

# WOMEN of the american church

February 2006

Volume 13, Issue 1

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## Message from the President - . . . . .

Dear WOAC Friends,

Bonne Année! And welcome to 2006 at the WOAC. It's hard to believe that a year has passed already since I first wrote to you for the February newsletter, 2005. So many good things have happened since then, and I've met so many wonderful people! I'm pleased to be your President for another year, and look forward to many exciting happenings in 2006.

Our semi annual Salad Luncheon was held on Jan. 23, with about 40 people attending. The officers for 2006 were elected, with myself as President, Ingrid Wills as Vice President, Alexandra Niesslein as Secretary, and Robyn Teed as Treasurer. Please join me in congratulating them. Tina Blair entertained and informed us with part 1 of the "Davinci Code Myths and Mysteries" program, "Who Really Was Mary Magdelene?" Stay tuned to the salad lunch in Sept for part 2 – "Davinci Code Art and Architecture in Paris (NOT!)". We also held a very successful Tombola at the Salad Luncheon, raising 100€ for the Friday Mission Lunch Program.

So, what's up next for the WOAC? Well, the coffee groups are all active and functioning in neighborhoods throughout Paris and the suburbs. To find details about the coffee groups, consult that section of our website. Coffee groups are intended to help new folks get acquainted, and help everyone stay connected with people in their neighborhoods. It's a great place to meet new friends, and chat with old ones. This year the coffee group leaders have set a goal to designate a charity each quarter and make donations to it through the coffee groups. The first quarter will be the Friday Mission Lunch program at the American Cathedral. This program serves lunch to about 65 people every Friday. Our Tombola proceeds went to them on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and cash donations will be taken at the coffees in January, February and March for this worthy program. The second quarter, the designated charity will be Coeur des Femmes, an organization who provides support and assistance for homeless and battered women in Paris. During April, May and June coffees, we will be collecting personal care and health and beauty items (toothbrushes & paste, hair care products, deodorant, lotions, feminine products, etc.) You can bring your donations (hotel samples are great for this!) to the coffee and we'll get them to the ladies at Coeur des Femmes.

The very next "event" for the WOAC is, of course, the springtime version of Bloom Where You're Planted on March 7, and Bloom While You Work on March 11. If you're new to Paris, you won't want to miss this fabulous seminar on adjusting to life in France. If you're not new – you may want to attend anyway, because it's always informative, and just plain fun! It's also a great place to make connections and meet new friends. Details and registration forms are on the "Bloom" section of the webpage. Then, our traditional spring social event, the Strawberry Tea will be held on May 18. This is the last event of the season before summer holidays, where we put on our spring dresses, and maybe even get out our hats, and enjoy ourselves at tea. We hope you'll join us before launching your summer vacation plans.

Whatever your interest, or experience, there is a place in the WOAC for you. I hope you'll get involved, make the most of your time in Paris, and give something back to the community. The WOAC is a perfect place to do all three! I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year!

**Fran Rhodes**  
WOAC President

## HOW DO I MEET PEOPLE??

**The WOAC offers you support, encouragement and friendship  
through the monthly coffees!**

*COFFEE GROUPS* are informal monthly neighborhood "get-togethers" and are a great way to meet new people; share practical information and ideas; learn of upcoming WOAC events; and get involved in your new community. There are five Coffee Groups covering Paris and the Western Suburbs. You are welcome to attend any or all of the groups. Please join us for coffee and friendship in **February** at the following locations. ***Finger snacks to share are most appreciated at all group coffees.*** Childcare is, unfortunately, not available at these monthly get-togethers.

### \*\*\*February Coffees\*\*\*

Paris I 8th, 16th, 17th arrondissements, Boulogne Billancourt

Contact [woac\\_paris2@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris2@woac.net)

Paris I and Neuilly will again join together for our February Coffee. It will be held on Tuesday, February 28 in the AFTERNOON from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the home of Dona deVergnes, 41, rue Vineuse (in the 16th arrondissement). Since many people will just be returning from "vacances scolaire" - we thought we would share information about interesting places to visit in France (and maybe even in Europe). If you have pictures or information that you have obtained while on vacation, please bring it along.

