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## LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

### L'Assemblée Générale de la Fédération,

**11 - 14 Octobre; 2012. Venez vous joindre à nous!**



*Downtown Providence by night*

Looking ahead, we will congregate in New England in Autumn. Our Assemblée Générale will be in Providence, Rhode Island, and we will be hosted by the local chapter and its President Dominique Gregoire, who is also a Board Member of the Federation. There cannot be a more beautiful time to be in the Northeast where the Autumn colors dress the trees and the possible warmth of an Indian Summer day may greet us.

Plans are being confirmed to hold the meeting at the Westin Hotel, in the middle of downtown, giving all of us a perfect central location. Don't forget that Providence played a significant role in the history of our American Revolution and Rochambeau, Commander in Chief of the French Expeditionary Force, and his troops were billeted at an encampment site on the grounds of what is, today, Brown University.

It is never too early to start planning for workshops, speakers and our « One Book One Federation », so send us your thoughts and suggestions as we begin to look ahead to October 11-14, 2012.

À bientôt,

*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](mailto: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 2012

### *Galette des Rois & Questions pour des Champions*

As always, our January luncheon was a celebration of Epiphany with "Les Galettes du Roi" and the crowning of our "Roi", Dag Scher, and our "Reine" Catherine Rapuano, a handsome couple to be sure. Marie Noelle Bases supplied les "feves" which her Mother had so thoughtfully sent from France. After the crowning, our table teams [87 members present] went to work on the "Questions for the Champions" the annual game that we hope provokes all our memories with questions relating to French events, places or people that contributed to history.



This year we tried to test the memories of our French members with questions tied to Americans whose presence and/or contributions to France were significant.

Armed with gifts for the winners of something sweet, alas there was no winner this year and even the questions for tied scores could not break the impasse. As to the gifts of chocolate, who can say whether they will last until next year or may have already been unable to resist the temptation at hand!



The Alliance Francaise expresses its sorrow over the loss of two members this Spring. **Dr. Michel Rosen**, former Honorary Consul to Senegal in Boston and a friend of more than 25 years, died suddenly in March. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Naomi, and their family.

#### LA FAYETTE CIRCLE

Vincent Bolloré  
Arnaud et Béatrice Bordalis  
Carole Crosby  
Charles et Colette Deviterne  
Deborah Esayian  
Walter & Geneviève Galliford  
Peter & Mimi Gregory  
Michel & Nicole Heck-Deviterne  
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Ronald & Pamela Weiss-Sutton

Anne H. Well

John & Leonor Wleugel

## Le Rendez-Vous du 9 Février 2012

### VICTOR HUGO

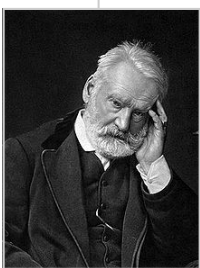
Sa forte personnalité et sa vie mouvementée, vues à travers son œuvre, particulièrement sa poésie.

Speaker: **Catherine Rapuano**

Un grand nombre d'entre nous, soixante-dix en tout, avons eu à nouveau le plaisir de nous retrouver pour notre déjeuner mensuel du 9 février. Comme d'habitude, nous avons dégusté des plats français tel que le veau à la provençale ou bien encore du poulet à la moutarde de Dijon et des petits fours qui, si bons, ont vite disparu.

Après quoi, Catherine Rapuano, membre de notre chapitre, nous a présenté un excellent exposé sur la vie de Victor Hugo. Déjà ambitieux à un jeune âge, il écrivait: "Je veux être Chateaubriand". Nous savions déjà qu'il était un poète, un dessinateur (avec plus de 4000 dessins), un dramaturge et un prosateur romantique considéré comme l'un des plus importants écrivains de langue française. Cependant nous avons appris qu'il était une personnalité politique et un intellectuel engagé (membre de l'Académie Française), qui a beaucoup compté dans l'Histoire du XIXème siècle. Ses deux plus grands romans ont, bien sûr, été " Notre Dame de Paris"(1831) et "Les Misérables "(1862).

Très impliqué dans la politique, passant d'une philosophie royaliste à une républicaine, son opposition à Napoléon III l'a conduit à s'exiler en Belgique et ensuite vers les îles britanniques de Jersey et Guernesey. Il a parlé avec véhémence contre la peine de mort et l'injustice sociale. Il était en quelque sorte le défenseur de la veuve et l'orphelin.



Il avait aussi une vision futuriste et idéaliste sur l'Union Européenne qu'il surnommait les États-Unis d'Europe avec l'Allemagne et la France à la clé de cette Union.

