

WOAC

women of the american church

May, 2006Volume 13, Issue 5

Message from the President -

Dear WOAC Friends,

Remember that phrase from an old American Express commercial -“Membership has it's privileges”? Well the phrase holds true for WOAC membership as well. And we now have membership cards too! You won't want to leave home without it. We started issuing membership cards at March Bloom, and will continue to provide them to those who request one. There seemed to be some questions about WOAC membership and what is required. And in fact – the only thing required to be a member of WOAC is to participate in WOAC activities. And we do not have dues, so membership is absolutely free! Membership does not require being American, being a member of the American Church, or being a woman! Our goal is to reach out to English-speaking people in Paris of all nationalities, and all faiths.

So we thought it might help people feel connected to have a membership card. To get yours, simply request a membership enrollment form (which tells us a little bit about you and how to stay in touch with you), and we'll send you a card. You can request the form from our volunteer coordinator, Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net, or through your coffee group leaders, or pick one up at the church. We can't promise that you'll be recognized the world over like American Express card holders Sean Connery, or Chris Everet, but we can offer you friendly faces, an opportunity to serve the community, and the chance to get connected (and stay connected) in Paris.

In the future we'll be investigating benefits we can offer our members through our WOAC and Bloom sponsors and friends. Watch for updates on that in future issues of the newsletter. But even now – membership definitely has it's privileges! WOAC has what you need, and you have what we need. Let's get connected!

You might start by attending this month's activity – the annual Strawberry Tea. See the article in this issue for details, and come join us for a fun afternoon. Or consider volunteering for one of the many positions that you'll see listed on the volunteer opportunities page. Or attend a neighborhood coffee group, or join a social group. It's your life in France, and WOAC is here to help you make the most of it!

With best wishes,
Fran Rhodes, President



The Women of the American Church

Please join us for the 2006 Strawberry Tea
Thursday May 18, 2006, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Senior Pastor's apartment, The American Church in Paris
Tickets available for 10€ at church reception or welcome

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 **May** at the following locations, or contact the group leaders for information. **Finger snacks to share are most appreciated at all group coffees.** Childcare is, unfortunately, not available at these monthly get-togethers.

*****May Coffees*****

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

Contact: woac_paris1@woac.net

Paris II: All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs

Contact: woac_paris1@woac.net

Neuilly: The Neuilly area and surrounding suburbs

No meeting in May due to the Strawberry Tea

Contact: woac_neuilly@woac.net

Western Suburbs: There will be no Coffee for the Western Suburbs group this month. There is, however, the Annual Strawberry Tea in the senior pastor's apartment at church on Thursday, May 18th at 2:00 pm. Tickets are on sale for 10 euros each at the ACP Reception Desk, and at the Welcome Table on Sunday after the 11 o'clock service. Hope many of you can attend. For more information, please contact Misun Lu at woac_coffeecordinator@woac.net

Evening Group: For people who work – meets evenings

Contact: woac_evening@woac.net

WOAC BLOOM SOCIAL/SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Looking for places to get connected with people of similar interests? Interested in starting a group? **Bloom Social Groups** are for you! The following groups are currently active:

Forever in France – for those who plan to make France their permanent home

Empty Nesters – people with no children, or grown children no longer at home

The Younger Crowd – for the young, single set

For information on any group or starting another group that interests you, please contact our Social Groups Coordinator, Patti Bravard, at woac_socialgroups@woac.net

WICE DISCOVERY WEEKENDS - unique in-depth programs of visits and lectures exploring art and culture. Walking in the Footsteps of Napoleon, June 22-25; The French Renaissance Experience, Sept. 21-24. Contact 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 **11:00 am** 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 manage 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

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 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



Spiritual Spotlight

May in Paris

May in Paris can be a small challenge and a big joy. The joy of Paris in May is already evident: balmy days illuminated by sun over which pearl colored clouds cast quick shadows, or which are cleansed by sudden drizzles and showers; the new green of the plane trees and once-flowering bushes; the thick broad leaves of the chestnuts providing shade from the suddenly warm sun; all of this with the background of bright yet gentle ivory carved buildings. Who could wish for more?

At the same time, new arrivals in Paris will encounter several surprises. Three major holidays send people out of town into the lovely countryside sometimes making it more difficult to get business done. Demonstrations can also be endemic to the month of May, so it's necessary to check one's favorite bus routes to make sure that they are not blocked on some days. Entry into favorite monuments and museum is beginning to get longer with arriving tourists. School activities, such as carnivals and plays and conferences, get packed into the non-holiday weekends and parents of children run from one activity to another.

When we anticipate these possible challenges, however, we can truly enjoy Paris. This is our last chance to visit our favorite museums before they get too crowded. The special holidays (May 1: Labor Day; May 8: Victory over Europe Day; May 25: Ascension) offer a quiet city full of parks in which to stroll or play. Parisians are smiling in relief for having survived the winter and for seeing the sun. Schools are bubbling with excitement.

And where is God? In the bustle of urban traffic, in the melody of the warblers and sparrows in the courtyards, in the multicolored, carefully-groomed flower beds of the parks, and in the face of each person we meet and salute with a cheery "Bonjour, Madame/Monsieur!" – this is where we encounter God. I hope that this will be a lovely and special God-filled month for each one of you!

