

**MY PHILOSOPHY
ON
HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE GLOBAL CITIZEN**

BY VANESSA DEAS

I am an effective global citizen. I owe that status to my parents and to my education. My father is Scottish. My mother is French. National origin did not stop them from falling in love. My father, James Deas, was born in Glasgow, in West Central Scotland, and grew up in Scotland. He worked for Otis Elevator Company in Paris when he met my mother, Martine. Martine was born and grew up in Paris. Mom was a translator of English. Mom was 20 and Dad was 25 when they married. For me, a normal relationship consisted of a couple who were of distinct and different international origins. I was a product of their love. I spent the first _____ years of my life living with my parents in _____. Who my parents were and who they are lent their daughter, myself, a mindset that extended beyond parochial international boundaries.

During my childhood, I enjoyed learning to play the piano and to ride horses. Over time it became apparent to me that I had a facility for learning. I attended the Normale superieure before attending the Sciences -Po - Paris Institut National de Sciences, the intellectual breeding ground for future French presidents which gave me the tools to make my way anywhere in the world.

I speak six languages to a greater or lesser level of fluency. The three languages I have employed in my daily life and in three distinct countries are French, Spanish and English. While living in France, my primary language – but not my exclusive language – was French. English also was spoken by me extensively.

After I graduated from Sciences -Po - Paris Institut National de Sciences, I became employed in Marebella in Spain where I was called upon to speak multiple language in my role of manager of high end night clubs. It was in Marbella that I fine-tuned my skills in providing assistance, service and respect to people who expected to be treated with assistance, service and respect no matter who they were or where they were from.

Since the founding of my company, Amerifrance Invest in year 2012, my guiding principals have been:

1. Show no favoritism to anyone because of the person's national origins, ethnicity, or social status, but at the same time treat everyone as a special human being deserving of respect and understanding.
2. If I determine the first language spoken by the person whom I am serving, and if I speak that language, I will speak in that language. Sometimes people may be offended if I do that because they may think I am assuming that they are unable to speak another language, and they want me to know that they are capable of communicating capably in more than one language. In that situation, I use the language they want to use when

speaking with me, but there are moments in which they are more comfortable dealing with some aspects of their lives in the language of their birthright.

3. I do not try to impress others with my brilliance. I do not try to sell anybody on the notion that I invented the wheel. I try to find ways, without being patronizing, to show them that I am appreciative of aspects of their cultures and the accomplishments of those cultures and of themselves as individuals acting in history and current events so that they feel comfortable in their relationships with me.

4. I make sure that to the extent that there are transactional interactions with my clients which involve the transnational exchange of money, that there will be mechanisms for moving funds that are reliable and timely, and with back-up plans if Option A goes awry. And I do my due diligence so that I do not become an unwitting accomplice to questionable behavior.

5. When living in any country at any address, I make sure that I live in my community as an honest and courteous neighbor who cares about how others are getting along and if there are those who would benefit from my support as a friend, I provide it. It is in fact the Good Neighbor policy of an earlier time in the history of the United States. I studied the writings of Alexis de Toqueville about what is good and worth emulating about America, and I believe that today more than ever, whether at the personal level or at the level of national government, being a Good Neighbor is necessary to the ongoing existence of a civil society and that it is good for business.

My business, Amerifrance Invest, is the economic manifestation of my personal philosophy. [give examples]

Yes, I am French. I believe in Liberté, égalité, fraternité. But I also admire much that is good in America. In the spirit of De Toqueville, I also find inspiration in these words: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.-*

These beliefs, these guideposts and their observance, are why I am an effective Global Citizen.

Love,

Vanessa