Paris II All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs

Contact [woac\\_paris2@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris2@woac.net)

Neuilly: Neuilly area and surrounding suburbs

Contact [woac\\_neuilly@woac.net](mailto:woac_neuilly@woac.net)

Western Suburbs: All Western Suburbs not in Neuilly Group

Contact [woac\\_coffeecoordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecoordinator@woac.net)

There will be no coffee for the Western Suburbs group this month, but please save the date for the March coffee which will be held on Tuesday March 14 at 10:00 am at the home of Peggy Morrison in Bougival. For more information, please contact Misun Lu at [woac\\_coffeecoordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecoordinator@woac.net). Please always feel free to attend any other group's coffee at any time.

Evening Coffee Group

Contact Roxy Lungu at [woac\\_evening@woac.net](mailto:woac_evening@woac.net) for information regarding this group.



The WOAC Coffee Group leaders have decided to designate a local charity each quarter and collect donations at the coffees for that charity throughout the quarter

The first quarter charity is the Friday Mission Lunch program at the American Cathedral. Cash donations will be taken at the coffees in January, February and March for this group. The program serves a hot, 3 course lunch every Friday to 65 homeless people. They currently have needs for replacement service ware, and our cash donations will help provide that.

The second quarter charity will be Coeur des Femmes which provides support and assistance for homeless and battered women. At the March, April and May coffees we will collect personal care items for the ladies of Coeur des Femmes (tooth brushes and paste, hair care, lotion, deodorant, feminine products, etc.). Bring your donations to the coffees, and they will be collected by Misun Lu, our Coffee Group Coordinator and delivered to Coeur des Femmes.

? ? **Where can I find information about** ? ?  
**WOAC Events and Paris?**

**ARE  
YOU  
NEW  
TO  
PARIS?**

ACP Welcome Table - - - - -

The Welcome Table is a source of information available on **Sunday mornings** after the **11:00am** service at the American Church in Paris. Here you will find information regarding activities of the American Church, cultural events in Paris, shopping, the metro system, and much more!

We are always looking for volunteers to help man this table. If you can spare about 1 hour on Sundays after church to help out, please contact Charlie Pineda, Welcome Table Coordinator at [woac\\_welcometable@woac.net](mailto:woac_welcometable@woac.net)

How to Obtain the WOAC Newsletter - - - - -

To keep you informed of what is happening within the WOAC, we produce ten monthly newsletters. There are two ways to obtain the WOAC Newsletter:

1. Online – go to [www.woac.net/newsletter](http://www.woac.net/newsletter) and click on “Subscribe”.
2. Via regular mail - Give 10 prestamped, preaddressed envelopes to your local coffee co-chair. Stay updated with the latest WOAC Information by referencing the website at [www.woac.net](http://www.woac.net)



Spiritual Spotlight - - - - -

*This is the time of the year that begins with so much promise and ends with so much rain. As I write on this cold rainy day, I find myself longing for sun and beach and lots of light. January and February can be depressing months for many people, even on the sunnier days: the lights of Christmas decorations are gone; the days are still short and cold; loved ones who are far away are missed more deeply; and it seems a long way until spring.*

*So what to do? It's time to look for warmth and light elsewhere in our lives. It's time to be purposeful about times of recreation and relaxation with family and friends. We can also fill some the greyer parts of life with art and theater and music and movies. We can nurture a little hyacinth bulb in our apartment window, or fill the tables in our house with a riot of spring colors using some the inexpensive flowers that abound in Paris. We can challenge the cold with brisk walks, or curl iup in a warm corner with a good book and music. My family enjoys an occasional “movie nithg” together: we pop popcorn ( and put on salt!) and watch a favorite video.*

*Religious traditions have found even deeper wa7ys to bring light5 into the dull days of our lives. Coming up soon are the seasons of Lent and Easter for Christians, of Passover and all of its preparations for Jews. In somewhat different ways, both of these traditions remind us of our connectionto the past and of the promise for the future. For both of these religions, the story is the same: in the hardest, worst of times, as slaves in Egypt, the Light at the heart of the universe did not abandon us, but led us out into freedom. For both traditions this story means that we will never be abandoned today and that we too can connect to the deepest source of life and light.*

