



Message from the President - - - - -

Merry Christmas – WOAC!

December is my favorite time of year! Most people the world over celebrate some sort of holiday during this time, and festive moods prevail. It's a time when we turn our thoughts to friends and family, and wishes for peace and good will. When I was a little girl, the month of December was filled with surprises, and wonderful treats, but also hard work, as we helped our mother with the holiday decorating, shopping, gift wrapping, and of course – the baking! She would whip up the most amazing candies, cookies, cakes and pies! It gives me some of the best memories of my life. I was reminded of those times on Nov 16th, as several of our members gathered in the church kitchen to bake cookies and other treats for the bake sale at the Art & Craft Fair. What fun! I think we all left with flour and sugar all over the front of our shirts!

This December, my husband and I will be traveling to Texas to spend the holidays with our kids, and I hope to re-create some of those warm fuzzy feelings for them. I hope that you too will be enjoying the holiday season with family and friends wherever you may be. One of the great rewards of an expat life is the global circle of friends that comes from it and the feeling that wherever you go, you are never alone.

If you are in Paris for the holidays – there are many opportunities to share with others less fortunate than you, and to celebrate the season in whatever way you find appealing. Start the season off with the annual ACP Candlelight Christmas Concert on Dec 9. You will enjoy the beautiful music in the wonderful setting of our sanctuary, decked out for Christmas. Donate a blanket to a displaced person, help prepare and serve lunch to a group of Parisians in need, donate used clothing to orphans in Africa, send your "Love in a Box", or give your time to assist the many outreach programs of the WOAC and the American Church. Details on all these opportunities are found in this newsletter. I urge you to investigate one or all of them, and reach out to others as you enjoy this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Patti Bravard, Art Fair Coordinator, and all the volunteers that helped to make this annual event a success once again! The Art Fair, held on Nov 18 was the perfect setting to get a jump start on holiday shopping, and get ourselves into the spirit! The bake sale sold out, the book sale raised record funds for church education, and the vendors offered up a pleasing variety of arts and crafts. Congratulations to the Art & Craft Fair team for a job well done!

Be sure to mark you calendars for the WOAC semi-annual **Salad Luncheon on Jan 15** at noon. This meeting will include the annual meeting of the WOAC, and the election of officers for 2007. Our program this time will be a historical tour of the American Church building by our volunteer docents, including the original Tiffany windows, and the Beckerath organ. Bring a salad to share, and then enjoy getting better acquainted with our very own Paris landmark.

As we approach 2007, I'm reminded how fast time flies! This will be my last letter to you as President of the WOAC, as a new President will be elected in January. Ingrid Wills, our current Vice-President, has agreed to fill that role. I can't even begin to tell you all how much I've enjoyed my experience as a WOAC President! It has been a rewarding experience, as well as educational, interesting, and most especially FUN! I will still be around for a few months as a participant, but I gratefully turn over my leadership responsibilities to Ingrid, and I know she will be FABULOUS! Best wishes and blessings to you all as you continue the mission of the Women of the American Church!

Fran Rhodes, President

THANK YOU!!

I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with the 2006 Art and Craft Fair. We could not have done it without everyone who pitched in and helped in every single way!
We had signs made, name tags, and flyers printed. Thank you!
We had bakers on Thursday from 1-5 baking those wonderful goodies!! Thank you!
We had a team to come and set up on Friday night for the main part of the fair. Thank you!
We had a team to come and set up the used books on Friday night. Thank you!
There were those at the church who put up with having everything re-arranged, helped moved books, tables, put up signs. Thank you!!
On Saturday we had volunteers for the baked goods, hostessing, coffee/tea, tombola, WOAC table and used books. Thank you, each and every one of you!!
At the end of the fair we had a wonderful bunch who made sure all was taken down and put away. Thank you!
Any event that takes place, means a lot of hard work by a lot of very wonderful volunteers. We could not do it without you. Thank you everyone!!

Patti Bravard, Art Fair Coordinator

December Coffees

There will be no area coffees in December. Have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.
See you in January!!"

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

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 is "Finding Balance: Loving God with Heart and Soul, Mind and Strength" from a study by Becca Stevens. Future sessions will be 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.