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 (Tina) Blair. Seminars take place at the Church, 65 quai d'Orsay.

Next Seminar: May 6 – Thurber Room, 2nd 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 the Cathedral from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Kristie: kristieworrel@hotmail.com or at 01.30.65.82.66.

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.

WOAC Volunteer Needs - - - - -

To volunteer for any of the following positions, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

WOAC Secretary - - - - -

The WOAC Board is seeking a Secretary for the remainder of the calendar year. Our current Alexandra Niesslein is moving back to the UK. The position requires attendance at Board meetings once a month, taking the minutes and keeping the official records of the Board. Please contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

Information Center Coordinator - - - - -

The Information Center is currently closed and is undergoing 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 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.

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 Social Group Leaders - - - - -

Bloom Social Groups are established for people with similar interests and life situations. Groups include: Empty Nesters, Forever in France, and The Young Crowd. The Group Leaders schedule meeting time and place, communicate with the group about meetings, and respond to inquiries about the group. The position does not require hosting the meetings. Contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

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Proofreaders - - - - -

The Bloom Book editors are seeking proofreaders for the 36th edition of the book. Chapter editing has been completed and proofreaders are needed to check for errors, format, etc. All proofreading communications can be done via email, and you can do the work at your own pace at home. If you can help, please contact Liz Geary, Book Co-Editor at woac_bloombook@woac.net. Or phone Liz at 06.07.45.34.85.

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 Website: www.awgparis.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.

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.

NEXT MEETING: June 19, at 10:00 am at the American Church in Paris, room G7.

American Church in Paris - - - - -

Many activities for the entire family including Bible Studies, Music, Youth & Young Adult activities, Multi-cultural Couples, and more! See the church website, www.acparis.org for more information and details. Or phone 01.40.62.05.00.

Open Gym for Youth & Young Adults!

Every Wednesday in April from 4-6:30 pm. Stop in to play basketball, indoor football, or just hang out with cool people!

Crepes "N" Jam Night for Young Adults

Do you like eating crepes? Want to learn how to make them? Or can you play an instrument or sing? Looking for a place for some freestyle fun? Maybe you just like to listen to music? On Saturday, May 6, from 6-8 pm, we will eat crepes and create musical wonderment.

Benefit Concert

You are warmly invited to enjoy an evening of Classical Music & Negro Spirituals at the American Church in Paris. The program will feature Ellison McDaniel Arttison, cello and voice; Mark Fredrick Indorf, piano; and Pana Yontarak, piano on Saturday, May 27 at 8:00 pm. All donations will go to support the traveling costs of the ACP Habitat Team to Radauti, Romania.

The American Church in Paris celebrates Fred Gramann's 30th anniversary as Director of Music with a gala concert on Saturday, June 10 at 8:00 pm. The program features the ACP Choir, the amazing French children's choir "Sotto Voce," the fabulous US community handbell choir "Embellish" from Michigan and a variety of prize winning soloists and instrumentalists. The concert will be followed by a champagne reception with 30 cakes for 30 years. General seating is 10 euros; reserved seating 25 & 50 euros. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of the American Church. Info: 01.40.62.05.00 or music@acparis.org.

Cancer Support Group in English - - - - -

The Junior Service League of Paris and AAWE sponsor a support group to provide a space for cancer patients to share their experience and feelings around cancer. Cancer can be a frightening, sometimes devastating experience. Cancer patients often say their life and outlook are irrevocably changed by their illness. By sharing, feelings of isolation can be reduced, fears expressed and realistically managed, and coping strategies explored. The group itself is a network for relevant information and services. It provides a safe space and caring environment in which support can be given and received, and quality of life enhanced.

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Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Need



Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work
(October 3 & 10, 2006) (October 14, 2006)
Annual 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! We have two new co-directors for October Bloom: Ingrid Wills, and Liz Geary! They are organizing their team right now, so contact them soon. There are many positions to choose from! For further information contact woac_bloom@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 download an order form on the website and mail it with payment. Books can be mailed to you anywhere in the world www.woac.net

Advertising Opportunities

The world famous book, ***Bloom Where You're Planted – How to Live in France*** will be updated and re-published again this year for the 36th time. Bloom books have staying power as many people keep them for years, relocation companies give them to clients, and friends collect them and pass them around to other friends. As a result, advertising in the Bloom Book becomes a **very good value**.

In addition – The Bloom Policy Committee (BPC) has recently made a policy change regarding the display of brochures at Bloom seminars. Future Blooms will feature only brochures and pamphlets from non profit organizations, schools, and those businesses who purchase advertisements in the Bloom Book. This new BPC policy provides a double (and exclusive) chance to get your message in front of Bloom participants, **AND** people all over the world who purchase Bloom books throughout the year. Consider supporting Bloom programs by advertising in the Bloom Book – **a great value for everyone!**

Ad Rates

Full page	110mm wide by 170mm long	750.00€
1/2 page	110mm wide by 82mm long	400.00€
1/4 page	52mm wide by 82mm long	225.00€
1/8 page	52mm wide by 38mm long	125.00€
1/16 page	52mm wide by 24mm long	75.00€

To place an ad, or for additional information, please contact our ad co-chairs, Debby Winzeler and Annette Lloyd at woac_bloombookadvert@woac.net. Or phone Debby at 06.31.15.32.01, or Annette at 06.89.66.09.90.