Welcome to the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs, celebrating our 15th year in Southwest Florida. Imagine, though, if you will, that the first French to step on the soil of the Florida Peninsula was in 1562! And while our Alliance Chapter celebrates a 15th birthday, France’s presence here began on April 30th of the year 1562 a 453rd birthday to celebrate.

In cooperation with the Florida Department of State’s Division of Historical Resources, the Consulate General of France in Miami, the France Florida Foundation for the Arts, and a bevy of scholars, graphic designers, authors and editors, the birth of the Florida French Heritage Trail was delivered in print this past Autumn. Artist Paul Arsenault, a member of our chapter, has several wonderful illustrations in the book, and to celebrate the Cultural Arts of France, we were able to present an opening program for the ArtsNaples World Festival at Arsenault Gallery on April 28th.

Members: are you missing announcements because your e-mail address has changed?

Please bring us up to date by sending your current e-mail address to our new email address:

lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org

and to the attention of Jean-Loup du Chéné. Thank you!

Phone Number: (239) 592-1735

and for update our website address:

http://www.afbonitasprings.org
On January 26, 2014, The Alliance Française de Bonita Springs took a bus trip to visit the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. Our chartered bus left Naples at 7:30 a.m. and returned at 5:30 p.m. The museum had a special exhibit showing how Dali and Picasso influenced each other's work.

The Dali Museum opened in 2011 and the building, overlooking the bay, is a work of art in itself. The building seems to be anchored in giant boulders on the outside. On the inside a spiral staircase reaches to the upper galleries like a sail reaching up to catch the wind. Viewing this exhibit made it clear how great artists rarely create their works in a vacuum.

They inspire and challenge each other. As a result, it was easy to see the symbiotic relationship these two artists had in terms of themes, technique, color, and abstraction.

We had a relaxing lunch, and the discussions at the luncheon tables were alive as we shared our reactions to the exhibit and the museum building. All the attendees pronounced the trip a huge success as a result of the uniqueness of this special exhibit and this very special museum building.

On a four star rating system this trip got at least ten stars!!

Robert and Coby Simerly
Hélène Gaillet de Neergard introduced her book, *I Was a War Child*, to the members of the Alliance Française on February 12th, at our monthly luncheon. Three years in the writing, Hélène recounted the misery of the Gaillet Family during the years of Occupation in France, 1940-1946. She also recounted the ups and downs of the effort to seek a publisher and it is clear that she deserves admiration for her efforts which have led to great success.

Bravo Hélène!

Obituaries

*Gina Klym’s* passing was met with sorrow as we will always remember her as our very chic Italian model for all our fashion shows and for her adorable accent. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband, Richard.

The Alliance Française bids a sad farewell to *Geneviève and Walter Galliford*, longtime friends and supporters of our club.

Their marriage of 66 years was a true love story, their passing so close together a measure of their devotion. We will miss their presence among us and send our most sincere condolences to their family.
The Alliance Française welcomed Dr. Francis Peel back to the podium for the third time to give us his view of the issues facing France today. Under the title Can France Change? Will France Change? He discussed the serious challenges facing the country specifically on the heels of the Charlie Hebdo affair. Shifts in the conservative support are evident with the rise of Marine Le Pen and also the growth of support for the UMP or conservative party with Nicolas Sarkozy making a return to the political scene. Articles are abundant with respect to the ever growing Muslim population in France and more specifically the percentage of young people who are jobless and face few, if any, prospects. These are surely challenges that France faces today and so Dr. Peel’s question, “can France change” is certainly right on target.
Life and Death in 18th C. Paris

Our April 8th Rendez-Vous hosted Dr. Jeffrey Merrick, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. A scholar of French History, he informed and amused us with tales of life and death in Paris in the 18th Century. While the word “amusement” seems an odd fit, the political shenanigans to avoid taxation, or the declaration of insanity being the cause of death for a victim of suicide, thus allowing religious burial, all opened our eyes to some of the oddities of life in those times. His talk was well received.

Appel à solidarité pour l’Alliance Française de Katmandou

Notre Alliance a décidé, réponse à l’appel de la maison mère de Paris, de faire un don de $200 pour l’Alliance Française de Katmandou. Les pertes, à la suite du tremblement de terre, sont estimées à €43.500.

Si vous voulez aussi envoyer quelques €uros/Dollars, voici l’adresse:

Solidarité Katmandou : IBAN 3056 8199 0400 0219 5992 034
Banque Transatlantique
26, avenue Franklin Delano Roosevelt
75008 PARIS
FRANCE
75 Francophones/Francophiles settled into the Arsenault Gallery while Paul and Eileen Arsenault took the audience for a walk through the Centuries of French presence in Florida. From 1562 to the present day, Paul’s paintings illustrated the sites in Florida that were filled with historical French presences.

Guests of honor, M. Philippe Letrilliart, Consul General of France in Miami, and his wife, Valerie, were there to enjoy the opening of the ArtsNaples World Festival, 10 days of celebrating France.