Save the date!
WOAC's Annual Salad Luncheon
January 15, noon to 2:00 pm at the church
Bring a salad to share!

ATTENTION – Important Security Notice

Recently, one of our friends was the victim of a 'smash and grab' theft from her car while stopped at a light in Croissey sur Seine. Fortunately no one was injured. Because such incidents are an unfortunate reality, we strongly recommend that you place all valuables, including large amounts of cash, important documents (passports, visas, etc.) keys, etc. out of sight or in the trunk of your car. Keep in mind that if it can be seen it can be taken. When in traffic, try to maintain some space in which to maneuver, leaving yourself with an exit whenever possible. Keep your doors locked while driving. If you are being followed or harassed by another driver, locate the nearest police station, hotel or other public facility and notify the authorities immediately.

These and other related personal safety tips can be found at www.amb-usa.fr under US Citizen Services. Please pass this information onto your family and friends.

? ? 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 - - - - -

*“Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens,
Brown paper packages tied up with strings;
These are a few of my favorite things. . . .”*

This is a wonderful song from “The Sound of Music,” isn’t it? A song that sings of favorite things, ordinary things. Ordinary things like kittens and kettles and mittens and string – have you ever pondered how precious ordinary things are? I remember one year trying to write the Christmas letter that I send out annually and not being able to find one outstanding event to write about – no one in my family had achieved stardom or special honor; no one had received a degree or a new job; and no one had been really ill or had died. All in all, I decided, it was really a great year, an ordinary year, blessed with all the ordinary goodness of life. So for my Christmas letter, I wrote a poem about the joy of ordinary things.

We so often think of the life of faith as being one in which we are to accomplish extraordinary deeds or live through miraculous experiences. But God dwells in the everyday ordinary details of life. God values our ordinary lives as precious; for God, all the details of our ordinary lives are extraordinary.

As we enter the holiday season, let’s celebrate the joys of ordinary life. Holidays don’t have to be super extraordinary or perfect. They can be celebrations of ordinary but wonderful things like friends, family, shelter, food. We don’t have to over-consume and over-eat. Celebrations can be lower key and less extravagant, and actually be more fun!

At the same time, we can celebrate ordinary things by sharing with those who do not have the ordinary necessities of life like food, shelter, clothing. We can give to charities, to world hunger or medical organizations, to our churches and synagogues. We can support organizations that are working to save the planet from pollution. We can give time to labor for peace.

Have a wonderful, ordinary Hanukkah or Christmas. And may God grant you a lovely ordinary new year!

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 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 Board – Secretary - - - - -

The Secretary keeps the official records of the WOAC and the Bloom Policy Committee. The position requires attending and taking minutes at Board meetings once monthly, Bloom Policy Committee meetings once monthly, and WOAC activities whenever possible. Also included in Secretary duties is sending out announcements of meetings and reserving the rooms. For more information, contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

Church World Service Blanket Drive - - - - -

Send your love in a blanket! The ACP Sunday School is having a blanket drive! Bring a blanket to help displaced persons around the world. Help reach the goal of 100 blankets by the end of the year. Bring your blanket donations to the church reception, marked "Sunday School Blanket Drive", Monday through Sunday 9:00 to 21:00, 65 quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris.

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.

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.

WOAC Board News

The Board voted in September, to donate excess funds from the 2006 activities to the same charities as the previous year: The American Church, The Donna Caruso Fund (for emergency food, shelter and transportation at the discretion of the ACP Pastors), C.A.S.P., and Church World Services, (with €2003 being set aside again this year for the Ruth Kennedy Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist the youth of the ACP attend youth conferences and activities). Actual amounts will be determined after 2006 accounts are closed. At the end of 2005, the WOAC gave €22,638 to these charities.

