



November 2006 Volume 13, Issue 10

Message from the President - - - - -

Dear WOAC Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful Paris Indian Summer weather! I know the cold is coming, but I'm hopeful that these glorious sunny days will last.

November, of course, is Thanksgiving for Americans. And even if you're not American, perhaps it's a good time to join your American friends in reflecting on the things for which you are grateful. And in that reflection, please be aware that many, many people in the world are cold, hungry, imprisoned, or without shelter. There are many opportunities in Paris to share the good fortune we have and help others in need. I hope that you will pay attention to the "volunteer opportunities" page of our newsletter and choose to be involved in some way in relieving the suffering of others.

If you are going to be in town for Thanksgiving week end, and would like to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with friends, please come to the ACP's annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** on Saturday, November 25. The dinner crew, headed by Pam and Jim Leavy will be cooking up turkeys and all the traditional trimmings, including stuffing, yams, and homemade pies. Tickets can be purchased at the church reception, or after church on Sundays. All are welcome, and this is a great way to share Thanksgiving with others who are away from family and friends.

November at the WOAC also means **Holiday Art & Craft Fair!** Please be sure to join us on November 18th from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. The church will be full of art & craft vendors where you can shop for yourself, your home, or the perfect holiday gift. It will also be full of the delicious aromas of lunch, prepared and served by the Filipino Fellowship, and the WOAC's coffee and baked goods. In the garden level of the building, you'll find a used book sale with hundreds of books to choose from. Admission is free, so bring the whole family, and enjoy getting yourself into the holiday spirit!

And speaking of holidays – the WOAC's **Embassy Tea** is also coming up soon. This special annual event will be held on Wednesday, December 6 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the residence of American Ambassador and Mrs. Craig Stapleton. The afternoon will include an elegant tea, a holiday musical program by ACP's Gaudeamus choir, and a docent tour of the residence and the art that Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton have chosen to display. Tickets will be on sale soon at the church reception, and through Board Members and Coffee Groups.

So, with Thanksgiving reflections, I'll say "Thank You" for all my wonderful friends at the WOAC. Being involved with this organization continues to be a wonderful experience for me. I hope to see you all at the Art & Craft Fair and at the Embassy Tea. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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 started in October, and its topic is "Finding Balance: Loving God with Heart and Soul, Mind and Strength" from a study by Becca Stevens. Future sessions will be Nov 4, Dec 2, Feb 3 & Mar 10 from 9:30 to 11:30. All are welcome. Please notify Fran Rhodes if you need childcare:
woac_president@woac.net.

November 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: November 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

We are having a combined coffee-group evening cocktail event this month for all the areas. Please bring your spouses and partners and come join us for a fun time. See the invitation below for details.

Celebration of Fall Cocktail Event

Thursday, November 9 from 7 to 9 pm
At Misun Lu's (coffee group coordinator)
8 rue Picot, 75116 Paris
Métro: Victor Hugo

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served, but participants may bring a bottle to share!

RSVP (for organisation, DOOR CODE & floor) to one of the above neighborhood Coffee Co-Chairs



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*

WITH GRATITUDE . . .

The few days after [Bloom](#) felt for me a bit like the post-Christmas let down - what had taken months to plan was over in the course of two Tuesdays. Paired with that sentiment, just like after Christmas, was the feeling that all that hard work had been worth it. The effort appreciated, the outcome something special. I would like to thank everyone involved, the committee chairs and volunteers who put in countless hours, who arrived on the church steps at O:Dark Hundred and stayed late, who set everything up and took it all back down, TWICE. You helped make this Bloom such a success. I hope you had a chance to hear the great praise, comments and thanks voiced by the Bloom participants. Your efforts were sincerely appreciated by them and me. Bloom couldn't have happened without you.

Ingrid Wills, Bloom Director

? ? 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 - - - - -

As many of you know, I grew up changing countries every two or three years (my father was in the U.S. Foreign Service). Thanksgiving in another country was always a challenge, especially finding the equivalent of a turkey. I remember that in India we had peahen (the female of the peacock) the first year; squab (pigeon) the second year; and finally, a goose the third and last year there. Even in France turkey was not well-known in those years, and I believe that we had a variety of fowl and, over the years, even a roast beef. There were times that we would long for traditional American dishes: sweet potatoes, corn, stuffing. The attempts were fun however, and kept the feeling of home traditions alive.

At the same time, we learned to add dishes from the country in which we currently lived. We would try local vegetables, breads, and desserts. My favorite became the addition of chestnuts to our menu while living in France. My mother learned to make a wonderful chestnut stuffing, and to serve a steaming hot dish of chestnut purée (“purée de marrons”) alongside the mashed potatoes. This openness to new foods tied us in more closely with our hosts and enriched our American traditions (which, after all, are already a potpourri of traditions from other countries).

