



October 2006Volume 13, Issue 9

Message from the President - - - - -

Dear Friends,

October means BLOOM at the WOAC, and this year, Director Ingrid Wills, and her team of co-chairs have put together a wonderful program of informative, exciting workshops and speakers. Bloom While You Work, a must for anyone new and working in France, will be held on October 21, directed by Michelle O'Brien and Susan Zeitouni. I hope that you are enjoying one of the Bloom experiences either as a participant or a volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helped contribute to this year's Bloom success!

October also means that we are winding down the WOAC year, but it's not over yet! We still can look forward to the Holiday Art and Craft Fair on November 18, and the Embassy Tea on December 6.

The Holiday Art & Craft Fair is an annual tradition in Paris and the best place to find holiday décor, gifts, cards, jewelry, and more, all hand made by our artisans and crafters. You won't want to miss this wonderful event which includes a lunch, tombola, a used book sale, and the famous WOAC Bake Sale! Save the date – November 18 from 10:00 to 6:00. Entry is free, so the whole family can enjoy.

The Embassy Tea will help you get into the holiday mood with an elegant tea at the home of American Ambassador, Craig Stapleton, and his wife, Debbie. The Embassy Residence will be decorated for the holidays and the tea will include a docent tour of the interesting art collection, selected by Mr. & Mrs. Stapleton, and displayed in the residence. A musical program will make the whole event festive! Watch for tickets on sale through coffee groups, at the church reception, and at the Welcome Table after church.

The WOAC Board will change over in January, so the nominating committee is busy looking for nominees for two new officers – Vice President, and Treasurer. If you might be interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Patti Bravard, at woac_volunteers@woac.net.

Fran Rhodes, President

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.

Our series for 2006/2007 will begin on October 7, from 9:30 to 11:30. The topic will be "Finding Balance: Loving God with Heart and Soul, Mind and Strength" from a study by Becca Stevens. All are welcome. Please notify Fran Rhodes if you need childcare: woac_president@woac.net. Future sessions will be Nov 4, Dec 2, Feb 3 & Mar 10.

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.

October 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

Next meeting: October 16th from 10 to 12. See Website for location and details.

Contact: woac_paris2@woac.net

Neuilly/Western Suburbs: The Neuilly area and surrounding Western suburbs

Contact: woac_neuilly@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.



Holiday Art and Craft Fair

presented by



Saturday, November 18, 2006, 10:30 to 17:00

The American Church in Paris, 65 quai d'Orsay,

75007 Paris

*Art & Craft Vendors * Bake Sale * Tombolas*

**Used Book Sale * Lunch*

? ? **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 - - - - -

Many people, when they think about God, think of the ultimate Good, the ultimate Truth. Religious life then centers on what we do and what we believe – ethics and doctrines. This view of God and religion is fine, but it misses one other important aspect of God – Beauty. This understanding of God grounds our spiritual life in thanksgiving and praise.

Living in Paris has reminded me of this aspect of the Holy One. Beauty is the nature of the source of all that is: we can see it in the beauty of the organization of atoms and quarks, of cells and DNA, of planets and suns. We can see it all over this unique blue-green-brown water planet, from the high deserts of New Mexico and Arizona, to the tropical forests of Kenya.

We see beauty in human genius, and that’s what we are surrounded with in Paris. An art nouveau doorway, a Haussman building, a medieval street, an ancient church, a stained glass window – all gifts of beauty. And there is the wealth of art that overflows in hundreds of museums here – paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, jewelry, manuscripts, furniture, fashion clothing. (I am looking forward to seeing at least some of the special exhibits, especially the Titian paintings!). Nature adds to this beauty: the beautiful gardens and parks, or the simple line of brown sparrows filling a plain window-sill next to red geraniums.

Enjoy October in Paris. Notice the small charms of the city as well as the monumental ones: a doorway, a roof, the line of a metro entrance, the deep horn of the bateaux mouches – to name a few. And let’s not forget to breathe a prayer of thanks to God, the inspiration for human genius, the Source of all beauty.

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.

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. 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.

Help the Children of Africa- - - - -

You may remember Ellison Arttison, who sang for us at the Strawberry Tea. He is now working for **L'Association d'Entraide pour le Liberia**. They are currently supporting 5 orphanages in Liberia and are in need of good condition used, or new clothing for the children, ages infant through 18 years. This would include under-ware, shoes, socks, outer-ware, and sleep-ware. They also need school supplies, books, any infant care items, and toys for Christmas. If you can help by donating clothes your kids have outgrown or can no longer use, or with a new item donation, please set them aside for these Liberian children. A central collection point will be announced soon. They hope to make a shipment during the 2nd week of December. For more information, or questions, please contact Ellison Arttison, at Liberian.children@gmail.com , or phone 06.76.64.85.82. Thank you for your generosity. Your donation will help improve the lives of these children.

WOAC Volunteer Needs - - - - -

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

WOAC 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.

WOAC Bake-A-Thon! - - - - -

WOAC Bake-A-Thon! Save the date – Thursday November 16 in the kitchen on the 2nd floor. We'll be baking all day for the Art Fair Bake Sale. Come by and help for a little while or a long while. You decide. We'll be baking up a delicious storm, so please join us when you can between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. All helping hands are welcome!

Coffee Group Leaders - - - - -

The Paris 1 group is looking for one or two persons to add to their team. If you are interested in participating as a coffee group leader, please contact the Coffee Group Coordinator, Misun Lu, at woac_coffeecoordinator@woac.net.

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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.

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 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.

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.



CESEC Meeting

The Council of the English-Speaking Community (CESEC) 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 CESEC'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 CESEC 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 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.

Piano Needed in Republic of Congo

The Republic of Congo is opening a new cultural center in Brazzaville, with the goal of establishing a better rapport between the Americans and the Congolese. The ARTS is a big part of the center's activities and they are in need of a piano to be donated. If you or someone you know might be moving away, and have a piano that is not going to be moved, consider donating it to this worthy cause. Contact Ellison Arttison at 06.76.64.85.82, or email at brazzavillearts@yahoo.fr. Donations would be picked up in Paris by the Congolese Embassy, and shipped to Brazzaville.

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WICE

TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERED BY WICE
Oct. to May 2007: Part time classes
Certificate issued by Rutgers State University Graduate School
For details, visit www.wice-paris.org or call WICE at 01.45.66.75.50.



Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Need



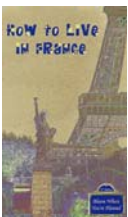
Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work
(October 3 & 10, 2006) (October 21, 2006)
Annual Orientation Program for English Speakers of all
Nationalities & Affiliations

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