

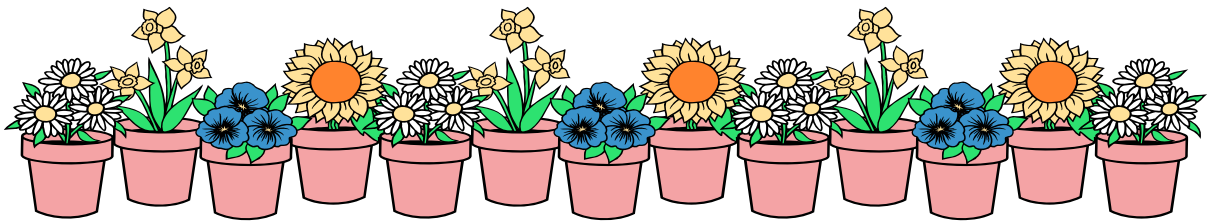
# WOAC

women of the american church

April 2007

Volume 14, Issue 3

## Message from the President - - - - -



I love Paris in the springtime! Just when I start to lament putting away my winter wardrobe the weather becomes so changeable that we go from bundled up one day to sleeveless the next. I'm hoping April brings continuous days of sunshine. April is also Easter time and the American Church has services planned throughout Holy Week. On Easter Sunday three services are held beginning with the Sunrise Service held out on the quai at 7:30, followed by breakfast and services at 9:00 & 11:00. For more information, please check the ACP website at [www.acparis.org](http://www.acparis.org).

I would like to recognize and thank Anne Mulvihill & Susan Bradley, co-Directors of Bloom Where You're Planted and Dounia Nouini & Peggy Rantanen, co-Directors of Bloom While You Work. These amazing women and their teams of dedicated volunteers put in countless hours to make the March programs such a success. Congratulations on two fantastic events! My thanks to everyone involved!

Don't forget to save these dates:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> - WOAC Coffee Groups Cocktail Evening** Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres and conversation at this event, held in the evening to enable your spouse or partner to attend with you. Contact your coffee group leader for details.



**May 24<sup>th</sup> - WOAC Strawberry Tea** buffet style High Tea will be held at the American Church from 14:00 - 16:00. The menu includes tea and coffee, tea sandwiches, scones with double cream & jam, tea cakes and of course, strawberries! Tickets will soon be available through the coffee groups and at ACP reception.

This month there is a new column in the newsletter entitled Cautionary Tales, be sure to check it out. If you have a cautionary tale you'd like to contribute, please email me through the website contact form.

*Ingrid Wills*, President

\*\*\*April Coffees\*\*\*

**Paris I:** *Group (8, 16, 17 arrondissements, Billancourt, Boulogne)* will be having our next coffee morning on Tuesday, April 24th from 10 am to 12 pm. The coffee will be held at the apartment of Nicole Coleman in the 16th arrondissement. There will be a presentation by professional organizer Naomi Ephraim Beckler on organizing our closets in Paris. Please RSVP to Fiona Scott by email at [fionascott@mail.com](mailto:fionascott@mail.com) or by phone on 01 47 63 61 02 for full address and door code information. Coffee, tea and other beverages will be provided but please bring something small to share for morning tea. Unfortunately child care is not provided.

**Paris II:** *All other arrondissements and any southeast or southern suburbs*  
Contact: [regjorg@gmx.net](mailto:regjorg@gmx.net)

**Neuilly/Western Suburbs:** The Neuilly area and surrounding Western suburbs  
Contact: [woac\\_neuilly@woac.net](mailto:woac_neuilly@woac.net)

**Evening Group:** For people who work – meets evenings  
Contact: [woac\\_evening@woac.net](mailto:woac_evening@woac.net)

You are all invited to attend a Spring Cocktail Event in May.  
Please see the following announcement for details:



## *Celebration of Spring Cocktail Event*

Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 following neighborhood Coffee Co-Chairs:**

**Evening Coffee :** Roxy Madison [woac\\_evening@woac.net](mailto:woac_evening@woac.net)

**Paris 1:** Kristina Soleymanlou / Fiona Scott [woac\\_paris1@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris1@woac.net)

**Paris 2:** Regina Jorg / Janet Charles [woac\\_paris2@woac.net](mailto:woac_paris2@woac.net)

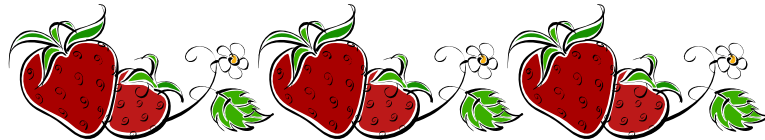
**Neuilly / Western Suburbs:** Misun Lu [woac\\_coffeegroupcoordinator@woac.net](mailto:woac_coffeegroupcoordinator@woac.net)

*We hope that this venue will enable working spouses and partners to join us for a festive evening!*