Nous avons été surpris par sa vie amoureuse plutôt tumultueuse mais qui ne semble pas l'avoir empêché d'avoir été un père très attentionné et aimé.

En bref, Victor Hugo fut un grand homme non seulement de la littérature française mais aussi un visionnaire dans la politique mouvementée de son époque. Il fut enterré en grande pompe au Panthéon le 31 mai 1885 à côté d'Émile Zola. J'ai trouvé très révélateur les cinq dernières phrases de son testament:

- "Je donne 50.000 francs aux pauvres.
- Je veux être enterré dans leur corbillard.
- Je refuse l'oraison de toutes les Églises.
- Je demande une prière à toutes les âmes.
- Je crois en Dieu."

Son testament se lit vraiment comme une profession de foi.

Si par chance vous êtes de passage à Paris, allez visiter le musée Victor Hugo sur la place des Vosges.

**Marie-Noelle Bases**



**George Michaels**, LaFayette Member of our chapter died on March 9th, leaving his dear wife, Madeleine. George and Madeleine were among the original members of our chapter and George served as our legal advisor for many years. George was named "Chevalier dans l'Ordre de la Légion d' Honneur" for his service during the second World War. We are appreciative of Madeleine's continuing participation in our chapter.

## 13 Mars 2012, Assemblée Générale

### « Paris from the Cathedral » *by Ernie Hunt*

Among the members of the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs are certain luminaries whose careers are clearly noteworthy! I want to tell you a little bit more about one of those members, who quietly gets on in his “retirement” writing books, 4 of them, and has entertained us with a review of one of them: “Paris Under Siege” at a previous luncheon.

This March, this former rector of the Church of the Epiphany, revealed a glimpse of his life as Dean of the American Cathedral in Paris, with a wonderful film of the history of the Cathedral where he served for many years; our modest member Ernie Hunt.

We were engaged with a review of the life of the Cathedral, its architecture, its famous patrons, and several anxious moments as things went awry: the children’s Christmas pageant with stage fright,

the “Blessing of the Animals” including goats and parakeets, and of course the serious moments as famous people died. Ernie spoke of the moment of 9/11 and the thousand of French who came to pray for America. What a wonderful time in his and Elsie’s life in Paris and their continued devotion to things French as members of our chapter.

Thank you for sharing your film and history with us, Ernie and keep on writing!



## Le Rendez-Vous du 12 Avril 2012

### « An American in Paris » *by Lynne Schneider*

#### A Mighty Move To France

When Lynne and Woody Schneider got the word from Credit Lyonnais that they were to move to Paris, little did they know what really faced them! Lynne regaled us with tales of apartment hunting, American appliances that wouldn’t convert to the European standard, dealing with the language at the fish market and many other tales of terror facing a change of that magnitude.

A favorite of mine was the image of Lynne trying to capture the family cats who had learned to move from balcony to balcony ....but to the neighboring apartments...forcing Lynne to plead at each adjacent door to try to grab a cat tail and return the miscreant home. All of us who have experienced this upheaval can appreciate what the adjustment

takes in terms of time and learning.

Lynne’s tales of working with the American Women’s Group in Paris were also amusing, as any of us know who volunteer for non profit organizations, things than can go awry usually do! Thanks to Lynne for an amusing recitation.



## Le Rendez-Vous du 10 Mai 2012

### 450 Years of French Presence in Florida

At the May 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon of the Alliance an attentive audience heard our President, Mimi Gregory, share some of her experiences at the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of French Exploration of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville May 1, 2012. While speaking in French she added the English translation of her remarks to a slide show which included maps and other illustrations. At the Celebration both the Mayor of Jacksonville and the French Consul General from Miami were present at the rededication of the Ribault monument at the Ft. Caroline National Memorial. Two French ships in the harbor along with other ships rang bells and honked horns at noon on May 1.



*“Ribault’s Landing” by Lee Adams, 1959. On display at the Jacksonville Downtown Library. © City of Jacksonville*

Beginning with Jean Ribault’s landing at the mouth of the St. John’s River on May 1, 1562, the French established Fort Caroline and celebrated the first Thanksgiving there in 1564. Sadly, the Huguenot colony and its Fort were destroyed in 1565 by the Spanish attacking from St. Augustine.

Almost 150 years later in 1717 the French established Ft. Creve Coeur on the west coast, again destroyed by the Spanish.

In 1791 Chateaubriand toured Florida and forever romanticized the American Indian in French minds.