The 2007 Board will be presented at the Jan. 15 meeting. A vote will taken for the election of the 4 officers, and nominations from the floor are accepted. The 2007 Nominated Board is:

Officers

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| President: | Ingrid Wills | Secretary: | <i>Open</i> |
| Vice President: | Kelly Littlewood | Treasurer: | Janet Charles |

Committee Chairs:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Advisor: | Shelly Dawson | Newsletter: | Louise Belanger |
| Art Fair Coordinator: | Patti Bravard | Special Events: | Florence Drillon |
| Coffee Groups: | Misun Lu | Volunteer Coord: | Patti Bravard |
| Devotions: | Dr. Tina Blair | Welcome Table: | <i>Open</i> |
| | | Website: | Rodney Wines |

[Help the Children of Africa](#) - - - - -

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[Annual Candlelight Christmas Concerts](#) - - - - -

The American Church annual Christmas Concerts will be held Dec. 9, 2006 at 5 pm and 8pm. With the sanctuary decorated with greens and bathed in candlelight, seasonal music will be provided by the ACP Adult Choir, Bronze Ringers, Youth Choir, Gaudeamus, vocal soloists and instrumentalists. The concert ends with everyone joining to sing familiar carols in English and French. The proceeds from the concert go to support the total ministries of the church. Tickets will be 15 euros for reserved seating front rows, and 10 euros (adults), 5 euros (students and children) for all other seating. Purchase tickets at the church reception Monday through Sunday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

[Tennis Anyone?](#) - - - - -

We are a group of ladies that originated from Bloom more than nine years ago. Members of the group come and go as is the nature of work in France for many non French people. At the moment we are looking for new people interested in playing Tennis on a Tuesday morning. We need people who can play good to very good tennis but not beginners. We play at Aquaboulevard (line 8 Balard) from 10 am to noon. Permanent members pay a yearly fee and reserves do not pay anything at all if they fill in. If you are interested please contact me for more information: Judy Scorpecci (coordinator) at djcorpecci@noos.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 next CESC meeting is Dec. 18 at 10:00 at the American Church, 65 Quai d'Orsay, 75007.

[Bereavement Seminars](#) - - - - -

Permission To Grieve – a workshop exploring the fusion of joy with grief as we explore a new paradigm of grieving without fear, shame, or a timetable. The seminar is offered by Barbara Cole, in two parts: Dec 4 and 11 from 19:00 to 20:00 at Kehilat Gesher (the anglo-phone Jewish synagogue in Paris) The synagogue is located at 7, rue Leon Cogniet, Paris 17th. Metro: Courcelles. phone 01 39 21 97 19.



LOVE IN A BOX!

For 15 years, the **LOVE IN A BOX** programs have provided holiday gifts to thousands of needy children. This year, we will distribute presents to children from seven Paris area charities and another in Strasbourg. Want to help? It's easy – just take an empty shoe box, wrap it with colourful paper, wrapping the lid separately. Inside place (**required**): toothpaste & toothbrush; soap; crayons or markers; notebook, paper, or coloring book; something warm to wear (gloves, scarf, hat); sweets, cookies or candy-bar (not homemade).

You **may also include** things like: small good quality toys; games, balls, marbles; dolls, stuffed animals; toy cars; hair accessories, combs; bandanas, belts, T-Shirts. **Do not include** liquids; perishables; toy guns; knives or sharp items; medicine; batteries.

Place an elastic band or ribbon around the box to keep the lid on – but do not tape it. You may place a photo of yourself, and a letter if you wish. Place a label on the end of the box marked "Girl" or "Boy" to fit your gifts, and the age of the child the gifts are intended for.

Bring all your "Boxed Love" to the American Cathedral no later than Dec. 10, 2006. Financial contributions also welcome. Questions? Contact Fran Rhodes at woac_president@woac.net for a referral to the program directors.



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DO YOU HAVE EXTRA "TICKETS RESTAURANTS"? Some people may be receiving *tickets restaurants* for lunches, and may not always use them. If you have unused *tickets restaurants*, please consider donating them to the American Church. They can be distributed to members who are homeless, unemployed, and are struggling to find their daily bread. If you can donate tickets – please give them to one of the pastors, or leave at church reception. THANK YOU!



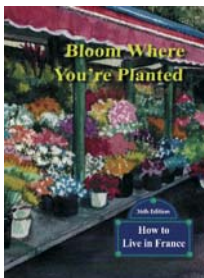
Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Need



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 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.

Bloom Book Errata Page - - - - -

Keep your Bloom Book up to date! You will find the errata webpage on the WOAC website www.woac.net

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