



February 2007Volume 14, Issue 1

Message from the President - - - - -

Bonne Année! As a new year starts and I write my first message for our newsletter, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to our outgoing President Fran Rhodes. Fran has served as President for the past two years; she's also been a Bloom Director and continues to serve as Bloom Publicity Chair. If it weren't for the fact that I know how much she is looking forward to moving back home to Texas, I would try to find a way to keep her here. Fran has been a tireless leader and a wonderful mentor. Her continuing commitment to WOAC and the Bloom Program is evidenced by her plans to work in support of Bloom after she returns home. Yes, WOAC will be opening its first overseas office. Fran, the words 'thank you' really are inadequate to convey our gratitude for all you've done. You've left big shoes to fill and my feet are too small, but I'll do my best.

I moved to Paris 18 months ago with my husband John and our daughter Lizz who is now 16. As a family we all have the same pause when asked where we are from. *From?* Well, we came to Paris from Massachusetts, before that Colorado, and before that England, before that Colorado, Florida, Southern California, New York, Pennsylvania.....but where are we *from?* Our daughter answers "All over." My husband works for a French Consulting Firm and we're here indefinitely, so maybe someday the answer to that question will be "Paris". As for me, I retired from working in risk management and international insurance when we moved to England. I enjoy the looks I get when immigration officers read "retired" on my entry card; I guess they expect me to be a bit older. Retirement has been great and has given me the gift of time with our daughter, and the opportunity to become involved with WOAC and Bloom.

The next big events for WOAC are the March Bloom Where You're Planted and Bloom While You Work programs. After I arrived in Paris I couldn't wait for October and my chance to attend Bloom. In all of our moves I have never encountered anything like Bloom. When I came that first Tuesday I was completely unprepared for number of volunteers who were there with a welcoming smile and the helpful advice of one who had been through all this before. If you're new to Paris and haven't attended a Bloom program, don't miss this wonderful and informative workshop.

For those of you who have attended Bloom, now is a great chance to give something back by volunteering. It takes many volunteers to make each Bloom program a success and I encourage you to join the Bloom team. It is an incredibly rewarding opportunity to help others, that's what WOAC is all about. I'm looking forward to the coming year and with your involvement, it's going to be great!

Ingrid Wills, President

THANK YOU Florence Drillon! Florence's last event as WOAC Special Events Coordinator was the Holiday Tea at the American Ambassador's Residence in December. The tea was a huge success, with double the attendance of previous years. It was a memorable afternoon of music, tea and pastries, and an informative docent tour. Our thanks to Florence, the Gaudeamus choir, and their director Bonnie Woolley. On behalf of WOAC, many thanks to Mrs. Debbie Stapleton, wife of American Ambassador Craig Stapleton, who made everyone feel very welcome in their home.

February Coffees

Paris I: 8th, 16th, 17th arrondissements, Boulogne Billancourt

Next meeting on Tuesday, February 20th from 10 to 12 at the home of Deanne Cheverton in the 17th arrondissement. We will be having a DVD and book/magazine exchange. Please RSVP to Fiona Scott by phone 01.47.63.61.02 or email fionascott@mail.com and I will send the full address/door code information. Unfortunately, childcare cannot be provided.

Paris II: All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs

Next meeting: Thursday February 8th from 10 to 12 at Regina Jorg's. To RSVP, please e-mail her at regijorg@gmx.net

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

Next meeting: February 19th from 10 to 12.

Contact: woac_neuilly@woac.net

Evening Group: For people who work – meets evenings

Contact: woac_evening@woac.net



Paris 1 January coffee was not only a lot of fun, but we raised more than 300 euros for the Friday Mission Lunch Program by having an 'Oops Auction'. Kristina did a fabulous job as the auctioneer, demanding top euros for the items that were donated. We had a lot of laughs, good food and conversation. Hope more of you can join us for our February coffee...

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 session will be March 10 from 9:30 to 11:30. All are welcome. Please notify Ingrid Wills if you need childcare: woac_president@woac.net.

? ? **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 - - - - -

On February 2nd, the United States celebrates the very strange day called “Groundhog’s Day.” The legend is that when the little animal called a groundhog comes out of its hole on that day and sees his shadow, he will then run back into his den, and six more weeks of winter will follow. If, on the other hand, he does not see his shadow and stays outside, winter will soon end.

There are times in our lives when we “see our shadow,” so to speak and want to run and hide. Moving to another city or country can be that way – after a while there are so many differences between our new home and our old home that we cannot cope. Sometimes we see the shadow of difficulties at work and it is hard to get up and face them. At other times, it can be our relationships with family members or friends that make us want to duck back into our hole.

At these times, we need to reach out for love and support, rather than running and hiding in our den. We need to turn to people we can trust and spend some time with them. This is why the WOAC started the coffee groups, special lunches and events, and the “Bloom” orientation programs so long ago. This is what your faith community is here for. New arrivals to Paris and French culture especially need this community as they grow from the stages of basic survival to the stages of appreciation and love of Paris. Those of us in this last stage are called to reach out and help these new ones out of the holes they may feel they are in!

