

# WOMEN of the american church

March 2006

Volume 13, Issue 2



**Bloom Where You're Planted**  
**March 7<sup>th</sup> & March 11<sup>th</sup>**



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

Dear Friends,

Well, it's March, and at the WOAC, that can mean only one thing – ***Bloom Where You're Planted*** and ***Bloom While You Work!*** This year, the spring programs will be Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, March 11. If you know anyone who is new to the area, be sure to refer them to a Bloom program. It's the best place to meet people, and get connected in Paris. Registration forms are available on the website at [www.woac.net](http://www.woac.net).

And even if you've been in Paris a long time – consider attending Bloom! There's always something new to learn, and it's just too much fun! Bloom registration includes lunch, a day's worth of seminars, the famous book, ***Bloom Where You're Planted – How To Live in France***, and a wine reception at the end of the day where you can chat and network with new friends. What a bargain at 40€! Don't miss out – it only comes round twice a year!

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers that help make Bloom programs happen! From babysitting, baking, editing, hostesses, lunch servers, sign makers, decorators, bag stuffers, program planning, and on and on. Our faithful volunteers bring it together year after year! Thanks to you all!

If you've never helped with Bloom, and would like to get involved, see the last page of the newsletter for Bloom volunteer opportunities. It's a very rewarding way to give your time and talents to others. We really do change peoples lives, and that's the nicest compliment of all.

Watch for details on the woac Strawberry Tea coming up on May 18, at the apartment of Pastor Barry and Shelly Dawson. This is our last big event before the summer holiday, and a great opportunity to connect with other woac members. Tickets will go on sale in April. Enjoy the springtime!

**Fran Rhodes**  
**WOAC President**

### **Cooking is Fun!**

The WOAC's New International Cookbook is now available for 12 euros. Get your copy today at the church reception desk, after the 11:00 Sunday Service at the WOAC Welcome Table, or order on the website.

## 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 **March** 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.

### \*\*\*March Coffees\*\*\*

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

**Contact** [woac\\_paris2@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris2@woac.net) or [woac\\_neuilly@woac.net](mailto:woac_neuilly@woac.net)

Paris I and Neuilly will again join together for our March Coffee. SAVE THE DATE FOR A "CELEBRATION OF SPRING" COCKTAIL EVENT: On Thursday, March 23 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. the Paris I and Neuilly groups will join for an EVENING "cocktail" event. We hope that this venue will enable working spouses or partners to join you for a festive evening. Wine and hors-d'oeuvres will be served. For more information on this event and other daytime coffees, please e-mail Ann Jackson/Kristina Soleymanlou for Paris I or Sylvie Borniche-Rouanet/Linda Goldfarb for Neuilly

Paris II All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs

For information – contact [woac\\_paris1@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris1@woac.net)

Western Suburbs: Please contact Misun Lu at [woac\\_coffeecordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecordinator@woac.net) for information.

Evening Group: Please contact [woac\\_evening@woac.net](mailto:woac_evening@woac.net)

**Habitat for Humanity International**, a mission project of the American Church in Paris, will send a team of 20 people to Radauti, Romania in July. They will raise funds, and provide labor to build an entire house. You can help in several ways:

- 1) Attend the gala dinner at the Marriott, Paris on April 1, 2006 (100€ per person)
- 2) Contribute an item or service to the silent auction which will take place at the Marriott on April 1.
- 3) Buy a raffle ticket for the beautiful king-sized hand-made quilt which will be raffled at the church in late spring.
- 4) Be a part of the team and help build the house!

For tickets and additional information, contact Daniel Grout: [Daniellevikings@yahoo.fr](mailto:Daniellevikings@yahoo.fr)

### Quimper Pottery Open House

Grace Gorichon invites you to an open house for Quimper Pottery on March 14, 10:30 to 12:30. Look, buy, browse, or do all three! The address is 34 Blvd. de Grenelle. Please phone your r.s.v.p. to Grace at 06.09.18.59.30.

**WICE DISCOVERY WEEKENDS** - unique in-depth programs of visits and lectures exploring art and culture. Impressions of Impressionism, April 6-9; Walking in the Footsteps of Napoleon, June 22-25; The French Renaissance Experience, Sept. 21-24. Contact [www.wice-paris.org](http://www.wice-paris.org) or 01 45 66 75 50

? ? **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 - - - - -

February was the month of hearts and flowers, the month of love. In Europe and the States, we play up romantic love, especially the wonderful emotions that come with falling in love. But staying in love and living in love take a lot more than feelings. Living in love is a decision and a set of actions that go far beyond feelings. It is hard to have feelings of love for a family member or friend when we are tired and stressed, as for example, at the end of a rainy day in Paris with the metro on strike and demonstrations blocking the major boulevards.

We can, however, decide to take actions of love. We can watch our words; we can work to develop habits that demonstrate care and love, even when the feeling has momentarily fled away. And there are days that this is not easy to do! I struggle with this problem too. But we do find that the actions allow the feelings to return. The famous words by the apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian church, expresses it so well. It is no wonder that this is considered a classic text even for non-religious people. So savor these words:

“If I speak in tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. . . .”