The holidays can be a time in which we miss the traditions we have had, the way we always do something. And, at the same time, they can open up new possibilities, new joys, new people to share our table with. November in the United States is a time of giving thanks for family, country, food, traditions. It can be an even richer time here, as we augment the old with the new. So let’s not forget to celebrate and give thanks to the Holy One, the Source of all good things, and to find ways to hold on to some of the old while we explore and find joy in the new.

Dr. Tina Blair, ACP Associate Pastor

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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 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.

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.

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.

WOAC Board – Treasurer - - - - -

Working with the ACP Accountant, the WOAC Treasurer prepares the annual budget, brings financial reports to the Board, advises on financial issues, and processes reimbursement requests. The Treasurer is a voting member and officer of the WOAC Board. The position requires attending Board meetings once monthly, and all WOAC activities whenever possible. For more information contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

WOAC Board – Vice-President - - - - -

The Vice-President assists the President with all duties, and serves as President in her absence. The Vice-President also serves as chairperson of the Bloom Policy Committee. The position requires attending Board meetings once monthly, Bloom Policy Committee meetings once monthly, and all WOAC activities whenever possible. For more information, contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

Social Concerns/Mission Outreach - - - - -

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.

WOAC Bake-A-Thon!
The WOAC will be baking in the 2nd floor kitchen on Thursday Nov. 16th for the Art Fair Bake Sale. We'll be there from 11:00 to 4:00 baking up all sorts of goodies. Stop by for a little while or a long while, and help us whip up some delicious goodies for the bake sale. All ingredients will be provided, all we need are willing hearts and helping hands. And sometimes we make mistakes which the cooks are obliged to eat! (it's part of the job!)

WOAC & ACWO Embassy Tea
The WOAC & the ACWO cordially invite you to our annual Embassy Holiday Tea. This year's tea will be held on Wed. Dec. 6, 2006 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the residence of American Ambassador and Mrs. Craig Stapleton. Tickets will be available soon from organization board members, at the American Church, or via the woac website (www.woac.net). This year's tea will feature a holiday musical program, elegant tea snacks, and a docent tour of the residence.

Help the Children of Africa- - - - - -

L'Association d'Entraide pour le Liberia 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. They also need school supplies, books, any infant care items, and toys for Christmas. 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.

The Junior Guild of the American Cathedral - - - - - -

Annual **Christmas Fair** on Saturday, November 25 (11:00 to 4:00 P.M.) and Sunday, November 26 (12:00 to 3:00 P.M.) at the American Cathedral, 23 avenue George V, Paris 75008. Baked goods, flowers, decorations and cards, bric a brac, books, silent auction.

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.

ACP International Singles Group - - - - - -

Singles (all ages, all nationalities) are cordially invited to the ACP Singles Group meetings on the third Sunday of every month following the 11:00 service at the church. Meet after Coffee Hour at the Singles Table in the Theatre. For more info – contact: acp-singles@hotmail.com

The American Church Vocal Choirs and Hand-bell Choirs - - - - - -

For people of all ages – a chance to learn . 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.

Evenings with an Author and Evenings of American Culture - - - - - -

The American Library in Paris, 10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007. November, Paris Photography Month: Wednesday, Nov. 8th at 7:30 P.M., Meredith Mullins, "In A Paris Moment;" Tuesday, Nov. 14th, 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., Clotilde Noblet, "The Brooklyn Bridge." For more information, call 01.53.59.12.60 or e-mail communication@americanlibraryinparis.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 next CESC meeting is Dec. 18 at 10:00 at the American Church, 65 Quai d'Orsay, 75007.

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

WICE Happenings - - - - - -

View the latest course offerings and don't miss their events! For details, visit www.wice-paris.org or call WICE at 01.45.66.75.50

American Women's Group - - - - - -

AWG offers many fun and interesting activities throughout the year, as well as community service & volunteer opportunities. To see what's happening and find membership information, visit the website – www.awgparis.org

ACP's Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Join friends at the ACP for a home-cooked, traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 25. The menu includes turkey with all the trimmings, including stuffing, yams, potatoes, gravy, and home-made pies! We'll gather for a drink at 6:30 and dinner will begin serving at 7:30. Tickets are €18 for adults, €12 for students, €8 for kids 5-12, and kids under 5 are free. A great way to top off the Thanksgiving week-end!



Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Need



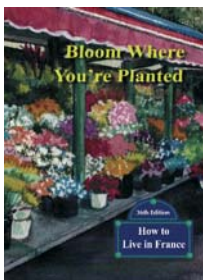
Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work
(March 13, 2007) (March 24, 2007)
Annual Orientation Program for English Speakers of all
Nationalities & Affiliations

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.

Advertising Opportunities in the Bloom Where You're Planted Book

The world famous book, *Bloom Where You're Planted – How to Live in France* is updated and re-published every year. 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 brochures table at Bloom seminars will now be exclusively reserved for brochures and pamphlets from non profit organizations, schools, and businesses who purchase advertising in the Bloom Book. You now have a double (and exclusive) opportunity 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€

For more information, contact Debby Winzeler, Bloom Book Ad Chair at woac_advertising@woac.net

woac logo designed by Maya Ayed