These times of wanting to burrow to safety are also important times of spiritual growth. They are times of transition during which we are forced to self-examination and deep reflection so that we can make good decisions for our lives. Therefore, we need to connect with the Source of life and love, with the Higher Power who is the author of all good change and growth. To enable maturity and true transformation, we need to take time to connect with God, through prayer, community worship, and study.

For Christians, February is the beginning of the season of Lent, a season in which to face ourselves, even as we reach out to our community of support. It is a time to connect with God in a special way. May this month be a time of spiritual growth for each one of you!

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 Florence Drillon at 06.87.53.75.62 or flodrillon@aol.com

[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 – Special Events and Welcome Table Committee Chairs Needed](#) - - - - -

Do you like planning parties? Then consider joining the WOAC Board as **Special Events Chair**. The Special Events Chair is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the May Strawberry Tea, September and January Salad Luncheons, and the Holiday Tea at the American Ambassador's Residence. Remember when you first arrived in Paris? Help other new arrivals by joining the WOAC Board as **Welcome Table Committee Chair**. Lead a team of volunteers who host WOAC's Welcome Table at the ACP. For more information on the WOAC Board positions, contact Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@woac.net.

[Bloom Book Chapter Editors Needed](#) - - - - -

The 37th edition of the Bloom Book is underway! We need reliable Chapter Editors to edit and verify information, and make corrections. Enhance your resume while contributing to the publication of one of the most important resources for the English Speaking community in Paris! To volunteer contact Bloom Book Editors Angela Williams or Laura Slavik at woac_bloombook@woac.net

[Bloom Social Group Leaders-](#) - - - - -

Bloom Social Groups are established for people with similar interests and life situations. Groups include, for example: Forever in France. 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.

[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 Board News-](#) - - - - -

At the January Salad Luncheon, the 2007 WOAC Board was elected. Special Events and Welcome Table Committee Chair positions remain open. Your 2007 WOAC Board members are:

Officers

President:	Ingrid Wills	Secretary:	Angela Williams
Vice President:	Kelly Littlewood	Treasurer:	Janet Charles

Committee Chairs:

Advisor:	Shelly Dawson	Newsletter:	Louise Belanger
Art Fair Coordinator:	Patti Bravard	Special Events:	Open
Coffee Groups:	Misun Lu	Volunteer Coord:	Patti Bravard
Devotions:	Dr. Tina Blair	Welcome Table:	Open
		Website:	Rodney Wines

[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.

[ACAT Conference by Dr. Pierre Duterte](#)- - - - -
 On Friday, February 9, 2007 at 20:00, the church will be hosting a conference by Dr. Pierre Duterte, co-founder and director of Parcours d'exil, a treatment center in the 15th district of Paris for victims of torture and isolated minors (www.parcours.asso.fr). Dr Duterte will talk about his personal experience, his decision to dedicate his career to such victims, the center, and will then answer any questions from the audience. This event is sponsored by the ACP-ACAT group (Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture et des Exécutions Capitales), led by Louise Bélanger (lbmtl@yahoo.fr / 06 76 44 05 17).

[Ash Wednesday Service](#) at the church will take place on Feb. 21, from 7 to 7:45 pm.

[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.

[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 djscorpecci@noos.fr

[The Junior Guild of the American Cathedral](#) is hosting two performances in English of 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley on March 2 at 8 pm and on March 3 at 3 pm in the Parish Hall of the American Cathedral (23 Ave George V). Tickets -- 15E for adults, 10E for children, will be on sale at the door. Please reserve with signparis@aol.com

[The Junior Guild of the American Cathedral](#) (23 Ave George V) will hold its annual BBB&B Sale (Books, Baked goods, Begonias & Bric-a-brac) on Saturday, March 17 from 11 to 4 pm and on Sunday from noon to 3 pm. Free entrance.

[Evenings with an Author and Evenings of American Culture](#)- - - - -
 The American Library in Paris, 10 rue du Général Camou, Paris 75007. Feb 7th - David Downie, *Paris Paris*;
 Feb 14th - Cheryl Bolden - Black History Month Exhibit Vernissage - *Memory and Identity*; Feb 21st - Jake Lamar;
 Feb 28th - Black Paris - Panel Discussion. See our website for further details.

[Cancer Support Group in English](#) - - - - -
 English-speaking group for those living with cancer and their families. Community service sponsored by the Junior Service League of Paris. 01.45.51.26.93 jamsinparis@wanadoo.fr www.pariscancersupport.com

[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.



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**

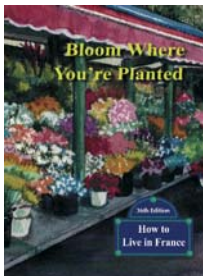
Pre-register for a 15 euro savings!

Join the Bloom Team

Now recruiting for the following Bloom positions for next year:

Bloom Co-Directors 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 Advertising/Sponsorship Chair (or Co-Chair)

The advertising/sponsorship chair(s) are responsible for contacting previous advertisers/sponsors by email or mail, and providing information to prospective new advertisers/sponsors. As ads are committed, the advertising/sponsorship 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/sponsorship 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 Ingrid Wills at woac_president@woac.net