

LE MESSENGER



Alliance Française de Bonita Springs

Issue 37

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LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

The Federation of Alliances Françaises USA Invites You To:

Meet Us In Louisville, October 2011



L'Alliance Française de Louisville is honored and excited to announce that the *Fédération des Alliances Françaises* 2011 Convention and Annual Meeting will take place at the famed Brown Hotel in historic downtown Louisville, October 27-30, 2011.

Settled in the Ohio River Valley, in 1778, Louisville, Kentucky has long been a hotbed for growth in trade and industry for locals as well as immigrants throughout its 230-plus year history. Louisville, a longtime hub for industry shipping, has nurtured its role as ambassador to far away people and places, eventually

accepting an extraordinary gift and modern day fixture in the heart of downtown Louisville from its first sister city, Montpellier, France in 1967: the landmark statue of the city's namesake and America's ally in the Revolution, King Louis XVI. Currently enjoying company with eight sister cities around the world, including a nearly century long tradition of francophone endorsement with its own chapter of the Alliance Française, Louisville proudly continues to embrace the custom as ambassador to countries far and wide.

The highlighted Ambassador's luncheon will be held in the Crystal Ballroom of the Brown Hotel. In addition to an exciting agenda of workshops and networking with other AF colleagues from around the country, attendees will enjoy being guests to attractions such as the Fall Meet at landmark Churchill Downs Thoroughbred Racetrack, home of the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Derby Museum; and the Kentucky Center for the Arts. Whether you prefer indulging in relaxation outside the convention itinerary or site seeing the foundations and growth of our dynamic city, our contemporary, vibrant, and eclectic dining scene, extensive parks system, and scenic bike riding circuit will round out your stay. For further information, please visit our website at: www.afusa.org.

Mimi Gregory

Editor Colette Deviterne (colettedeviterne@embarqmail.com)

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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>

Le Rendez-Vous du 12 Janvier 2011

Questions pour des Champions & Galette des Rois



Our 2011 season began with a wonderful luncheon at Pelican Marsh Golf Club. Some 68 members of the Alliance were in attendance.

We were especially honored to have *Mr. Jean-François Chenin, Délégué Général des Alliances Françaises USA*, and *Mme. Muriel Piquet-Viaux, Déléguée Pédagogique* join us for the event. Head Chef Marv Messenger of Pelican Marsh presented a superb selection of choices to tease our palates including a *Nicçoise Salad, Artisan Breads, Chicken Fricassée with Tarragon*, and a unique *Hawaiian Sunfish à la française with lemon butter sauce*. As a special, seasonal treat he presented a marvelous *galette des Rois as a dessert. Following the custom observed by some, he provided two cakes, one for men and one for the ladies (gâteau Reine)*. Chef Messenger further accentuated the ladies treat by garnishing the *gâteau Reine* with delectable fresh strawberries, while also placing



yummy chocolate covered strawberries alongside, for their choosing.

Les Questions Pour des Champions provided a highlight of the luncheon. The questions were challenging, ranging from “*Who was the architect of the gardens at Versailles?*” to “*What exactly is the "droit du seigneur" ?* All of the tables did quite well in preparing answers, but table 9 earned top honors, scoring 18 out of a possible 20 points.

We look forward the next luncheon, which will be held on February 9th.

Dennis Constant



LA FAYETTE CIRCLE

Vincent Bolloré
Arnaud et Béatrice Bordalis
Carole Crosby
Charles et Colette Deviterne
Walter & Geneviève Galliford
Peter & Mimi Gregory
Michel & Nicole Heck-Deviterne
Richard & Gina Klym
Maître Bernard Laprie
George & Madeleine Michaels
Joëlle Rossano
Régis & Michelle Sanson
Joan Stonecipher
David Thoms

Wayne & Darlene Williams

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Leighton & Aileen Hardey
Robert & Karin Holmes
Joanne Jacobs

Myron & Rowena Kratzer

Josef & Susanne Kuhn

Al & Catherine Rapuano

Margaret Ridge

Dag & Michèle Scher

Helmut & Hedi Simon

Paul Sinesi

Annick & Douglas Stiefel-Werner

Gérard & Ursula Swart

Bill Weidenfeller

Anne Weill Weinberg

John & Leonor Wleugel

Le Rendez-Vous du 9 Février 2011

14 Juillet à St Pierre et Miquelon by Margaret Lang et Eugene Burke



How fortunate the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs has been this past season with such wide ranging programs as were presented in February and March of this Spring.

