

WOAC

women of the american church

March 2007

Volume 14, Issue 2

Message from the President - - - - -



It may be only the first of March, but Paris is BLOOMING! With such mild weather this winter, everywhere you look daffodils and crocuses are up and trees are full of blossoms. WOAC is blooming too with the March **Bloom Where You're Planted** and **Bloom While You Work** programs which will be held on Tuesday March 13th and Saturday March 24th respectively. If you're new to Paris, or even if you've been here a while, the Bloom programs are the best way to meet people and get connected in Paris. Registration forms can be found on our website www.woac.net.

One aspect of Expat life that I find most difficult is that while with each new place there are new friends just waiting to be met, stay there long enough and those friends begin to move on. And so it is that we must say good bye to Shelly Dawson who will move to Tokyo this month with her husband ACP Senior Pastor Barry Dawson and their daughter Bethany. Shelly has served as our Advisor and has been a great asset to WOAC. Shelly, you have our heartfelt thanks for all your enthusiastic help and support. We have been truly blessed by your time with us. Our best wishes to you and your family, we're going to miss you!

Paris, the City of Kindness? Last month, from the 12th to the 18th was Random Acts of Senseless Kindness Week, and the Foundation by the same name is the American delegate to the World Kindness Movement. This morning I met a man who must be a member of the French delegation. Kindness is probably not the first thing you associate with living here, but I bet the nightmare of parking in Paris probably ranks high on the list. Returning home late last evening, I left my rental car in a loading zone on my street, with a plan to return the car first thing the next morning. And at exactly 9:05 the next morning, the parking ticket was issued. By 9:09 the tow truck was in place. 9:10 - my arrival on the scene. Yes, my week of frustration was really getting going. For two days my debit card has inexplicably not worked, my husband's card works, but he had left for work just minutes before. So I'm standing there, all frustration, trying to explain myself, when a gentleman walks up behind me begins to translate my not so good French. When I say the words 'please the please don't tow the car away, my card doesn't work, my husband is a few blocks away but I've left my mobile phone upstairs', he does the most amazing thing. He takes out his wallet, pulls out the 126 euros it will cost to remove car from tow truck, puts the money in the tow truck driver's hands and says, "Let me pay, and you can find me and pay me back later." I'M NOT KIDDING. Put yourself in your home country, home town, and imagine the same thing happening there. So I'm going to repay him - not with money because I did reach my husband and they waited for him to come back - but in kind, and in future moments of frustration in France, by always remembering one Parisian's tremendous and random act of senseless kindness to a complete stranger.

Ingrid Wills, President

March Coffees

Paris I: (8, 16, 17 arrondissements, Billancourt, Boulogne) will be having their next coffee on Tuesday, March 20 from 10 to 12 at the home of Kelly Littlewood in the 16th arrondissement. Please RSVP to Fiona Scott by phone 01.47.63.61.02 or email fionascott@mail.com for the full address and door code information. Unfortunately, childcare cannot be provided.

Paris II: All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs
Contact: regijorg@gmx.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

You are cordially invited to
The American Women's Group (AWG)
17th Annual Wine and Spirits Auction
Saturday, March 24, 2007, 7 p.m.
Marriott Champs-Elysées, Paris
Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, live auction of wine and spirits
Luxury goods silent auction
Auction proceeds to benefit AWG programs and its Philanthropic efforts
65 euros per person
Register at awgparis.org or call 01.42.73.36.74

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.

WOAC Board News

Many thanks to Anne Mulvihill who has accepted the Special Events Committee Chair position for the WOAC Board. The Welcome Table Committee Chair position continues to remain open. It has been decided to split the duties of Volunteer Coordinator into two positions; Volunteer Database Manager and Volunteer Coordinator. Patti Bravard will continue to serve on the WOAC board as Volunteer Database Manager, and we are looking for someone to take on the Volunteer Coordinator position. This position involves utilizing the Volunteer Database to recruit volunteers for WOAC and Bloom, and providing coordination for events.



