



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

December 7, 2020

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Monika S. Riely
Kai Ping Chan

TRUSTEES

Damien Balsan
Helen Hilken
Craig Kuehl
Dominique Lallement
Anne Sullivan

ADVISERS

Madeline H. Caviness
Jill Geoffrion
Michael Klug
Ellen Shortell
Anne-Marie Woods

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FOUNDING MEMBERS

In Memoriam
Servane de Layre Mathéus
Dennis Aubrey
Pierre-Louis Roederer
David Whitehouse

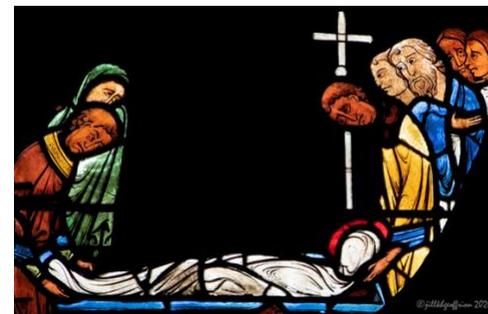
Dear Friends,

Each of you has been in my thoughts as we all struggled with the pandemic, social justice and more, not only in the United States and France but also around the world. I hope that you and your families, friends and communities are safe and healthy.

Hommage to Servane de Layre Mathéus

This year 2020 began with a major loss for American Friends of Chartres. Our incomparable friend, Servane de Layre Mathéus, passed away on January 27th, 2020. I was privileged to be able to attend her funeral service at the Cathedral Notre-Dame de Chartres as well as in the birthplace of her family in Beaumont- les-Autels where she rests in peace. Servane was a visionary, a universalist and a humanist. As an historian, Servane had learned from past centuries to consider how to build for the centuries to come. Like Pierre Firmin-Didot and her husband Jean de Mathéus who had created Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde, Servane pursued the dream of increasing the influence of Notre-Dame de Chartres beyond the borders of France and Europe. In 2005 that dream became reality. All it took was crossing the Atlantic with her husband Jean, her irresistible power of conviction and a lunch in New York with Monika Riely. Thus was born the association American Friends of Chartres, the sister organization of Chartres, sanctuary of the world, as we like to say. Servane became the president of Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde in 2000, and for the next 20 years, she led the organization with remarkable vision, stamina and innovation, even as she battled cancer.

Servane's life epitomized love, universal friendship and Peace. Visits for AFC donors were ecumenical meetings of Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, atheists and many others. She welcomed all, regardless of their beliefs. The most recent event was organized by our two associations in honor of Eugene Schulz, a WWII American veteran who was awarded the Legion of Honor and participated in the liberation of Chartres and Lèves. Despite her fatigue, Servane pronounced poetic words of welcome, in English. Until the end, Servane dedicated her energy to the conservation of Notre-Dame de Chartres. She believed in passing the torch of "Cathedral Builders" who span centuries, cultures and beliefs. In the words of Monika Riely, AFC's founder and first President: **"The light Servane created for Chartres in the United States will never be extinguished."** We will miss her, yet she remains our source of inspiration. We will continue her work and conserve her legacy.



Magdalene Window, South nave (Panel 19)

Notre-dame de Chartres Cathedral. Courtesy J. Geoffrion

Monsieur Jean-François Lagier has become the new president of Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde. Jean-François is a long-time friend of AFC. He was one of the



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co-founders of CSM and served as its Secretary General. He is also the Director of the International Stained-Glass Center in Chartres.

The conservation works of Notre-Dame de Chartres have resumed.

In July 2020, construction for a new presentation of the Treasury in the St Piat Chapel, has started. This includes the restoration of the two levels of the chapel, setting the restored stained-glass windows, and installing museology elements. The works are to be completed in the spring of 2022. The statue-columns restored with the financial contribution of American Friends of Chartres will be permanently exhibited in the chapel's lower level.

Outside of the cathedral, leading to the St Piat Chapel, markings will be installed in the pathway leading to the St Piat Chapel. The names of major donors and associations such as American Friends of Chartres and Chartres, sanctuaire du Monde will be inscribed in the markings.

In early 2021, the restoration of the Transept is scheduled to begin. First, the restoration of the Southern Transept and, in 2022, the restoration of the Northern Transept. As mentioned in last year's newsletter, American Friends of Chartres has committed to finance the restoration of two Bay Windows (two lancets and a rose). This is the Story of St Anne (Bay 125), and representations of St Philip, St Andre, and St Jude (Bay 117).

Looking forward to 2021!

With the pandemic, we have not been able to continue our program of conferences accompanying the film:

Chartres, Light Reborn! in the US. Nevertheless, several of our members have been active in promoting Chartres. AFC co-sponsored two lectures in Iowa City by one of our advisers, Michael Klug. Chartres was prominently featured in the fascinating stories of these lectures. You can view the first lecture at the following link (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6F9P_gQNs4&feature=youtu.be); we will inform you when the link to the second lecture is available. Jill Geoffrion, also an adviser to AFC, wrote marvelous pieces on her blog (<https://praywithjillgeoffrion.wordpress.com/2020/06/04/murder/>) where she finds inspiration and hope to cope with the human losses of the pandemic. I could cite many other examples of wonderful contributions by all our donors and members. Thanks to all who sent messages enquiring about our friends and families in France, which, as you know, has been very severely hit by the pandemic.

As we prepare for 2021, we are working on developing a few virtual programs in the first half of the year, and hopefully, we will be able to resume internal travel in the US to continue sharing the radiance of Notre-Dame de Chartres. Perhaps, by summer we will be able to resume visits to Chartres. Do let us know if you have plans to go or would like us to help you plan a visit or a donors' trip.

Thanks to you: Our Fundraising was well sustained throughout the year!

We reached our goal of raising the funds (\$87,500) between October 1 2019 and December 1, 2020 to be matched by the first installment from our generous donor and Board adviser, Madeline Caviness. **Thank you all for your continued generosity.** These funds are exclusively for the restoration of the stained-glass windows in the transept. The target date for the second

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tranche of this matching donation is December 1, 2021.
Please consider being part of this extraordinary opportunity to have your donation matched.

Some news on tax incentives: Under the CARES Act, taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions will be able to claim a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations made in 2020. This means that you could add an additional \$300 to your charity budget this year, recover a portion of it in tax savings, and help charities address extraordinary current needs. Checks can be sent to Friends of Chartres, P.O. Box 5921, Washington D.C. 20016. You can also donate via PayPal (*see the steps below*). We apologize that our website is not operational for the time being. We now also accept donations of stocks. We have set up an account with Raymond James (DTC #0725). If you wish to receive further information and the account number, kindly send us an email at friendsofchartres@yahoo.org, and please include your phone number.

We extend our sincere wishes for Peace and health for all of you, your families and friends, in 2021!

Dominique Lallement,
President

Steps to donate via PayPal directly:

1. Log into your PayPal account at <https://www.paypal.com/us/signin>
2. Type in your credentials: email address or phone number, followed by password on next page
3. Home screen will greet you with your name (Good morning, name, etc.)

4. On this page click on "Send" in upper right-hand corner of the screen
5. Type friendsofchartres@yahoo.com in the box under the word "Send"
6. Follow the instructions from there



Servane de Layre Mathéus in Chartres

May Notre-Dame de Chartres continue to inspire us to strive for a peaceful world and harmony among all people.