*I hope that you will look for ways to add light into your life. We often can't do it by ourselves; we need to talk with a good friend or loved one or become part of a community. And we all need to find the connection to the deep source of light, the source of all that is. Spend time in silence listening to your heart, or sing the songs of praise in a community of worship. For the Light is here, even on the greyest of days.*

Dr. Tina Blair ACP Associate Pastor

## Get Involved and Learn Some History - - - - -

The sanctuary of the American Church in Paris will now be open to visitors on **Thursday afternoons 2:00-4:00 pm**. Hosts (whom we call "docents") are needed to work from a maximum of 2 hours per week to a minimum of 2 hours per month. Brochures for self-directed tours of the sanctuary have been prepared. Docents need to be present to welcome visitors and answer questions. For more information please contact Alice Gardiner at 01.42.27.74.82.



## Friday Mission Lunch: - - - - -

Every Friday at the American Cathedral, lunch is served for some 60 homeless men and women in Paris. The American Church sponsors and organizes this lunch every third Friday of the month. If you want to do some outreach and serve your community, please join us at te Cathedral form 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Kristie: [kristieworrel@hotmail.com](mailto:kristieworrel@hotmail.com) or at 01.30.65.82.66.

## ACP Lay Leaders Needed - - - - -

The ACP is involved with many non-profit organizations from homeless shelters to counseling AIDS victims. We are looking for lay leaders to become the contact between the church and the mission/organization in order for us to understand their individual needs and respond better as a church. If you are interested in learning more about the organizations we support and the role and responsibilities of a Lay Leader please call 01 40 62 05 00.

## WOAC Volunteer Needs - - - - -

To volunteer for any of the following positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Patti Bravard at [woac\\_volunteer@woac.net](mailto:woac_volunteer@woac.net).

## Information Center Coordinator - - - - -

The Information Center is currently closed and is under going a re-organization. We are searching for someone to take on a leadership role for this important service. Responsibilities will include supervision of volunteer workers, scheduling, ensuring that workers have undergone adequate training, and general coordination of Center activities. Please contact Fran Rhodes at [woac\\_president@woac.net](mailto:woac_president@woac.net) to discuss further details. This position will be extremely rewarding and fulfilling, and once organized will require approximately 6 to 10 hours per month.

## Coffee Group Leaders: - - - - -

The Paris 1 group is looking for one or two persons to add to their team. The Western Suburbs currently has no leader, and would need two or three people to handle coordination of this group. If you are interested in participating as a coffee group leader, please contact the Coffee Group Coordinator, Misun Lu, at [woac\\_coffeecoordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecoordinator@woac.net).

## Special Events Coordinator: - - - - -

This WOAC Board position is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the annual special events like the two salad luncheons and the two teas. (Bloom and Art Fair are not included). The Special Events Coordinator is also responsible for publicizing WOAC events through the newsletter, the church bulletin and various community organizations.

## Bloom Co-Directors for October 06: - - - - -

The WOAC is seeking Directors for October Bloom. This is an exciting opportunity to share your talents and get involved in a worthwhile service to the community. The Co-Directors are responsible for organizing committees and volunteers to execute the 2-day seminar for English speaking newcomers. This year's Bloom dates are October 3 and 10. Contact Fran Rhodes at [woac\\_president@woac.net](mailto:woac_president@woac.net)

## Bloom Book Chapter Editors: - - - - -

The 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bloom book is underway! We need reliable chapter editors to edit and verify information, and make corrections. Enhance your resume while contributing to the publication of one of the most important resources for the English speaking community! To volunteer contact the Bloom book Editor, Elizabeth Gentry at [woac\\_bloombook@woac.net](mailto:woac_bloombook@woac.net)

## Bloom Book Advertising Chair: - - - - -

This position encompasses the advertising segment of the Bloom book. The job is easy because everything you need is in place. Send out letters, take phone calls & inquiries from prospective advertisers and forward information to the printer. It does **not** require previous advertising experience and does **not** require French language skills. The job is mostly administrative. To volunteer, please contact Patti Bravard, Volunteer Coordinator at [woac\\_volunteercoordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_volunteercoordinator@woac.net).

