

# October

**Exhibit: Léopold Sedar Senghor (1906-2001) Centennial Celebration at the Alliance Française**

**October 2-November 3, 2006 >> AFSF >> Free Admission**

"Gueule du Lion et sourire du Sage" an exhibition curated by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

This exhibition presents the Senegalese poet and statesman, founder of the Senegalese Democratic Bloc. He is at the origin of the concept of Négritude, defined as the literary and artistic expression of the black African experience. In historical context the term has been seen as an ideological reaction against French colonialism and a defense of African culture. He died in France on December 20, 2001.

**Science and Society: French Geneticist Albert Jacquard on the "Scientific Concepts and the Definition of the Human"**

**Thursday, October 12, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In French >> AFSF members \$8 Others \$10 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Who are we? We have to admit that we are nothing more than "dust in the wind". What, then is this remarkable nature of ours? We are both the result of natural processes that we attribute to our genes and the result of all those we have ever met, which includes us in the whole of humanity.

**Albert Jacquard** is a geneticist and a graduate of the *École Polytechnique* in Paris. He has written numerous works on science and society.

**A. Jacquard** takes part in battles such as fair housing policies, and against racism. **Albert Jacquard** is the recipient of the Legion of Honor and of numerous scientific and literary prizes.

With the support of the Delegation Generale of the Alliances Françaises USA

**History and Art: The Paris of Artists and Writers by author Thirza Vallois**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In English >> AFSF members \$8 Others \$10 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Whereas in pre-Revolutionary days, the arts were a state-owned monopoly, in the 19th century the artist carved for himself a new place in the new Parisian society that emerged out of the Revolution. Come and find out how the artists and writers of Paris gradually shook off the shackles of convention and brazenly brought about a revolution in the arts, which continued into the 20th century and outraged bourgeois upright Paris.

**Thirza Vallois** is an expert on Paris. She has lived in Paris for over forty years and holds several post-graduate degrees from the Sorbonne. She is the author of the internationally acclaimed *Around and About Paris* series, and *Romantic Paris*. She has worked for PBS, BBC, the Travel Channel, Discovery Channel and CNN.

**Literature: The Frenchness of Jack Kerouac, a lecture by Gerald Nicosia**

**Thursday, October 19, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In English >> AFSF members \$8 Others \$10 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Born of French-Canadian parents in Massachusetts Jack Kerouac did not speak English until he was 6 years old. Raised in the Franco-American culture and schooled by French priests, Kerouac was immersed in his French identity since his earliest years. Nicosia will discuss how both the positive aspects of this identity and the negative contributed to make Kerouac the great writer he became. He will also discuss how the quest to find his roots dominated Kerouac's later years, leading to a trip to Brittany in 1966 that resulted in the book "Satori in Paris."

**Gerald Nicosia** is a poet, historian, biographer, playwright, and journalist. He is best known for his biography of Jack Kerouac, *Memory Babe* (1983). In 2003, the *London Times* called it "still the best book on Jack Kerouac."

**French Films Screening with English Subtitles**

**First Wednesday of the Month >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In French w/ EnglishSub. >> AFSF members \$3 Others \$6**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2006**

*La Peau Trouée* (Julien Samani, 2004, 56') *Jean Vigo Award 2005*

Five fishermen set off from the coast of Ireland aboard the *Mirador* to do battle with a sea monster: the porbeagle shark.

**Wednesday, November 1, 2006**

*Salvador Allende* (Patricio Guzman, 2004, 100'), Cannes Festival 2004, In French and Spanish with English subtitles

September 11, 1973. A military coup d'état crushes Chile's peaceful revolution by eliminating the elected president, Salvador Allende.

**Wednesday, December 6, 2006**

*Truffaut: Une autobiographie* (Anne Andreu, 2004, 78')

This "autobiography" sets out to highlight the director's recurrent themes, as they appear in film after film: childhood, apprenticeship, the conflictual relationships between men and women, death.

# November

**The SF Jazz Festival and Alliance Française present: "Le Jazz Hot: The Music of Django Reinhardt" featuring Dorado Schmitt**

**Sunday, November 5 >> Herbst Theatre >> 7pm\* >> AFSF Members receive 10% \*\* >> Info: 415-788-7353**

In the swinging spirit of Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's legendary Quintette du Hot Club de France of the 1930s, French acoustic-guitar virtuoso **Dorado Schmitt** leads an all-star group in two fun-filled performances of "le jazz hot": a full-length evening concert and a shorter, family-oriented, discount-priced afternoon show.

The SF Jazz Festival runs Oct. 20-Nov. 12. For complete information, visit [sfjazz.org](http://sfjazz.org) or call 415-788-7353.

\*also 3pm "Family Matinee Concert" but no discount for 3pm show or other Festival concerts. \*\*Mention "Alliance Française" and receive a 10% discount for 7pm show

**Photography Exhibit: Michel and Robin Algret**

**November 6 - December 4, 2006 >> AFSF >> Opening Reception Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2006 >> 6-8 pm Free Admission**

**Michel Algret:** This photographer, who quit the photography world in the 1970's, has now returned to his artistic passion. Behind Mr. Algret's photos, the keen observer instantly recognizes the vision of a young photographer working his first job as a photojournalist at the Dalmas Agency in the company of famed French photojournalist R. Depardon. Mr. Algret's photos were featured at Photobis, an international Photography festival, in 2003. His work is currently being shown at the Mamya Beretsché Galleries in Paris, and with his son at Art Génération.