Beginning with their summer travels of 2010, Margaret Lang and Eugene Burke took us on a visit to the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, France's smallest colonial territory. Cheerful, colorful cottages and houses dot this major fishery on the Grand Banks which was developed more than 500 years ago. French merchants from St. Malo settled there in the late 17th Century.

Margaret and Eugene shared their images with us from these islands which were baptized the "Eleven Thousand Virgins" originally and were later named St. Pierre by Jacques Cartier, and Miquelon by the Basques.

They shared in island events and festivities, including dense fogs and rough seas, and were forced, on the day of departure, to travel in a small speedboat when the regular ferry service was "hors de service". In spite of that, and a bit of "mal de mer" they left us with memories of a good time had by all.

Mimi Gregory

Le Rendez-Vous du 9 Mars 2011

Assemblée Générale et Speech de Monsieur Abdul Sharif sur son séjour à Kandahar



C'est avec grand plaisir que quatre-vingt membres de l'Alliance Française se sont retrouvés pour le Rendez-Vous du 9 Mars 2011.

Nous avons commencé par notre réunion annuelle pour faire le bilan de l'année passée. Après quoi, nous avons procédé à l'élection de deux nouveaux

membres du comité de direction:

Docteur Ehsanollah Afshani et Marie-Noëlle Bases.

Nous avons apprécié un repas toujours très convivial suivi d'une conférence donnée par Monsieur Abdul Sharif, membre du Naples Council on World Affairs, qui nous a longuement parlé de son voyage en Afghanistan et a Kandahar en particulier. En tant qu'ingénieur d'origine Afghane, il avait été invité récemment par le président Hamid Karsai. Parlant les langues officielles: Pashto et Dari et ayant comme cousin le maire de Kandahar, ses entretiens et son rapport avec les autorités afghanes avaient été facilités.

Il nous a confirmé que l'arrivée de l'armée

Américaine, il y a dix ans déjà, avait été accueillie très chaleureusement par la population, très éprouvée par l'emprise des Talibans. Sur place, il a pu constater une nette amélioration dans la vie quotidienne (routes, écoles, barrages, puits et commerces) mais il nous a bien laissé entendre que des années de guerre et de corruption avaient laissé des générations d'Afghans analphabètes et désemparés.

Monsieur Sharif a évoqué l'importance du maintien de l'armée Américaine qui forme aussi rapidement que possible l'armée Afghane qui, espérons le, prendra aussi rapidement que possible la relève; sinon, cela créerait un vide politique propice au terrorisme.

En conclusion, il a rendu hommage à la bravoure des soldats américains et il a reconnu que, sans l'énorme aide financière des États-Unis, la reconstruction de son pays natal ne serait possible.

Marie-Noëlle Bases

NOS CLASSES DE FRANÇAIS

Level One, Beginners: Professor: Denise Hale

Level Two, Advanced Beginners: Professor: Denise Hale

Level Three, Intermediate: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

Level Four, Advanced: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

Level Five, Advanced Plus: Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

French Conversation: Professors: Florence Barrillon Pomes, Denise Hale

Children's Classes, all levels : Professor: Caroline Ferrari

Day and evening classes at all levels. Classes may be tailored to students specific needs. Private, Semi-private. Discussion groups, Literary circle, French film review, Travelers French and classes for children are available. A minimum of three students required in each class.

Classes are of **8 consecutive** weeks \$: 165, 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.

Clementine has drawn a little map for you below

« 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 : lovehfrench@afbonitasprings.org

or visit our web site at: <http://www.afbonitasprings.org>

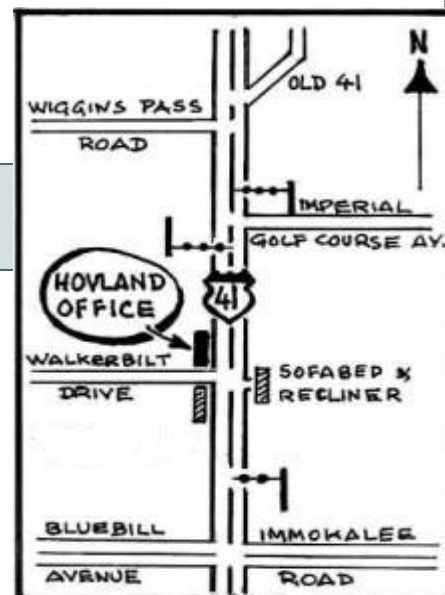
Nous vous rappelons que + de 150 livres d'auteurs français contemporains sont gratuitement à la disposition de nos membres à notre Bibliothèque située dans notre salle de classe dont l'adresse est ci-dessous avec le plan.