## Health Network International Seeks Volunteers - - - - -

Do you have a BIG empty space on your CV/resume? Health Network International needs volunteers! As you may know, we are a non-profit English speaking network of health professionals (both working and unemployed) here in Paris. It is a great group of people, and we organize several interesting programs: health seminars, CPR/First Aid classes, networking social events and more. We are currently looking for:

\*\*\*Seminar Program Director - scheduling of our monthly seminars, room & equipment reservation, coordinating honorariums

\*\*\*Publicity Director - publicizes events & membership

\*\*\*Secretary - handling email account, mailings, printing

\*\*\*President - overall functioning of organization, newsletter production

Some of the help we need doesn't even involve leaving the home. The amount of time you can help is obviously COMPLETELY flexible. If you are interested, please contact us at [healthnetinternational@hotmail.com](mailto:healthnetinternational@hotmail.com).

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American Women's Group - - - - -

The American Women's Group in Paris (AWG) is a non-profit social, cultural and educational organization. For over 50 years, AWG has provided social and cultural events for English speaking women to experience and appreciate the many wonderful things France has to offer while making friends and having fun. For more information, telephone: 01.42.73.36.74 or E-mail: [awgparis@wanadoo.fr](mailto:awgparis@wanadoo.fr) Website: [www.awgparis.org](http://www.awgparis.org).

American Catholic Women's Organization (ACWO) - - - - -

The American Catholic Women's Organization of Paris was founded in 1954 to unite women of all faiths and nationalities, providing occasions for them to learn about their world in Paris and especially to encourage communications of mutual concern and support, in religious as well as social spheres. Our religious programs encourage spiritual growth and mutual respect within our membership which includes various religious denominations. Many social activities are offered to our members. For membership information, contact Sheron Appleton 01.46.22.76.53 or via e-mail [gwagram87@aol.com](mailto:gwagram87@aol.com)

SOS Help Crisis Line - - - - -

Feeling lonely or depressed? Call the SOS Help Crisis Line at 01.46.21.46.46. SOS Help was founded in 1974, and has been serving the international community in France for 30 years. The service is non-denominational, non-political, non-profit and non-interventionist. The aim is to provide compassionate, anonymous, confidential listening to the lonely and depressed. For more information, please consult the web site [www.soshelpline.org](http://www.soshelpline.org).

Health Network International - - - - -

Health Network International (HNI) is a volunteer non-profit English-speaking group of health professionals and anyone interested in health issues. Our activities are open to the public. For further information, please email [healthnetinternational@hotmail.com](mailto:healthnetinternational@hotmail.com) or consult our new website [www.hni-paris.org](http://www.hni-paris.org). [HNI also offers CPR classes for adults, children, and infants in English.]

CESC Meeting - - - - -

The Council of the English-Speaking Community (CESC) was established in 1981 to enable the various educational, cultural and services-oriented Anglophone groups in the Paris area to get to know one another better. The CESC's main purposes are: To serve as a focal point for groups and individuals interested in knowing more about what is happening in the English-speaking community; To foster the sharing of information and ideas, and to provide a framework for networking among its various member groups; To present programs which are of interest to CESC member associations and contribute to the general welfare of the English-speaking community in the Paris region.

Toastmasters in Paris - - - - -

Want to improve your confidence in speaking in groups, friends, family? Come to Toastmasters 75! Next meeting of the year is Thursday February 9 @7:00pm. For more information call George 01.45.74.32.48

American Church in Paris - - - - -

The ACP has many programs for Youth and Young Adult. Check out the church website for specifics on activities for Crossroads (Jr. High and Younger Teens), The Bridge (Sr. High and Older Teens), and Reach (young adults). Pizza night is back for the Reach group – starting Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Come for pizza, stay for interesting discussion.

**THE CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERIES**

study and spiritual enrichment seminars for Women ,under the direction of Dr. Christine Blair. Seminars take place at the Church, 65 Quai D'Orsay.

