

WOAC

women of the american church

June, 2006 Volume 13, Issue 6

Message from the President - - - - -

Dear WOAC Friends,

Can you believe it's June already? It's nearly time for school to be out, and as usual, we'll all be saying good-bye to some of our friends who will be rotated out of Paris during the summer, back to their home countries, or on to new adventures in new locations. It's always a sad time of year for me. We make friends easily in the Expat world, but it's not so easy to see them go away from us. There is not room to name you all here in this newsletter, but you know who you are! Please know how much we appreciate your involvement and your support in the WOAC family. It is our volunteers that keep the organization going, and we depend on the good hearts of good people to do it. So - "à bientôt!" to those of you who are leaving us, "bon courage!" to those of us who are staying, and "bienvenue!" to the new people out there. We need a constant new flow of people, so be sure to get involved. WOAC is the best place to find friends, community involvement, and your connections in Paris.

We enjoyed a lovely Strawberry Tea in May. Thanks to the many people who helped make that event FABULOUS! The food committee, headed by Vice-President Ingrid Wills outdid themselves. And the food was not only delicious, but beautiful! Ellison Arttison entertained us by singing some favorite old spirituals and hymns, and carried us over the rainbow. (For anyone who would like a copy of Ellison's CD, you can purchase them from him by contacting him at emcdartison@yahoo.fr.) If you missed the Tea, perhaps you can join us for the next one which will be in December at the residence of the American Ambassador. We will also be doing a Salad Luncheon on Sept. 18, at noon, at the church, continuing our Da Vinci Code Myths and Mysteries talk. Check the website calendar for specifics and times.

Have a great summer, and we'll see you in the rentrée!

With best wishes,
Fran Rhodes, President



At the Strawberry Tea

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.

June Coffees

Only Paris Coffee Group II (*all arrondissements other than 8th, 16th and 17th, and any southeast or southern suburbs*) will have a meeting this month, on Thursday, June 15 from 10-12 at Regina Jorg's apartment, 14 rue Edgar Faure 75015 Paris, 5th floor. Tel. No. 01 40 61 98 42 – Buses: 42, 82, 69 or 87/Metro: Duplex
Please RSVP to linngsia@hotmail.com or pjl_paris@yahoo.com for door codes.

Contact: woac_paris1@woac.net

For more information on other groups, contact woac_coffeecordinator@woac.net.

On April 26th, Paris I and Neuilly held a joint morning event. Some twenty women gathered in Claude's lovely home to listen to Tamiko Zabliith, Director of Minding Manners, give a presentation on Tea and Etiquette. We learned about the various types of teas that can be served at an afternoon tea and how to brew tea properly. Over the years afternoon tea has become an important social event in many parts of the world. Tomiko explained the do's and don'ts of tea etiquette and answered many questions from her captivated audience.

The coffee chairs received enthusiastic feedback from the participants. Thank you to our French hostess and to our speaker, Tomiko.

Paris I and Neuilly Coffee Chairs: Ann Jackson, Kristina Soleymanhou, Linda Goldfarb, Sylvie Borniche



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.

WRITERS ON WRITING SERIES and CURRENT EVENTS FORUM – free and open to the public

An Evening with Jake Lamar, Wednesday, June 7 at 7:30 p.m. Ever wonder what makes a writer want to write? How do they get started and then, what keeps them going?

Trade, International Finance and the Environment (with Bob Thomson), Tuesday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m. Climate change, global warming, the Kyoto Accord, greenhouse gases, renewable energy technologies, project finance, export credits – how are they related and what might they mean in our daily lives in the next decades? For details, visit www.wice-paris.org or call WICE at 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 - - - - -

*“In Beauty I walk;
Beauty before me, beauty around me, beauty behind me;
Beauty above me, beauty beneath me. . . .”*

This is what I remember of the Navajo Beauty Chant, which I learned when I taught English literature on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona. Everyday I would take walks in that high desert of scrub juniper and yucca at the foot of forested Black Mesa and gaze toward the purple-red mesas scattered on the horizon under the ocean vastness of the blue sky. What awesome beauty we have been given, I would think. No wonder the Navajo wrote the Beauty Chant! And I would embroider lines of it in song as I walked.

As I walked through Paris on a sunny spring morning the other day, the Beauty Chant came to my mind. No place could be more different from the windy, warm, red-rock expanse of northern Arizona than Paris, a crowded city of ivory hues and emerald leaves shimmering in cool sunlight. And yet, what beauty! What a joy to walk out into a city that values art and architecture, history and culture. “In beauty I walk; beauty around me. . . .”

France has countless regions of beauty: the rolling green hills of Burgundy dotted with white cattle and ancient monasteries; the dramatic cliffs of Brittany; the splendor of the Alps; the charm and grace of the Loire valley; the sunny and ancient beauty of the Perigord with its prehistoric cave paintings; the brooding thick forests of the volcanic Auvergne with its romanesque churches and ancient battle sites; the diverse and colorful and historic regions of the south; and so forth. “In beauty I walk, beauty before me. . . .”

And I have seen so much beauty on this planet, as so many of you have: turquoise seas with jeweled fish, rich forests of blue-green cedars, villages built with charm and filled with grace, treasures of nature and of human invention. God has given us a beautiful home, a special blue-green-brown water planet. God has given us splendid hands and hearts and minds to craft and construct things of beauty. All this beauty reflects the nature of the Creator – at the heart of creation is Beauty. So have a wonderful summer and enjoy the beauty you encounter. Join me in singing a song of praise, “In beauty I walk, beauty before me, beauty around me. . . .”

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 the Cathedral from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Kristie: 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.

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.

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.

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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Bloom Volunteers Needed - - - - -

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 is underway. 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.

American Women's Group - - - - -

Check out The American Women's Group in Paris (AWG), a non-profit social, cultural and educational organization that has, for over 50 years, 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, at www.awgparis.org. Visitors/newcomers are welcome at the July 10 "Summer in the City" coffee, 10 a.m., Chez Dawn Fall, 2 avenue Emile Pouillon, 7th arr. Metro Ecole Militaire, No. 87 bus stops in front of Dawn's Eiffel Tower apartment. RSVP to Pamela Leavy, pgl_paris@yahoo.com for entry code.

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.

Fred's Friends in Concert- - - - -

While many expats sail into Paris for a brief adventure, few drop anchor and remain afloat for several decades. Fred Gramann and his new bride, Nancy, realized their dream of coming to Paris for music study in September of 1972. The original 9-month séjour evolved into several years of intense organ study for Fred and a job with 3M France for Nancy. In 1976 the American Church welcomed Fred as their new Director of Music and the real adventure began.

On June 10th we're marking Fred's 30 years of music ministry at ACP with a gala concert featuring some of his musical friends. On the program will be the American Church Choir, the French children's choir Sotto Voce, the Embellish Handbell Ensemble from Michigan, plus vocal and instrumental soloists. There will be a French premier of a work by world famous composer Naji Hakim, and the first performance of an anthem dedicated to Fred by Mathieu Septier. Tickets can be purchased at the American Church in advance or at the door. They range from general seating at 10 euros up to a special sponsor ticket at 100 euros. These donations are tax deductible and will benefit the missions and ministries of the American Church. Additional Information: 01.40.62.05.00 or music@acparis.org.

If you can donate a cake, please contact Fran Rhodes, woac_president@woac.net, or Fred Gramann, music@accparis.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.

June 29 at ACP, Marianne Williamson, the founder of The Peace Alliance campaigning for a Department of Peace in the US will be speaking at the American Church in Paris.

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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 21, 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

Advertisement 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.