**Robin Algret:** A wide-eyed, curious traveler, Robin Algret constantly seeks out others with his camera. He not only captures the lives of his peers on film, but he also never hesitates to shoot everyday moments lived by nomads under desert tents to life on the streets of Paris or New York. His approach closely resembles that of the Humanistic photographers and aims to reproduce the emotions of our times.'

**Illustration Art: Cécile Gambini and Rebecca Dautremer, two French Illustrators present their art**

**Thursday, November 9, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In French >> AFSF Members \$3 Others \$6 >> RSVP 775.7755**

**Rébecca Dautremer** was born in 1971 in the South of France. She attended classes in the ENSAD in Paris and graduated in graphic publishing in 1995. She afterwards became a graphic editor and illustrator. Dautremer started writing books of her own only relatively recently. She also works for children's book publishers (Milan Presse and Fleurus Presse), academic publishers, and in advertising.

**Cécile Gambini** an author-illustrator, was born in Grasse, France. She has taken courses at the fine arts school of Aix-en-Provence, and she holds a degree from the Decorative Arts in Strasbourg. Her first album was published in 1999. Gambini also works in children's publishing.

With the support of the cultural services of the French Consulate

**Politics: Leopold Sedar Senghor: Thinker, Statesman and Poet, a lecture by Souleymane Diagne\***

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In English >> AFSF/MOAD Members \$8 Others \$10 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Prof. Diagne will present a biographical sketch and the intellectual process of a man who left his mark on the century: First, as the theoretician of a peaceful decolonization founded on the affirmation of the values of an African civilization. Next, as the statesman who for twenty years was president of a Senegal which he, set on the path toward a multiparty democracy

**Souleymane B. Diagne** taught philosophy at Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal. He is currently a Prof. of Philosophy and Religion at North-western University. An alumnus of Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris where he studied with Louis Althusser and Jacques Derrida, Pr. Diagne obtained his PhD in philosophy at the Sorbonne. His field of research includes history of philosophy, Islamic and African philosophy.

\*Co-presented with MOAD (Museum of African Diaspora)

With the support of the Delegation Generale of the Alliances Françaises USA

**Comic Art: Joann Sfar, one of the most talented of the younger generation of French comic artists, presents his work**

**Thurs., November 16, 2006 >> AFSF >> 7pm >> In French w/translation >> AFSF/Members \$8 Others \$10 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Considered one of the brightest and most talented of the younger generation of French comic artists, Joann Sfar has written or collaborated on more than 100 books for adults and children. He has worked with some of the best young artists in France, including Christophe Blain, Emmanuel Giubert, and Lewis Trondheim. In the USA he's best known for his children's books, *Little Vampire Goes to School*, which made the *New York Times* best-seller list, and *Little Vampire Does Kung Fu!*, which was recently nominated for an Eisner Award. Sfar was awarded the prestigious Jury Prize at Angoulême for *The Rabbi's Cat*. He lives in Paris with his wife, two children, and the model for the rabbi's cat. A book signing will follow the event.

With the support of the Cultural Services of the French Consulate in San Francisco

**Literature and Art: Book launching of Shield by Phyllis Stowell**

**Saturday, November 18, 2006 >> AFSF >> 5pm >> In English >> AFSF Members \$3 Others \$6 >> RSVP 775.7755**

*Shield/Le bouclier* is a three part poem by Phyllis Stowell and a sequence of ten paintings by Pacia Sallomi on the theme of feminine wounding and healing. The book was mostly composed while mother and daughter were living in the south of France. Each, however, approached the subject with her own engagement.

**Phyllis Stowell, MA, Ph.D.,** is Professor Emerita from the English Department of St Mary's College of Moraga, CA. Her previous books of poems were "Emergence", Who is Alice, and Asset of Solitude. Her most recent book of poetry is Arc of Grief.

# December

**Art Exhibit: Georgette Owens / Bernard Renot: "Point de vue"**

**December 4, 2006-January 2, 2007 >> AFSF >> Opening reception: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006 >> 6-8pm >> Free admission**

**Georgette L. Owens** was born in Paris, France. At 16 she was accepted at the Beaux Arts Art School and she studied later with Andre Lhote. Picasso came to her first exhibition. Many exhibitions followed: Musée d'Art Moderne, Salon des Indépendants, Grand Palais "Biennale des Femmes", and "les Contemporaines". She moved to the USA and exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Cincinnati, The Museum of Art in Cleveland, the New York Museum of Modern Art, and at the George Wiener Gallery, New York. She met Salvador Dali who became her mentor.

**Bernard Renot:** Invoker of movement, of women, of life. Tense, alive, incisive. Dissecting his subject to abstraction to recompose in his own way. Renot makes war on rigidity. His themes are inspired by the world at large interpreted with sensitivity, lightness, a slight irony. Entirely self taught, growing in character and control over 50 years of metier. Strong colors tempered by artistic reflection mirror the man behind the brush.

**Champagne Tasting: Prepare New Year's eve with millions of French bubbles and a festive buffet**

**Friday, December 8, 2006 >> 7pm >> In English >> AFSF Members \$40 Others \$45 >> RSVP 775.7755**

Champagne is the wine of celebration. No other wine is so associated with joy and festivity. Its meaning and appeal are universal. Champagne pairs well with most cuisines. It is the most versatile wine in the world. It can be an aperitif, an entrée of fish or meat, or with dessert. We will explore the different styles of champagne from Extra Brut to Demi-Sec. Come taste the variety of flavors bursting from their tiny bubbles.