**Next Seminar:** March 4 – Thurber Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 April 1 – Thurber Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor      May 6 – Thurber Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

*The American Women's Group In Paris*  
*cordially invites you to*

**DATE:** Saturday, March 25, 2006

*The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Spirits Auction*  
*Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 7:00 pm*

Join us for our biggest event of the year! Our annual auction of wine, champagne and spirits will be run by the prestigious auction house, Christie's France. The finest purveyors of luxury goods in France have donated items for our Silent Auction. There will be great prizes in our Tombola and lots of fun for everyone! A portion of the proceeds from this event go to L'Envol, a summer camp that welcomes critically-ill children. Tickets are **60** euros per person. Reserve early, tickets sell out! **DATE:** Saturday, March 25, 2006 **PLACE:** The Royal Monceau Hotel--37, Avenue Hoche 75008

For further information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at [www.awgparis.org](http://www.awgparis.org) or contact the AWG office at **01.42.73.36.74** or by e-mail at [awgparis@wanadoo.fr](mailto:awgparis@wanadoo.fr). You must reserve in advance. Tickets will not be sold at the door. You do not need to be a member of AWG to attend this event.

## WOAC BOARD NEWS

Recent WOAC Board meetings in January and December produced the following results:

- The Board voted to split the 30% of excess funds designated for outside charities between CASP and Church World Services Pakistan Earthquake Relief.
- The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers & Bd members:

President – Fran Rhodes	Vice President – Ingrid Wills
Treasurer – Robyn Teed	Devotions – Tina Blair
Advisor – Shelly Dawson	Secretary – Alexandra Niesslein
Coffee Grp Coord – Misun Lu	Bloom Book Editor – Elizabeth Geary
Bloom Book Advertising – Open	Newsletter – George Shuttic
Webmaster – Rodney Wines	Welcome Table – Charlie Pineda
Volunteer Coord – Patti Bravard	Special Events Coordinator - Open
Bloom March Co-Directors: Tara Gaillard/Roger Beardmore	
Bloom Work - Susan Zeitouni/ Michelle O'Brien	

- Officers were elected at the Jan 23 Salad Luncheon meeting.
- A correction was made to the original allocation to the Ruth Kennedy memorial fund from 1644 to 1644.
- Reports were taken from all the committees.
- The Board is considering several options for a logo for the WOAC

The next Board meeting will be Feb. 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 at the church.



## Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Needs



**"Bloom Where You're Planted" & "Bloom While You Work"**  
**(March 7, 2006) (March 11, 2006)**

Annual Newcomers' Orientation Program for English Speakers of All Nationalities & Affiliations

### Join the Bloom Team

Did you love Bloom? Did it change your life? Join the Bloom Team and help welcome the next group of newcomers to Paris. Planning for the next Bloom will start soon. Have fun and make friends! Make a difference in someone's life! There are many positions to choose from! For further information contact [woac\\_bloom@woac.net](mailto:woac_bloom@woac.net).

**Bloom Co-Directors 2006**: A great place to put your leadership skills to work! The Nominating Committee is seeking a Co-Directors for the 2006 Blooms. This is a great place to let your leadership skills "bloom"! And it's not as hard as you think - we've been doing this a long time, and we've got it down. If you're interested, please contact the Bloom Policy Committee through Ingrid Wills at [woac\\_vicepresident@woac.net](mailto:woac_vicepresident@woac.net)

### Bloom Book Editorial Team

It's time to start thinking about the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bloom book. We update this book every year and we need a good team of editors to get it done. Enhance your resume while contributing to the publication of one of the most important resources for the English-speaking community! For more information on how you can help, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Patti Bravard at [woac\\_volunteer@woac.net](mailto:woac_volunteer@woac.net)

### Bloom Book Errata Page

- Keep your Bloom Book up to date! You will find the errata webpage on the WOAC website at <http://www.woac.net/bloom/bloombook-errors.shtml>. Logon to find the latest information.

**Don't have a Bloom Book yet?** They are on sale everyday at the church reception office, or you can down load an order form on the website and mail it with payment. Books can be mailed to you anywhere in the world.



**Bloom Stories**: Do you have a "Bloom Story"? We'd love to hear about it. Tell us about your first Bloom experience. Did something funny happen? Did you make a new best friend? What was your most embarrassing Bloom experience? (come on, we all have them!) As we prepare for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Bloom program, we would love to hear your comments about Bloom, old and new, and we'll include them in the programming, and on the website. Send your Bloom Stories to [woac\\_bloom@woac.net](mailto:woac_bloom@woac.net)