(I Corinthians 13:1-8)

May this kind of love deepen in your lives this month.

Dr. Tina Blair ACP Associate Pastor

**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: April 1 – Thurber Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

## 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\\_coffeecordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecordinator@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 Social Group Coordinator - - - - -

.Bloom Social Groups are established for people with similar interests and life situations. The Coordinator, facilitates communications between group leaders and the woac membership. The position mostly requires responding to and sending emails and phone calls regarding the groups and their meetings. (does not require hosting the meetings or responsibility for setting them up.)

## 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 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).

*The American Women's Group In Paris  
cordially invites you to  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine and Spirits Auction  
Cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres begin at 7:00 pm*

**DATE:** Saturday, March 25, 2006  
**PLACE:** The Royal Monceau Hotel--37, Avenue Hoche 75008

For further information and to purchase tickets, 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.

## S.O.S. Spring Book Sale

Date Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Place St George's Church, 7 rue Auguste Vacquerie,  
75116 Paris

Metro : Kleber, Etoile

Great quality books - 1€ paperback and 2€ hardback  
Coffee corner with homemade treats

Book Donations? call 01 46 21 46 46 from 3 to 11pm daily  
All proceeds to SOS Help [www.soshelpline.org](http://www.soshelpline.org)

## 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).

## CEESC Meeting

The Council of the English-Speaking Community (CEESC) 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 CEESC'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 CEESC 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 March 9 @7:00pm. For more information call George 01.45.74.32.48

## American Church in Paris

Lenten and Easter activities throughout the Lenten season. See website, [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org) for details and dates & times. March 31, 2006 – ACP presents the Oldtime Raio Show. Fun filled musical and drama entertainment for the whole family!

## WOAC BOARD Highlights – Feb. 21, 2006

- A possible coordinator has been found for the Information Center, pending further interviews.
- Co-Editors for the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bloom Book will be Elizabeth Geary and Rebecca Webber.
- A new logo for the woac has been approved by the Board. The logo was designed by graphic artists and woac member, Maya Ayed. A big Thank You to Maya for donating her time.
- The newsletter and website will be undergoing a few changes, making the newsletter more dynamic and moving the static repetitive information to the website. We will be soliciting articles on topics of interest from the membership. The website is being re-designed to make it more user friendly and update the look with the new logo and it's colors.
- Coffee Group Leaders met in January and did some planning for the year for the coffee groups, including joint evening events with spouses, and donations to designated charities for each quarter of the year.
- The Cookbook is now available by mail order from the website. Several ways of promoting the book were discussed.
- The Board decided to issue woac "membership" cards beginning with March Bloom. Membership in woac is open to everyone, but there seems to be a misunderstanding about it, and was suggested that issuing membership cards might clear that up. Attendance at any woac activity constitutes membership, and is open to men and women of all nationalities and faiths.
- The Board was reminded that 2007 is the 150-th anniversary of the ACP, and were asked for their input on ideas for the theme, the various celebrations, and how we might honor the history of the woac. Robyn Teed agreed to develop a list of past Presidents and Bloom Directors.
- Social Groups were discussed, noting that we should publicize them and emphasize them at Bloom. Three groups are currently active – Forever in France, Empty Nesters, and Singles. Laura Werner who has been doing the coordination for these groups has resigned and Patti Bravard agreed to take the position until a replacement can be found.
- The next meeting will be March 28 at 2:00 pm



## 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

### March Bloom Program Highlights

- ❖ Peter Caine – Paris Walks (guided walking tours) & Author of "Paris, Then and Now"
- ❖ Thirza Vallois – Author of "Around & About Paris"
- ❖ Food & Wine of the Regions of France – Eric Pasquet, Vivin (includes tastings!)
- ❖ Much, much more!

### Bloom Stories

"Being a stranger in a strange land, Bloom is like a compass -- when we arrive here even the most optimistic, savvy American can quickly become discouraged and feel hopeless. We have lost our cultural 'codes', work, family etc... I landed here in April 1985, leaving my own consulting business behind in NYC, a traveled, educated woman and back then I couldn't even figure out how to look up something in the yellow pages (I didn't speak a word of French)! When I landed at Bloom 6 months later, Bloom gave me a map-and to suddenly find a whole gymnasium full of people like me, was such a relief - I could smile again in public! Without feeling ashamed of my smile..."

**Emily Borel, October, 1985**

"Although I had lived abroad prior to moving to Paris, I was not fully prepared for the culture shock of living in France. Bloom provided me with invaluable information about daily life in France – from health care and shopping tips to social activities and more – in a very welcoming environment. Plus, I got a head start in developing a circle of friends."

**Mara Jauntirans, March, 2005**

*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 newsletter, and on the website. Send your Bloom Stories to [woac\\_president@woac.net](mailto:woac_president@woac.net)

### 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, October, 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

We are working on 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 [www.woac.net](http://www.woac.net)