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 Patti Bravard at woac_volunteer@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



The “Bloom Where You Are Planted” and “Bloom Where You Work” programs are a wonderful help to us, not only in our first year in Paris, but often even in the second year and beyond. It always helps me to be reminded how much the French love their language and continue to study it throughout their lives. I often need to hear again that the French culture values complexity, over and against the American value of simplicity. I appreciate remembering how important it is to the French artisan to sell an item of which he or she can be proud.

It is so challenging for us Americans, who come from pragmatic, utilitarian cultures, to live in this culture that values quality and beauty more than cost value and functionality. American culture does have its strengths: with these values we can solve many problems quickly; we are open to new inventions and to new ideas, as long as they “work.” Of course one of the wonderful results of expat life is that we can learn to appreciate certain aspects of our own culture, even as we appropriate some values from the new cultures we encounter.

But what happens when we listen deeply to French culture and learn to put beauty and complexity as central values? In what way does this help us appreciate a different aspect of life? I believe that it opens up a religious side of us, for a key aspect of the Holy is Beauty. Beauty, whether it is the beauty of music, architecture, art, and dance or the beauty of nature, draws us into what is of highest value in life. Beauty creates in us feelings of harmony. Beauty also ties us into love, for love could be defined as the beauty found in good relationships. Thus beauty directs us to the beauty and love that lie at the center of creation. The Source of that holy beauty and love is what we call God.

This is the season of Lent, a time to grow closer to God. I invite you to launch into a love affair with the beauty of this city and the beautiful in life: from the harmonies of music to the music of loving and harmonious relationships. Notice the places and times when beauty touches you: it may be God reaching out in love. Use these moments when you are touched by beauty to give thanks to the Creator of all, the Source of beauty itself. At these times, may you feel God’s presence and peace with you!

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 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 – Volunteer Coordinator & Welcome Table Committee Chairs Needed

Are you a people person? We are looking for a **Volunteer Coordinator** to help recruit for WOAC and Bloom events from existing Volunteer database. 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 our Volunteer Database Manager, 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. Existing groups include Forever in France. Interested in getting together with other people in similar situations? Consider volunteering to be a Social 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.

[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.

[Bloom Book Cover Art](#)

The Bloom Policy Committee is soliciting art for the cover of the 37th edition Bloom Book, *the* guide for how to live in France. Submissions for front and back covers need to be in A4 format. Any 2 dimensional art medium will be considered. All original art works will be returned to the artist. Deadline for submissions 15 April, 2007. Please deliver submissions to ACP reception Attention: Angela Williams/Laura Slavik, Bloom Book Editors.

For more information please email woac_bloombook@woac.net

[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 at music@acpairs.org for adult groups or contact Bonnie Woolley at 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](#)

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. 23 Ave George V

[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 March 19 at 10:00 at the American Church, 65 Quai d’Orsay, 75007.

[SOS HELP](#)

Is recruiting volunteers; March 1st and 6th in central Paris 7pm prompt. www.soshelpline.org and respond on soshelprecruitment@gmail.com. Spring training courses for Listeners starts on April 21st

SOS Help Book Sale on March 10th at St. Joseph’s Church, 50 Avenue Hoche 75008 ,12h00 – 16h00. All proceeds go to support SOS Help Charity. More details phone; 01.46.21.46.46 www.soshelpline.org Donate your books. Refresh your library. 2,500 books, one Euro for paperbacks, two Euros for hardbacks

[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



Bloom Where You're Planted News and Volunteer Need



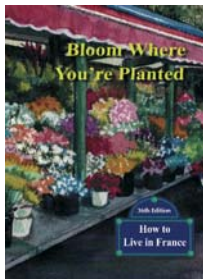
Bloom Where You're Planted & Bloom While You Work
(March 13, 2007) (March 24, 2007)
Annual Orientation Program for English Speakers of all
Nationalities & Affiliations
Pre-register for a 15 euro savings!

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