## WOAC Board News

The **Welcome Table Committee Chair** and **Volunteer Coordinator** positions continue to remain open. If you are interested in either position, or know someone who would be great for either, please contact Ingrid Wills through the contact form on our website:

[www.woac.net/cgi-bin/contact.pl](http://www.woac.net/cgi-bin/contact.pl)



**CHANGE OF DATE:** The Strawberry Tea will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May due to the Ascension holiday. See our website for details: [www.woac.net/calendar/month.php?LocationID=&Month=05](http://www.woac.net/calendar/month.php?LocationID=&Month=05)

## CAUTIONARY TALES

By Ingrid Wills

The idea for this column came out of the events I describe below. Situations similar to these occur in every country in the world. I remember watching a story on the news right before I moved here telling of a scam targeting the elderly by scaring them with phony water tests results, then installing expensive and useless equipment to clean their already clean water. The goal of this column is to inform, not an attempt to deride life here, or to imply that this would only occur in France.

Earlier this week I needed a lock smith to let me into my apartment. We contacted a company we found through les pages jaunes, who advised is it would cost 50 euros to have the door opened. He arrived and advised me to open the door the lock would have to be drilled out. 10 minutes later we were in our apartment and the locksmith prepared the facture. He handed me his pen to sign and authorize the work he performed. The total bill read **3,147 euros**, and no, this isn't a typo. While I was trying to recover, he assured me that these charges were normal, I had a very expensive and complicated lock. All I needed to do was sign, he would affect the repairs and my insurance company would pay for everything.

Just a few weeks before I had spoken with a friend about the cost of replacing her lock, she had left a key in the lock inside her apartment, which prevents the use of a key on the other side of the door. Her bill was 1,300 euros. So, locks and all things related must be very expensive in France? No, not really. After several hours and multiple phone calls the locksmith finally departed with only 50 euros, and my insurance company contacted a reputable locksmith they utilize. Actual cost to replace my lock: 311 euros. When I told him that the previous estimate was ten times as much, he said "Madame, for that much we can make you a whole new door." He told me the amount he could charge is based on tariffs specified by law. In relating my story to friends this week it seems I'm not the only Expat this has happened to. So, how do you keep from being taken advantage of? Ask yourself, does the estimate seem reasonable? The more I thought about it, the more I realized that for 3,000 euros I could fly a locksmith here from the US, put him up for a week and get a new lock. Best place to find a locksmith? Call your insurance company. You may have coverage for lost keys &/or lock repairs included in your insurance policy. Even if you don't, they can send you someone who will charge based on the tariffs.

Have a story to share that could help your fellow Expats? Contact me through [www.woac.net](http://www.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 Patti Bravard at [woac\\_volunteer@woac.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.woac.net)



## Spiritual Spotlight



*In the book, the Da Vinci Code, Mary Magdalene is seen as an unacknowledged central figure in Christianity due to her special relationship to Jesus (I won't give away the end by telling you details).*

*What author Dan Brown fails to mention or even allude to is the real reason Mary of Magdala is indeed a key figure in the Christian faith: she is the first witness to the resurrection. In the account given in John's Gospel, it even seems that Jesus waits for the male disciples to leave before he reveals himself – to Mary Magdalene.*

*Although their accounts differ somewhat, all four Gospels agree that she was at the empty tomb and the first witness to the resurrection*

*The Christian church has not forgotten the importance of Mary Magdalene (well, perhaps the Western church did for awhile). The Eastern Orthodox church named her “the apostle to the apostles.” Apostles, you see, mean “one sent out” – apostles are sent out to tell the news. The church has long agreed that Mary Magdalene was the first such witness (even if not recognized as such by the male disciples) – followed by the other women, some named and some not named.*

*I find it fascinating that women are the first witnesses at the empty tomb. According to the laws of that time women could not be legal witnesses. Legal proof had to come from 2 or 3 men. Yet God favored women to be the ones who saw and carried the story of this astounding event. Women were there, and often their role is forgotten or underplayed. Some are not even named. Perhaps they are chosen as the first witness because they stayed with Jesus through his death. Having shared his pain, they could share his joy. And without them, God's plan would not have gone forward as quickly. God frequently works through the less powerful of society, women and men.*

*This is a good reminder to each of us that our work is important. Whether this work is remembered or not, whether our names are listed or not, the world needs each one of us.. Each one an important link in the chain of hope and joy that God weaves in this world. May this season of Passover and Easter be a special one of new life for you all.*

*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](mailto: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](mailto:woac_volunteer@woac.net).

**Bloom Book Chapter Editors Needed**

The 37<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:music@acpairs.org) for adult groups or contact Bonnie Woolley at [bw@respirando.net](mailto: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](mailto:djscorpecci@noos.fr) .

**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](mailto:jamsinparis@wanadoo.fr) [www.pariscancersupport.com](http://www.pariscancersupport.com)

**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](mailto:woac_president@woac.net)