

# WOAC

women of the american church

July-August 2006 . . . . .Volume 13, Issue 7

## Message from the President - - - - -

Dear WOAC Friends,

Well, here we are in the middle of summer in Paris! Are you making the most of it? I'm reminded of a song from the 60's that goes

*Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer  
Those days of soda, and pretzels, and beer!  
Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,  
You'll wish that summer could always be here!*

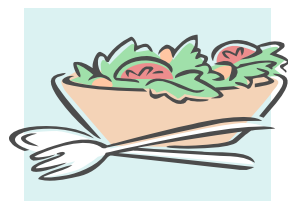
It does make me wish that summer could always be here. It's such a happy time for everyone with vacations, no school responsibilities, and summer weather to give us fun in the sun!

If you are in Paris for the summer, please join us for our WOAC summer coffee groups (combined groups meet together at the church). We'll be meeting in the Pastor's apartment on July 11, and August 8. It's a fun chance to meet people from other groups, and re-connect with old friends. There are also usually some visitors at the summer coffees, so please help make them welcome. No need to bring anything, just come and enjoy!

As we wind down another WOAC program year, I'd like to say thanks to all those who helped make it happen. We do important work at the WOAC, helping people integrate into Paris life and getting them connected with friends and associates, and it's all done by the volunteers and members. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our Board, Committee Chair people, Coffee Leaders, Bloom Committees and Volunteers, Bloom Book Staff (editors, advertising, mailing and advising), Art Fair helpers and all the folks who work behind the committees to make our events and activities a success. I don't have room to name everyone here, but you know who you are! So pat yourselves on the back and accept our sincere THANK YOU!

I hope you enjoy your lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer (with some soda and pretzels and beer thrown in!). We are already gearing up for next year's activities, starting with Bloom in October. You'll find plenty of opportunities to help throughout the newsletter. I look forward to working and playing with you all at WOAC activities during the coming months!

With best wishes,  
*Fran Rhodes*, President



**WOAC Semi-Annual Salad Luncheon**  
September 18, 2006, 12:00 noon  
American Church in Paris

**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.

**\*\*\*Summer Coffees\*\*\***

Please join us for combined coffee group meetings this summer on August 8, at 10:00 am in the Pastor's apartment at the church (65 quai d'Orsay, Paris 7<sup>th</sup> arrondissement). While our regular neighborhood coffee groups take a summer holiday, we'll come together as one large group in August. It gives you a chance to meet with people from other groups, and stay connected during your summer in Paris.

No need to bring anything - just come and enjoy. We hope to see you there!

Coffee groups will resume in September. For more information, contact [woac\\_coffeecordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeecordinator@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](mailto:woac_socialgroups@woac.net).

**WICE**

**DISCOVERY WEEKENDS** - unique in-depth programs of visits and lectures exploring art and culture. The French Renaissance Experience, Sept. 21-24. For details, visit [www.wice-paris.org](http://www.wice-paris.org) or call WICE at 01.45.66.75.50.

**TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERED BY WICE**

September 2006: 1 month accelerated course

Oct. to May 2007: Part time classes

Certificate issued by Rutgers State University Graduate School

Register for a fee information session Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> at WICE website, [www.wice-paris.org](http://www.wice-paris.org).

? ? **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](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 - - - - -

*One ancient form of spiritual discipline is the one developed by St. Benedict in the 6th century A.D. It became the model for most other monastic forms of spirituality and is found in Benedictine monasteries today. It also has many implications for our own spiritual life, no matter what our faith tradition is, as described in Joan Chittester’s book, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*. It fosters a discipline – i.e. plan – aimed at opening us up to God every part of our life. This plan has at its heart the values of community, hospitality, and balance. It provides a guide for a loving life that can both reach out to others and nurture the individual soul. It teaches us that life consists of a balance, an equilibrium in which the following elements are each one important: worship/prayer; study; work and recreation/ rest.*

