



## MINUTES FOR QUARTERLY OFFICERS' AND MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

**Attendees:** Pascal Guillotin, Henri Dubarry, Thomas Santamaria, Jean LeRouzic, Gérard Drouet, Angel Sanay, Jean F. Claude, Yves Busnel, Joanne Lewin-Jacus, Jacques Coustar, Susan Liffrieri-Lowry, Gérard Vidal, André Moisan, Louise Hoffman, Nduvoakim Abdus-Salaam, Jean-Michel Bournot, Jean-Claude Blazy, Cynthia Keller, Claude Godard, Dominick Cerrone, Kate Wayler, Alain Quirin, Karim Helmer, Maurice Bonté, Kate Wayler, Jean-Louis Dumonet, Luc Holié, Michael Latour, Marc Ehrler, Joseph Boljonis, Thalia Pericles, Steve Walljasper, Anthony Arbeeney, Marc Sarrazin, Cedo Pavlovic

**Excused:**  
Bernard Malet-Dupont  
Pierre Baran

President Pascal Guillotin opened the meeting at **3:01pm**.

- **Pension:** The pension payment will be made on or about **January 12, 2021**.
- **Death Notice:** Henry Haller, Société Culinaire Philanthropique member since January 1961, passed away on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. He was born on January 10, 1923 in Altdorf-Uri, Switzerland. He is survived by his wife Carole. A moment of silence was observed. Bernard Launay's widow has announced that there will be two ceremonies for a memorial, potentially scheduled, given the pandemic. The first will be in February around the time of Bernard's birthday, in Pennsylvania. The second, she hopes to have in June in Manhattan.
- **Death Benefits:** Nothing to report.
- **Sickness Benefits:** Nothing to report.
- **Culinarian Home Foundation:** Jean Le Rouzic said all is well. Everyone at the Home is waiting for the vaccine, they will be one of the first ones to receive it. Jean said they are doing all they can to adhere to the guidelines set by the state for COVID-19.
- **Dinner Dance:** It was the decision to postpone the Dinner Dance.
- **Picnic:** The decision if the Picnic can be held will be made at a later date. The Home operates under a different set of rules. We need to comply with NYS and Department of Health Regulations. While there is a hope to stay optimistic, a decision will need to be made by May. Steve Walljasper added that the vaccine is getting out there slower than had been previously expected, and that as we are unaware at this time what conditions will be, it may be complicated to have the Picnic as scheduled. Perhaps it could be held with 50% attendance, but there will be strict regulations. We must hope for the best.

- **Newsletter:** The newsletter was e-mailed to all members on **January 4<sup>th</sup>** and the printed version will be mailed the week of **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
- **Report of the Chapters:**
  - NJ Chapter: Michael Latour is waiting for the State of NJ and the Governor to allow gatherings large enough to accommodate a chapter meeting.
  - LI Chapter: Nothing to report.
  - Florida Chapter: It was the decision of the Committee to postpone the annual dinner held in **January 2021** until **January of 2022** out of the concern for the members' safety and health. The next scheduled meeting will be **May of 2021**.
  - Mid-Hudson: Cynthia Keller explained they had a small gathering around Thanksgiving, with the topic of St. Hubert, Patron Saint of the Hunter. It was nice to see everyone over Zoom, and she looks forward to the next time they will meet.
- **Report by the Committee of French Speaking Societies:** Henri Dubarry said he had nothing to report.
- **Office:**
  - The Membership dues were e-mailed to **120** active members on **Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **Seventy-five** members have paid their dues so far.
  - **1099-R's** were mailed **January 5, 2021**.
  - Updating the Yearbook.
  - The Proof of Life Certificates have been mailed to **119** pensioned members. **Sixty-four** certificates have been received so far.
- **Report of the Cemeteries:** Nothing to report.
- **Report by Archivist:** Nothing to report.
- **Report of the Jules Weber Foundation:**
  - To date, **119** checks have been cashed and **63** members have sent notes of appreciation.
- **Condominium:** Work has begun on the ceiling in the main office. The ceiling has been opened up. Nick and a contractor came to survey the damage. Diane spoke with Alberto who was not up to speed on the repair work. He will talk to Javier Solis and give Diane an update.
- **Special Activities and Outings:** Nothing to report.

### **Members' Discussion:**

- Kate Wayler raised an objection to Karim Helmer's photo he had as his avatar, saying it was offensive, and asked if he could take it down.
- Henri Dubarry – All is okay.
- Marc Sarrazin – Wished everyone a Happy New Year, and said it was good to see everyone. He hopes it will be a better 2021 for us all.
- Anthony Arbeeney – He is still at the River Club. While it is tough times, everyone is trying to stay afloat. He misses having in person meetings with everyone, and he wishes everyone well.
- Jean LeRouzic – Wished everyone a Happy New Year, and said he hoped to be able to meet together soon. All is well at the Culinarian's Home in New Paltz.
- Thomas Santamaria – He wished the best for everyone, and a Happy New Year. He looks forward to meeting in person soon.

