

WOAC

women of the american church

September 2006 Volume 13, Issue 8

Message from the President - - - - -

Dear Friends,

Rentrée time in Paris means back from vacation, back to school, and, of course – back to BLOOM! Yes, every year in October, the WOAC sponsors **Bloom Where You're Planted**. 2006 will be our 36th year of sponsoring this valuable program for English speakers in France. Bloom has become the premier place for newcomers to get connected, learn about life in France, and discover the rich opportunities of living in this beautiful city. This year's Bloom Where You're Planted is October 3 and 10, and Bloom While You Work is October 21.



If you are new to France, or want an opportunity to meet new people, and have a fabulous experience, be sure to register for Bloom. You will find all the details about Bloom Where You're Planted and Bloom While You Work, as well as registration forms on the woac website, at www.woac.net.

We will be needing lots of volunteers to make Bloom a success. If you can help out on any or all of the Bloom days or partial days, please contact Bloom Director, Ingrid Wills at woac_bloom@woac.net. Here are some of the things we need:

Hostesses – greet participants, help direct people to the room they need, keep the time for workshop speakers, be the friendly faces of Bloom. October 3 and 10 only.

Baked Goods – we recruit home baked goods for the morning coffee breaks at all the Bloom seminars. If you can donate some goodies, they will be lovingly consumed by grateful participants and volunteers. Bring them on Oct 3 or 10 before 9:00 am, or the Monday before. For the Bloom Work – bring them Oct 21 before 9:00 am.

Set Up/Take Down Crew – assist with the set up and take down of all equipment used for Bloom, including tables, chairs, table coverings, printed materials, etc. Help needed on Mondays Oct 2 and 9, and Friday Oct 20, as well as on all 3 seminar days, Oct 3, 10 and 21.

Bloom Cafés

- Morning – help serve coffee, tea and breakfast pastries during the morning. All 3 days.
- Lunch time – help prepare, serve and clean up the lunch. All 3 days.
- Afternoon – help prepare, serve and clean up the wine reception food and beverages. October 10 and 21 only.

Coat Check – take coats and give claim tickets for participants and volunteers. October 3 and 10 only.

Registration – help check in participants, volunteers and speakers during registration. All 3 days.

Child Care – help provide loving care to the children of participants while their parents attend the Bloom seminars. October 3 and 10 only.

I hope to see you at Bloom as a participant or a volunteer. You will cherish your Bloom experience forever. I promise!

Fran Rhodes, President

LUNCH BUNCH!

Join us on Sept 18 at noon for the WOAC semi-annual Salad Luncheon. Bring a salad to share, and enjoy a relaxing lunch with WOAC friends. Following lunch, the 2nd part of our Da Vinci Code Myths and Mysteries program will be presented by Malcom Livesay of Paris Walks. You won't want to miss this one!



We would like to take the opportunity at this luncheon to promote the WOAC's international cookbook, so if possible, please choose a salad from the book, and pick up a marker at the table to indicate the name of the salad, and the page number on which it is found. The WOAC Board will provide beverages and desserts. YUM!

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. **Finger snacks to share are most appreciated at all group coffees.** Childcare is, unfortunately, not available at these monthly get-togethers.

September 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

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Sept. 28 10:00 to 12:00 at Regina Jorg's, 14 rue Edgar Faure, 75015.

Bring snacks to share, and contact woac_paris1@woac.net to rsvp and get door code

Contact: woac_paris1@woac.net

Neuilly: The Neuilly area and surrounding suburbs

Contact: woac_neuilly@woac.net

Western Suburbs: 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. The French Renaissance Experience, Sept. 21-24. For details, visit 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. 25th at WICE website, 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

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 - - - - -

This summer my family spent a few days in the charming and unassuming Austrian village of Hallstatt. It sits snuggled against the mountains on a deep lake. You would never know, as you take the boat from the train station across the smooth lake to the town, that this village is considered one of the cradles of human civilization, or that inside the beautiful Salzkammergut mountains behind it lie salt mines that have been exploited for over 7 000 years.

The salt in these mountains come from the evaporation of ancient seas around 250 million years ago. The minerals left behind were later folded into the limestone rock of the Alps as they were formed. We toured the salt mines and viewed ancient tools, from stone and horn pickaxes of the Neolithic period forward to ones from the Bronze and Iron Ages, and then from Celtic, Roman, and more recent eras. The wealth from the salt and the need for better tools pushed humans to advance their knowledge and their technology. We mused on the drive and genius of human beings and on the importance of salt for humanity.