Clémentine heard that you were having trouble locating our Office/ Classroom/Library. Here his a little map to help you : →→→→→

We are located on US 41, 1,3 mile North of Pelican Marsh, exit on 41 and 0,5 mile North of Immokalee Road. We are on the left side of 41 as you are heading North, just after the yellow blinkers.

11983 Tamiami Trail North (US 41) Room 136

(Entry to parking from Walkerbilt Drive)



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 joined this trend, offering our membership the opportunity to discover what is happening in European literature today.

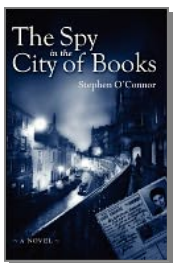
The books chosen offer the chance to read from contemporary authors that have made their mark in the countries of the European Community; thus revealing new talents and trends in the latest best sellers.

The books are all read in their English translation and will be discussed at a monthly meeting. In offering this new project, the Alliance opens the door to members whose French may still be a "works in progress", but their interest in Europe can be embellished by these literary works.

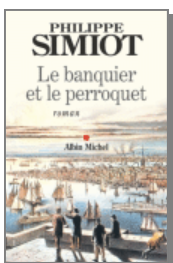
During the past season, our book club members met for an hour or more, once per month, to critique the chosen book. We settled into a solid group of 10 and suggestions were made by members and other Alliances with book clubs. Everyone participated in the discussion and opinions, and each person was encouraged to present a book. With our first season behind us, we will meet at the Conference Room of The Hovland Building, where our A-F Office is located, 11983 Tamiami Trail NO, on **November 17th, 2011 at 4 PM** and the book that has been chosen is: « **The Spy in the City of Books** » By Stephen O'Connor.

In **January 2012** we will continue with « **Le Banquier et le Perroquet** » by Philippe Simiot
[in french]

Susanne Kuhn



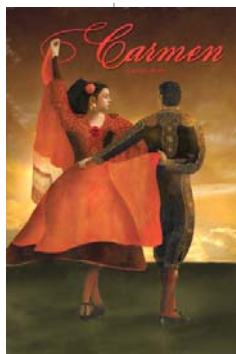
- The past has caught up with Martin LeBris. During World War II, he served the Office of Strategic Services as a spy and saboteur in Lyon, France. Nearly sixty years later, Lowell cop Gerry O'Neil is trying to unravel the mystery of why an assassin is stalking LeBris. The answer to that question lies buried in the dark days of Nazi Occupation, and in the unforgiving memory of The Spy in the City of Books.



- Capitaine d'un navire pourchassé par les Anglais, le Bordelais Etienne Girard trouve refuge à Philadelphie le 4 Juillet 1776, jour de la Déclaration d'indépendance des treize Etats d'Amérique. Trente ans plus tard, il est l'homme le plus riche des Etats Unis ? Devenu armateur, il commerce de l'Alaska à la Chine, rachète la Banque des Etats Unis et finance la guerre de 1812 contre l'Angleterre. Cette incroyable fortune, il la doit autant à son travail acharné qu'à sa vision originale du commerce nourrie de la philosophie des Lumières. Homme singulier et attachant, Etienne devenu Stephen Girard, incarne ce rêve de puissance qu'aucune multinationale ne peut revendiquer. Solitaire mais sachant s'entourer de fidèles, le vrai compagnon de sa vie sera pourtant un perroquet, Macao, don't le cri de guerre est: "Au Travail!!".

15 Février 2011 : « CARMEN »

Twenty members of our Alliance Française spent a pleasant **Sunday** afternoon in February watching the Opera Naples presentation of George Bizet's "Carmen". Held in the splendid auditorium of Gulf Coast High School, we were treated to a professional presentation of this legendary opera, and including the local talent that Opera Naples is so fortunate



to have as part of their repertoire. Many of the group then repaired to McCormick and Schmick at the Mercato for a wonderful post-opera dinner: great food, fine wines and much good company.

A pleasant interlude in mid-season.



6 Avril 2011 Visite à MacDill Central Command

In an early morning departure from Naples, in two vans chauffeured by Peter Gregory and Bill Weidenfeller, members of the A-F headed to Tampa and MacDill Air Force Base for a rendezvous with the French detachment at "Central Command".

We were met by Colonel Thierry Dussutour at the main gate, where he vouched for our "good citizen" rating and, passports all duly inspected, we were led to the Officer's Club and our meeting with Admiral Patrick Martin, Senior National Representative of the France at MacDill. Joining him were Colonel Nicholas Jung of the French Air Force and Chief Petty Officer Celine Henry.