The audience then moved to Le Lafayette for a wonderful dinner to conclude the evening.
Alliance Française Euro Book Club

The Euroreview of Contemporary European Literature

Based on the great success of the European Book Clubs at the Alliances Françaises in Washington and New York, our Alliance chapter here in Bonita Springs is pleased to offer our membership the opportunity to discover literature currently being read and discussed in Europe. The books chosen will offer the chance to read from the contemporary authors that have made their mark in the countries of the European Community, thus revealing new talents and trends in the latest best sellers. Many of the works we read relate to France and the francophone community worldwide.

Ours is a truly bilingual book club. During alternate months, we read a literary work that has been written in either French (one month) or English (the following month). Many of these selections are available in translation for those members whose French may still be a "work in progress". Members are free to contribute to the discussion in whichever language they feel more comfortable. However, when we read in French, the presentation and discussion are principally in French, and when we read in English, our conversations are primarily in English. We are committed to the belief that members' understanding of European and world issues, as well as their second language skills, can be strengthened by reading with us and participating in our monthly discussions.

The book club meets for an hour each from November through May (with no meeting in December) immediately following the Alliance Française luncheon meeting. We welcome suggestions for books to read from our members, as well as from the book clubs of other chapters of the Alliance. Additionally, we welcome everyone to participate in the discussions and encourage members to take turns volunteering to present a literary work at our meetings.

We will meet after the luncheon, at Pelican Marsh Golf Club, led by Lois-Ann Folliard

The Book Club met yesterday following our luncheon to discuss « L’Étrange Voyage de Monsieur Daldry ». All agreed that the characters, coming somewhat late in life to the ultimate romance, had issues that had persuaded them to be cautious in recognizing this emotional attraction. Michele Scher gave a convincing review of the book and cited Charles Aznavour’s recognition of author Marc Levy’s coverage of the Armenian Genocide which featured in the novel. Members are sending suggestions for summer and next season reading to Lois Ann Folliard. If you wish to join the book club, please get in touch with Lois Ann at Lafolliard@gmail.com, or check our web site: http://www.afbonitasprings.org
Notre Chapitre a remis deux bourses cette année : la première le 12 Mars au Congrès de la Culture Française à Orlando.

Le gagnant de notre bourse de $500 est un jeune homme, Jaume Molins de « Ronald Reagan Doral High School ». Il était le second meilleur étudiant au Congrès.

Comme d’habitude nous avons également donné notre bourse de $300 au meilleur étudiant de français de la « Community School of Naples ».

Cette année la gagnante est Kate Golden, elle va continuer ses études de français, l’année prochaine à « Holy Cross Collège ».

**Nos Professeurs de Français**

- Florence Barrillon- Pomes was born and educated in Paris and did her studies in Law and Political Science. She joined the United Nations in Geneva followed by a transfer to the UN in New York where her career spanned 30 years and sharpened her many linguistic skills. Moving to Bonita Springs 14 years ago, she has been teaching French for our Alliance Française for the last 12 years.

- Marie-Noelle Dubedout-Bases was born in Paris and raised in Versailles. She relocated to the U.S. and received her Master’s Degree in Education from Hunter College in New York City, where she taught both French and English as a Second Language. She also taught in Westchester County before moving to Naples in 2004. For the past eight years she has been teaching French privately.

- Caroline Adelis-Ferrari was born and raised in Paris. She received her Master’s Degree in Psychology at Paris X before relocating to Milan, Italy, and then to New York (NY) and Greenwich (CT) where she began teaching French at Inlingua in Manhattan and then also taught at the Alliance Française of Greenwich. She moved to Naples in 2009 and has been teaching “Home Schooled Children” since 2010.
NOS CLASSES DE FRANÇAIS

Level One, Beginners: Professor: Marie-Noëlle Bases
Level Two, Advanced Beginners: Professor: Marie-Noëlle Bases
Level Three, Intermediate: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes, Marie-Noëlle Bases and Caroline Ferrari
Level Four, Advanced: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes
Level Five, Advanced Plus: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes
Immersion Courses: Caroline Ferrari

We will also offer a course in French History and a special course about “Les Reines et Les Favorites de France” with Florence.

Classes are of 8 consecutive weeks $175, 1½ hour weekly.
Private class: 1 hr $45  Semi private class: 1 hr [2 people] $25 each

Classes must be taken consecutively

Our office, where all classes are held, is located at 11983 Tamiami Trail N. [US 41] Room 136.

« COME JOIN US FOR A BREATH OF FRENCH AIR »
« OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN YEAR ROUND AND OUR TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE »

Our classes are offered at all levels and are taught only by Native French Speakers.
We follow the suggested curriculum of the Alliance Française de Paris, part of a Worldwide Network supporting French Language and Culture.

« WE HAVE A CLASS FOR YOU »
You must be a member of the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs to join our classes.

Student fee is $15 for he first year, $35 thereafter.
For information, please call Bill Weidenfeller: (239) 304-9220

Contact us at: lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org
or visit our web site at: http://www.afbonitasprings.org
AGENDA

Please, for more information, check our Website:

http://www.afbonitasprings.org

BOOK CLUB

If you are interested in joining us, please call Lois-Ann Folliard at: 201-592-9832, for details.