  
The cover of the May 2023 issue, the month of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *France-Amérique*. Illustration by Francesco Bongiorno, courtesy of France-Amérique

05  
The *France-Amérique* team at the magazine's office in Chelsea, New York City, March 2023. Photo par Kate Stremoukhova, courtesy of France-Amérique

06  
1943-2023: 80 years in titles. Courtesy of France-Amérique



04



05



06



# Contact

SEE YOU SOON

**To find out more about *France-Amérique* – our magazine, our history,  
the events planned as part of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary – or to organize an interview,  
please send an email to [communications@france-amérique.com](mailto:communications@france-amérique.com).**

**You can also get in touch if you want our traveling exhibition to visit your city,  
your cultural center, or your school, or if you want to organize  
a *France-Amérique* conference in person or online!**



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