*These four elements are fairly easily put together in a monastic community, where everyone lives together under a vow to follow this discipline. But how can we appropriate some of this in our own lives, lives often filled with long work days, meals to prepare, children, classes, trips, guests and so forth? I suggest that we do an inventory of how we spend our time: how many hours make up “work”? How many are study or recreation? Perhaps this inventory needs to look at larger groups of time than each day: a week, a month, a quarter. Still, balance is important. Where do we do too much or too little? It is up to each one of us to decide what “too much” and “too little” mean. Most of us know, however, if we need more or less work, or more or less prayer, or more or less recreation and rest.*

*In my life as a working mother, recreation and rest often get short-changed. I am working on that! Fortunately, the French place a high value on family time and vacation time. So I am able to look forward to a summer which will bring more balance to my life. I plan also to have it bring some reflection that will bring a plan for balance when I return, “re-created,” from my travels.*

*I wish for you all a re-newing and re-creating summer. May you find balance and rest in your life. God’s peace be with you.*

**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](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.

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).

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).

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).

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](mailto:woac_volunteer@woac.net).

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](mailto:woac_bloom@woac.net).

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[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](http://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](http://www.soshelpline.org).

[The American Hospital of Paris](#) is pleased to announce that its 3rd Annual Family Health Day will be held on September 23, 2006 from 10 am to 12:30 pm. This free event for the English-speaking community will include lectures by Hospital physicians on accidents & emergencies, healthcare cultural differences, CPR training for children & adults, cultural adjustment issues, insurance filing and much more. The event is free and will be held at the American Hospital Conference Center, direct access: 55 bd du Chateau, Neuilly sur Seine. For registration and information, please contact Rebecca Allaigre, American Relations, at 01 46 41 26 26 or by email at [rebecca.allaigre@ahparis.org](mailto:rebecca.allaigre@ahparis.org).

[Enjoy French Wine in the US!](#)

Are you heading back to the US soon? Or maybe you are already there and reading this newsletter. If you miss the fine French wines we enjoy here in France, you can still get them in the US. Eric Pasquet, proprietor of Vivin, an elegant wine shop in Neuilly, will help you obtain French wines at a competitive price, and will even handle all the paperwork for you. Vivin specializes in wines that have very little sulphites, no added or selected yeast, and no added sugar. . . natural wines that are just starting to become popular in the US. Vivin has been a Bloom supporter for many years, including workshops on wine and food pairing. You can contact Eric at his shop at 114 avenue Achille Peretti, 92200 Neuilly-Sur-Seine, 01.46.24.19.19 or email at [vivin@vivin.fr](mailto:vivin@vivin.fr).



[Golf Lessons for children](#)- - - - -

Robert Gattat, relocation advisor, is sponsoring golf lessons for children. Two age groups: 10-11 and 11-12, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from late September through mid-June. Classes are taught by Sam Lau Chang (US), PGA Professional instructor. For fee rates and more information contact Robert Gattat, 06.17.64.53.80 or [Robert.gattat@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Robert.gattat@wanadoo.fr)

[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.

[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](http://www.acparis.org) for more information and details. Or phone 01.40.62.05.00.

[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.



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

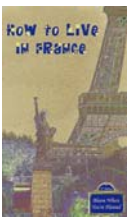


**Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work**  
**(October 3 & 10, 2006) (October 21, 2006)**

**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](mailto: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](http://www.woac.net)

**New to Paris? Jump start your social and professional network  
at **BLOOM!****

## **Bloom Where You're Planted**

**Tuesday, Oct. 3 and 10, 2006, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

An information packed two-day workshop conference filled with opportunities to connect with other people, other organizations, and to find your niche in Paris.

## **Bloom While You Work**

**Saturday, Oct. 21, 2006, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

A one-day workshop conference for people working in France. Connect and network with other English-speakers, and learn about the French work environment, visas and legal work issues, practical living in France, and More!

*WOAC logo designed by Maya Ayed*