Salt is a very precious substance, and used to be more valuable than gold. Salt allows meat to be preserved and flavor to be added to food. Some salt is necessary to the human diet. Maybe that’s why Jesus said, “You are the salt of the world.” We are to be salt, salt to the world. What does that mean for us during this time of “la rentrée”?

Maybe the uses of salt can be a guide: salt preserves, salt gives flavor, salt can leaven dough, salt is necessary in our diet. To be “the salt of the world” is to give flavor to and preserve life. It is to help growth in the dough of our community, to bring essential ingredients to our society. In other words, to be salt is to serve, bringing our gifts and talents to help our communities and the world.

As you prepare for the explosion of business that comes at the rentrée, think about how you wish to serve this year. Even if you have only recently arrived, you may be able to think about small ways in which you are being “salt” in this city. Many organizations, for example, are looking for volunteers – churches, synagogues, schools, women’s groups, help groups, and so forth.

You are the salt of the earth. Enjoy the energy of this beginning of the school year. And may sharing your gifts bring you blessings and peace.

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.

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.

Friday Mission Lunch Program- - - - - -

The ACP is currently in need of a coordinator for the ACP's once a month responsibility for the Friday Mission Lunch Program. It is a half day, once per month commitment which involves working with a very dynamic group of volunteers and is a wonderful way to serve your community. To volunteer or obtain more information, please contact Kristie Worrel at kristieworrel@hotmail.com.

ACP Social Concerns/Mission Outreach Committee - - - - -

Looking for a way to give back to the community and perform a worthwhile service for others in need? The Social Concerns/Mission Outreach Committee of the American Church in Paris supervises activities for Habitat for Humanity, Friday Mission Lunch, Rafiki Orphanage, Refugee Mission, other orphanage missions, and ACAT (Action des Chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture). If one of these community service activities interests you, contact Social Concerns Chair, Carlos Argandona Aguilar at cea99@hotmail.com for more information.

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'S Annual Art Fair - - - - -

The WOAC will sponsor it's annual Art Fair on Nov. 18, and we'll need lots of helpers, but also a Volunteer Coordinator to organize and manage the helpers. We'll also need people to supervise the used book sale. If you can help in any way - please contact woac Volunteer Coordinator Patti Bravard at woac_volunteers@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.

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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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.

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.

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.

The American Church has vocal choirs and handbell choirs for people of all ages. If you would like more information please feel free to contact Fred Gramann (music@acparis.org) for adult groups or Bonnie Woolley (bw@respirando.net) for toddlers through teens.

Atelier Concert Series: The American Church sponsors a free classical concert each Sunday evening at 5 PM. The September concerts will feature the following: Sept. 3: Sarah Kim, concert organist from Sydney, Australia; Sept. 10: Vincent Darras (counter tenor) and Harumi Kinoshita (harpichord) performing music by Handel, Purcell and others; Sept. 17: Hervé-Alain Hodan (cello) and Oswaldo Skroski (piano) in a program of Beethoven and Franck, Sept. 24: Krista Martynes, clarinet.

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.



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

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: Sept. 18, 9:00 am at the American Church in Paris, 65 Quai d'Orsay, 75007.

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.

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



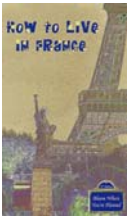
Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work
(October 3 & 10, 2006) (October 21, 2006)
Annual Orientation Program for English Speakers of all
Nationalities & Affiliations

Join the Bloom Team - - - - -

Now recruiting for the following Bloom positions for next year:

Bloom Co-Directors March and/or October, 2007: - - - - -

Let your leadership skills shine in this exciting role of coordinating and managing a Bloom seminar. There's lots of help from veteran "Bloomers", so the job is easy, rewarding, and fun.



Bloom Book Editor (or Co-Editors) - - - - -

This person(s) is responsible for coordinating the team of chapter editors who annually update the Bloom book, and working with the printer to have the book printed. The timeline is primarily focused on January to June, a few hours each month. Previous printing/editing experience is NOT necessary. Several former Editors are still available to serve as advisors and mentors.

Bloom Book Advertising Chair (or Co-Chair) - - - - -

The advertising chair(s) are responsible for contacting previous advertisers by email or mail, and providing information to prospective new advertisers. As ads are committed, the advertising chair collects the ads, forwards them to the printer, and collects the money. Previous experience is NOT required, and the position is mostly administrative. The timeline is focused on February through June, a few hours each month. Previous advertising chairs are available to provide advice and direction.

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!

Find it all at BLOOM, Paris' foremost opportunity to
launch a great Parisian experience!

Details and registration at www.woac.net