In 1821 Prince Murat, nephew of Napoléon Bonaparte lived briefly in Saint Augustine which had been ceded to the United States that year ending Spanish rule, and he met and married a great grand-niece of George Washington. They settled near Tallahassee and lived there until his death in 1841.

Mimi ended her talk by calling attention to the fact that 30,000 French citizens are now residents of Florida; however, they can only vote in person in Tampa or Miami. The consulate intends to publish more research about French presence in Florida to the present day.



*French map of the Florida coast, 17th c. (courtesy of the State Archives of Florida).*



*Ribault monument, St. Johns Bluff, placed here in 1958 (courtesy of the State Archives of Florida).*



*First French explorations and settlements in Florida (courtesy of the French Consulate in Miami)*

## Alliance Française de Bonita Springs Scholarship 2012



**Juliet Jewett** received the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs Scholarship for 2012. She will be graduating from the Community School of Naples in June and will be attending the Tisch School of Performing Arts in New York City in September. She received "Superior Commendations" at the French Congress in Orlando this Spring, is an all "A" student, and will continue her French studies next year.

Felicitations!



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**

## 2012 Bonita Springs Chapter Survey Results

This provides a summary of the responses and inputs from our March survey. 26 questions were fielded via online or written survey. We appreciate the time members took to help us! The board collectively reviewed the detailed survey results in a recent meeting and is providing this summary to all members. The input was outstanding and action steps in response to your thoughts are summarized in the conclusion section.

48 surveys were submitted representing 58 actual members (some responded as couples). This means 27% of the entire membership participated. *(For perspective, a typical response rate for this type of survey and survey length is 10-15%).* 34 of the surveys were taken online representing 75% of the total submitted. One third of the submitted surveys were completed in French.

### **What we learned about our members....**

65% of respondents have been members of the Alliance for more than 5 years. Two-thirds are seasonal residents of the area.

The overwhelming top 3 benefits to memberships were identified as:

1. The chance to speak the French language
2. The chance to meet/be around others who love the language and culture
3. The chance to attend classes

The vast majority of respondents only belong to the Bonita Springs chapter and not another chapter in another location.

90% of respondents have visited the Bonita Springs Chapter website and 30% claim to find out about events there. Newsletters and meetings were the other two ways that members learn about events. Emails and website postings are by far the most common ways respondents indicated they prefer to be informed about chapter events and experiences.

Less than a third of respondents have held an office within the Alliance. Only 8 have ever been to an annual Federation Conference – virtually all of them only once.

10 respondents shared special talents with us about which we were delighted to learn! 27 respondents volunteered for different assignments within the chapter! The board has noted all of these wonderful inputs and those volunteers will be hearing from us over the next months to solicit their help with some new initiatives!

### **Inputs and Ideas....**

The programming department was particularly interested in several excellent ideas and concepts volunteered by the respondents, and we have noted special areas of interest that can be clearly served. These included focusing on regions of France, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland, North Africa and other French-speaking countries where members have visited or lived and offering up opportunities to do more with French cooking, film and....of course, wine! Books, art and history remain ever popular subjects, and there was strong interest in more opportunities to speak the language at all different levels of competency.

We learned much about where respondents first learned French or became interested in learning the language as well as about their life journeys in relation to French language and culture. From these stories, many programming ideas have surfaced, and the wealth of experience and knowledge in our group far surpassed anyone's imagination! It was clear that respondents very much liked hearing about member experiences.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## 2012 Bonita Springs Chapter Survey Results [suite]

*(Continued from page 7)*

The overwhelming majority of respondents are very interested in what is going on across the Alliance Française in other parts of the country and around the world.....and over 80% indicated they like attending Alliance Française events.

Respondents were eager to connect with members inside our chapter, but split as to whether or not they wanted to connect with members outside our chapter. The majority said they would participate in some activity or experience on the website if it were a topic of interest.

### **Action Plan**

Based in the specific inputs and popularity of certain ideas, the Board is considering taking action in a number of areas based on your feedback. During the off-season months we will be brainstorming ideas to serve particular interest areas and calling upon our new volunteers to help us execute on these ideas!

1. Regarding current programs and events:
  - a. We will work at adding a little more formatting to the programs, as well as providing, when possible, translation of the key messages in both French and English.
  - b. We will explore working with our chefs to provide lunch menus representing different regions of France
2. Regarding new experiences and ideas, the Board is exploring all of the following:
  - a. Occasional evening meetings
  - b. French Film experiences
  - c. French Wine/Cooking experiences
  - d. More experiences and opportunities to improve conversation for non-fluent speakers
  - e. Bringing experiences from Alliance Française chapters around the country/world to the membership
  - f. Deeper opportunities to meet people in the chapter and network, if desired, within the Alliance Française worldwide
  - g. Sending alerts to the membership about French cultural events in our area
  - h. Opportunities to share travel tips and experiences
  - i. Bringing back the Alliance Française Diploma recognition
  - j. Offering more cross-sections of class experiences – perhaps one day seminars
  - k. New member orientations and mentoring
  - l. Occasional field trips

We are thrilled with the response and list of wonderful ideas that came from this survey! Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to Dr. Afshani, the random winner of the \$100 Bleu Provence gift certificate!



