

WOAC

women of the american church

May 2007

Volume 14, Issue 4

Message from the President -

My message for May: Consider volunteering! One of the best ways to get connected here in Paris is by volunteering. Each month's newsletter has a listing of many organizations that could use your help. There are opportunities that involve only a few hours of your time and others if you're looking to make a greater commitment. No matter how many hours you can spare, volunteering is such a rewarding experience. Volunteering also imparts a deep sense of belonging to your community; it's a great way to make Paris your home town. I hope you'll check out the Volunteer Opportunities section of this month's newsletter. WOAC is in need of volunteers to Chair our Welcome Table and Volunteer Coordinator to help recruit for events such as our Strawberry Tea and of course the Bloom Programs. I know when I look back at my time in Paris, being a part of this amazing organization and being able to help other newcomers will top my list of time well spent here.



Speaking of time well spent, spend an afternoon drinking tea, eating scones and enjoying entertainment and conversation at the Strawberry Tea. Tickets are 10 euros and can be purchased at the WOAC Welcome Table on Sundays or at the American Church reception during the week. See the announcement in this newsletter for all the details.

Our thanks to Misun Lu, WOAC Coffee Group Coordinator for hosting last week's cocktail party in her beautiful home. It was such a wonderful event; lots of people, great food and drink! I would also like to say a special thank you to Sylvie Borniche and Linda Goldfarb who are stepping down as the Western Suburbs and Neuilly Coffee Group Leaders. Thank you both so much for all your hard work. If you're a member of the Neuilly & Western Suburbs coffee group please remember you can attend any WOAC Coffee, it doesn't matter where you live. This is another great opportunity to volunteer and get to know people in your area. If you're interested in volunteering to be one of the Neuilly & Western Suburbs Coffee Group Leaders, please contact Misun Lu at woac_coffeegroupcoordinator@woac.net.



Ingrid Wills, President

*****May Coffees*****

Paris I: Group (8, 16, 17 arrondissements, Billancourt, Boulogne)

The Paris I coffee group will not be having a monthly coffee in May. Instead, there is a special event that you are invited to attend:

May 24 – Strawberry Tea, 2-4 pm at the Pastor's apartment. Please contact Ingrid Wills for tickets (10 euros) and details ingrid_wills@yahoo.com 01 77 10 41 56

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

WOAC's Annual Strawberry Tea

Thursday, May 24th

from 14:00 – 16:00

Senior Pastor's Apartment, ACP, 65 Quai d'Orsay

Tickets are 10 euros and are available at the American Church

or from your Coffee Group Leaders.



Strawberry Tea Menu

Sandwiches



Cucumber & Dill Cream Cheese

Curry Chicken with Raisins & Almonds

Egg Salad

Scones



Scones with Cream & Strawberry Jam

Sweets



Raspberry & Jam Sandwiches with Chocolate Chips

Strawberries in Chocolate Tuxedos

Tea Cakes



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

CAUTIONARY TALES

By Ingrid Wills

In the past few weeks I've spoken to many people who have experienced burglaries. They all have the same thing in common; dealing with their French insurance was an ordeal. Often insurance agents list few details on the English language documents they send their clients. If you can't read your French policy you may not be aware that coverage in France may be very restricted compared to your home country policy, and your proof of loss requirements may be much more rigorous. The time to know what you'll need in the event of theft is before the loss occurs. Most of the people I've spoken with recovered very little from their French policies as they were not aware of the requirements. For most coverage here in France in the event of a loss you must provide receipts *and* photos, and for your jewelry appraisals as well. So what should you do? Call your agent and get them to provide in English a written explanation of what you'll need to be covered. Then get out that camera and take those photos and arrange for additional documentation as required. Still have an insurance policy in your home country that covers your possessions? Many US policies have worldwide coverage and it's a good idea to know how that coverage can help you here. For example, a loss due to theft outside of your apartment will likely NOT be covered by your French policy, but likely will be covered by a US policy. If you'll excuse the pun, it **PAYS** to know.

Have a story to share that could help your fellow Expats? Contact me through 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

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



“In Beauty I walk;

*Beauty before me, beauty around me, beauty behind me;
Beauty above me, beauty beneath me. . . .”*

This is what I remember of the Navajo Beauty Chant, which I learned when I taught English literature on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona. Everyday I would take walks in that high desert of scrub juniper and yucca at the foot of forested Black Mesa and gaze toward the purple-red mesas scattered on the horizon under the ocean vastness of the blue sky. What awesome beauty we have been given, I would think. No wonder the Navajo wrote the Beauty Chant! And I would embroider lines of it in song as I walked.

As I walked through Paris on a sunny spring morning the other day, the Beauty Chant came to my mind. No place could be more different from the windy, warm, red-rock expanse of northern Arizona than Paris, a crowded city of ivory hues and emerald leaves shimmering in cool sunlight. And yet, what beauty! What a joy to walk out into a city that values art and architecture, history and culture. “In beauty I walk; beauty around me. . . .”

France has countless regions of beauty: the rolling green hills of Burgundy dotted with white cattle and ancient monasteries; the dramatic cliffs of Brittany; the splendor of the Alps; the charm and grace of the Loire valley; the sunny and ancient beauty of the Perigord with its prehistoric cave paintings; the brooding thick forests of the volcanic Auvergne with its romanesque churches and ancient battle sites; the diverse and colorful and historic regions of the south; and so forth. “In beauty I walk, beauty before me. . . .”

And I have seen so much beauty on this planet, as so many of you have: turquoise seas with jeweled fish, rich forests of blue-green cedars, villages built with charm and filled with grace, treasures of nature and of human invention. God has given us a beautiful home, a special blue-green-brown water planet. God has given us splendid hands and hearts and minds to craft and construct things of beauty. All this beauty reflects the nature of the Creator – at the heart of creation is Beauty. Join me in singing a song of praise, “In beauty I walk, beauty before me, beauty around me. . . .”

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.

ACP International Singles Group

Singles (all ages, all nationalities) are cordially invited to the ACP Singles Group Dancing Party on May 20th from 13:00 until 17:00 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 djscarpecci@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 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 Robin Smith & Tracy Sargent at woac_bloombookadvert@woac.net