Headed by Marine General James Mattis, there are 15 thousand personnel that work on the base: 5500 of whom comprise the military portion of Central Command [CENTCOM] and Special Operations Command [SOCOM].

Admiral Martin gave us a very thorough briefing: the area of responsibility covers 20 countries, 530 million people, 4 major religions, 18 major languages, and 22 ethnic groups. Central Command covers the countries of Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain [which hosts our two US Naval Bases] all of the



"Stans" and the balance of the Middle East with the exception of Israel and Palestine who are part of "Special Operations". Perhaps "herding cats" is really easier.

CENTCOM covers the most energy rich region of the world with 64% of the world's petroleum, and 46% of natural gas. Piracy is a huge problem, as is the vulnerability of all infrastructure, sea lanes for passage, arms smuggling and human trafficking.

France's presence in Afghanistan comprises 23,000 troops stationed with the US 101st Airborne Division. Admiral Martin described the major objective of their presence, is to assure no safe haven for Al Qaeda, to reverse the Taliban's momentum, and to strengthen the Afghanis' capacity

for self rule. A "patient" presenter, Admiral Martin took all our questions in stride and we adjourned for lunch at the officer's Club where the « cuisine » was just a cut above school days, but we were indeed very nourished by all the wonderful information we learned during our briefing! A big thank you to the French detachment one and all.

Mimi Gregory

Le Rendez-Vous du 11 Mai 2011

Pour notre dernier « Rendez-Vous » de la saison, nous étions une bonne quarantaine de fidèles : « Snow Birds » pas encore envolés vers des régions moins torrides, résidents permanents condamnés à subir la douceur des plages quasiment désertes et de la mer chaude..... les tables toujours disponibles dans les restaurants sans réservation préalable.....la circulation sans embouteillage.....

Le Paradis pour certains, l'Enfer pour d'autres.....

Afin de tester les progrès en français des anglophones d'entre nous et de mesurer le niveau de culture américaine des francophones, Mimi avait organisé un jeu dans lequel les questions, posées en français, devaient conduire à trouver comme réponses des expressions américaines.

Chaque table jouait contre toutes les autres; la table ayant le plus de réponses justes serait déclarée gagnante, chacun de ses membres recevant en cadeau un bon pour un verre de vin au déjeuner d'Octobre. Pas si facile que ça, le jeu.

Un exemple :

Q : *Une expression qui fait référence à une longue période d'attente pour qu'une personne soit forcée de rentrer au « bercail ».*

R : "TILL THE COWS COME HOME"

Le premier moment de surprise passé, les réponses justes se sont avérées nombreuses. Deux tables (16 personnes) sont arrivées en tête ex aequo.

Félicitations aux gagnants !

BON ÉTÉ À TOUS !!

C. Deviterne



A world leader in teaching French to adults, the Alliance Française applies its expertise to Children's classes.

Leading Alliance chapters in the United States teamed up with French experts to design French curricula and activities specifically catered to the needs and interests of little and not so little ones.

Whereas most programs rely on repetitive workshops with limited material, the Alliance Française offers children the possibility of evolving through complete beginners to advance levels for each of 4 age groups. Unlimited options are yours to discover, so you can shape your child's experience with the help of true specialists.

Striking the balance between fun and serious, the extensive [program](#) offers rigorous academic objectives while entertaining children with games, activities and what the Alliance is probably the most famous for... cultural immersion.

Smart Steps is now taught at our Alliance Française by Professor Caroline Ferrari



Alliance Française
de Bonita Springs

Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



RETURN ADDRESS

P.O.Box 1511
Bonita Springs
FL. 34133

Affix address label

REMEMBER

14 Juillet
10 Août
14 Septembre
13 Octobre
10 Novembre
8 Décembre
☎(239) 592-1735

AGENDA

SUMMER TIME !

Jeudi 14 Juillet : @ Noon Déjeuner à La Playa Beach Club

Mercredi 10 Août : @ 6 P.M. Dîner Chez Bleu Provence

Mercredi 14 Septembre : @ 6 P.M. Dîner chez Bleu Provence

A REMINDER:

As noted this past February, the Pelican Marsh Golf Club has asked us to change our luncheons to the second THURSDAY of each month, beginning in October.

Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Jeudi 13 Octobre : at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

Jeudi 10 Novembre : at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

Jeudi 8 Décembre : at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

BOOK CLUB

If you are interested in joining us, please call Susanne Kuhn at : 239-566-8561, for details.