## 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 : [lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org](mailto:lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org)

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

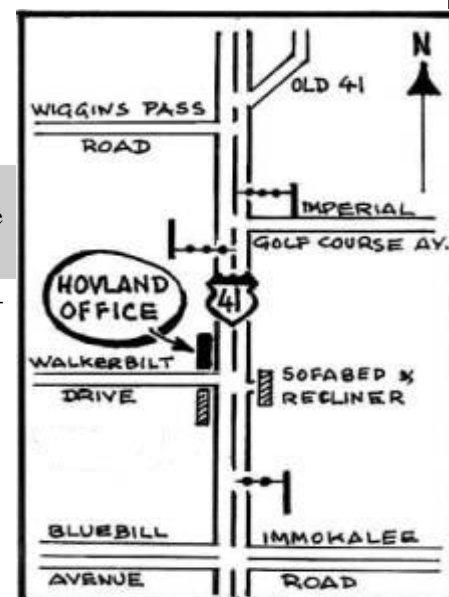
Nous vous rappelons que + de 150 livres d'auteurs français contemporains sont gratuitement à la disposition de nos membres à notre Bibliothèque située dans notre salle de classe dont l'adresse est ci-dessous avec le plan.

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

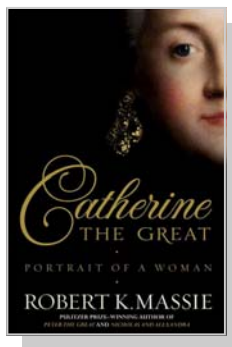
Based on the great success of the European Book Clubs at the Alliances Françaises in Washington and New York, our Alliance chapter here in Bonita Springs joined this trend, offering our membership the opportunity to discover what is happening in European literature today.

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 season behind us, on **November 15, 2012 and January 15, 2013 at 4:00 pm**, we will meet at the « Montenero » **7575 Pelican Bay Blvd, hosted by Susanne Kuhn, in the Card Room on the lobby floor.**

#### Susanne Kuhn



- *The Pulitzer Prize–winning author of Peter the Great, Nicholas and Alexandra, and The Romanovs returns with another masterpiece of narrative biography, the extraordinary story of an obscure young German princess who traveled to Russia at fourteen and rose to become one of the most remarkable, powerful, and captivating women in history.*

*Born into a minor noble family, Catherine transformed herself into Empress of Russia by sheer determination. Possessing a brilliant mind and an insatiable curiosity as a young woman, she devoured the works of Enlightenment philosophers and, when she reached the throne, attempted to use their principles to guide her rule of the vast and backward Russian empire. She knew or corresponded with the preeminent historical figures of her time: Voltaire, Diderot, Frederick the Great, Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, Marie Antoinette, and, surprisingly, the American naval hero, John Paul Jones.*



- *Behind every great ruler lies a betrayal. Eva Stachniak's novel sweeps readers into the passionate, intimate, and treacherous world of Catherine the Great, revealing Russia's greatest matriarch from her earliest days in court, where the most valuable currency was the secrets of nobility and the most dangerous weapon to wield was ambition.*

*Two young women, caught in the landscape of shifting allegiances, navigate the treacherous waters of palace intrigue. Barbara is a servant who will become one of Russia's most cunning royal spies. Sophia is a pretty, naive German duchess who will become Catherine the Great. For readers of superb historical fiction, Eva Stachniak captures in glorious detail the opulence of royalty and the perilous loyalties of the Russian court.*



Alliance Française  
de Bonita Springs

## Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



### RETURN ADDRESS

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Bonita Springs  
FL. 34133

Affix address label

### REMEMBER

Mardi 19 Juin 2012  
Vendredi 13 Juillet 2012

☎ (239) 592-1735

### AGENDA

#### Les Dîners de l'ÉTÉ

**Mardi 19 Juin 2012** : « *La Table Française* » @ 6:30 PM chez MIMI'S Cooking

**Vendredi 13 Juillet 2012**: « *Bastille Day* » @ Noon, Luncheon at LA PLAYA Beach Club.

### **BOOK CLUB**

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