## **Members' Discussion continued:**

- Yves Busnel – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and good health to all. He looks forward to seeing everyone at the office soon.
- Jean-Michel Bournot – He was glad to see everyone over Zoom, and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He hopes that the year will get better for all. He said he was home now, but that he visited his son Christophe in California recently to help him move in. That Christophe and his wife are well. They are in Solvang, about 40 minutes from Santa Barbara, and that he hopes to visit them again in the spring, but that if they are happy, he is happy.
- Steve Walljasper – Steve said Happy New Year, and said that COVID-19 was destroying small businesses. He asked about the death of Kevin Kohler in New Jersey.
- Michael Latour – Spoke of Kevin Kohler's passing at 63 in Ramsey, NJ.
- Cynthia Keller – She said she was hoping for the best for everyone and that they stay in good health. She was eager to get the vaccine and see it widely circulated.
- Gerard Drouet – He hoped for a very good year for everyone, and good health as well. He said all is well for him, and he was just wishing for the vaccine.
- Jacques Coustar – Happy New Year. Wished everyone and their families good health.
- Nduvoakim Abdus-Salaam – Not much to report. Business is nothing right now. Daughter is crawling and standing up now.
- Dominic Cerrone – Hopes to see the same faces here next time. Suggested everyone cleans out their fridge to make something! Hold your ground and go forth.
- Joseph Boljonis – Happy New Year! Hope there are good changes in the new year and that we get through this terrible time.
- Maurice Bonté – Happy New Year! Good health to all, and success for businesses. Stay safe everyone and we hope to make it through this year.
- Joanne Lewin-Jacus – A safe, healthy, and happy New Year to all! We should all count our blessings.
- Susan Lifrieri-Lowry – Happy New Year! She is missing festivities, but knows we will make up for it soon. Stay safe everyone!
- Kate Wayler – Happy New Year! Happy to report that Kingsborough is running hybrid for the spring semester. They are not going back in full until September. Her boss said it felt weird, as it seems everything stopped on March 13. But there is still hope. There were no incidents in their department during the Fall, even though someone in the allied health department got COVID. She misses everyone.
- Louise Hoffman – Good to see everyone. These are creepy days. Nothing much is going on for her, but she is enjoying the sunshine and the hikes. So far, so good, and she hopes everyone has a healthy and happy New Year.
- Gerard Vidal – Happy New Year! All is well so far. Hope to see everyone soon!
- Marc Ehrler – Thank you to Pascal and the office for keeping everyone connected. He received the 150 years book. Hopes everyone has a safe and happy New Year. It had been an interesting experience over the past few days, as every hotel in DC was booked.
- Claude Godard – Happy, Healthy New Year! Lucky to be still working, but nothing to report otherwise.
- Karim Helmer – First time on Zoom, sorry about the avatar. They were trying to connect with a Chef in Los Angeles, but they don't have their current phone number. He hoped someone might pass it along. California was still in lockdown. He has put in 1,000 applications, but the job market is really bad. He is close to the border, and Los Angeles is worse than anywhere else at the moment.
- Jean-Claude Blazy – Still here. Happy New Year! Reported on members out of the country: Joseph Rahm sends his regards, Patrick Smet-Chevron sends his regards, François Ricaud's wife lives in a home and has a walker, but is doing okay, Mme. Pujol he spoke to at Christmas, Francis Lorenzini sends his regards, and Mme. Moumic is still in France, but she does not drive and there are not many people where she lives. Stay safe! Let us meet again in person soon!

- Jean-Louis Dumonet – Been lucky and fortunate. They lost the restaurant in Virginia, but is starting a new job in North Carolina. All is well. It is a very good year, and good luck to all. 2 big sponsors cannot make it to the yearly exhibition. Iowa will be much smaller this year. There are currently Zoom meetings on it, but there are no reservations as of yet.
- Thalia Pericles – Happy, healthy, blessed New Year! She is teaching again, and it is good to be back.
- Jean F. Claude – Everything is well in Florida. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Keep the faith, keep hope alive, hope 2021 will be better.
- Andre Moisan – Could not be unmuted for comment.
- Luc Holié – Happy New Year! Hopes to do better here this year. Must keep up with the business. He is very busy, but there are not too many customers. We will see what happens with this year. Nice to see everyone. Hope everything goes back to normal soon.
- Angel Sanay – Happy New Year! Hope 2021 will be a good year. Miss you guys. Business is closed, and nothing is going on at home, but he hopes to be open again soon.
- Alain Quirin – Happy New Year! Not much to report. His business is still open, and doing a little here and there. He is lucky, as most restaurants are suffering, so he is not complaining. He has two people, his best people, working right now, 4-5 days a week. He just became a Grandpa. The baby was 2 months early, but was doing well and was home now. They hadn't met yet due to COVID, but she must look like her Grandpa. To those struggling, the best of luck. Things will get better.
- President Pascal said we will continue having Zoom meetings into the future, and hopes to have in person meetings soon. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and New York is going to continue to be great!

The next **Officers' Zoom Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, February 4th at 3:00 pm.**

Mr. Guillotin asked if anyone had any comments.

Meeting was adjourned at **3:53pm**