

WOAC

women of the american church

June 2007

Volume 14, Issue 5

Message from the President -

June. June? June! I can't believe it's already June. As summer approaches, 'Expat in Paris' truths loom. It's about to get a whole lot easier to walk around Paris as the city will be empty of most of its residents. And as employment contracts reach their end, friends say goodbye as they head back home or on to their next posting. For me, this is most difficult part of expat life, and no matter how long I live abroad, it doesn't get any easier. This summer we say goodbye to very special members of WOAC, Dr. Tina Blair, Associate Pastor of the American Church and Fran Rhodes, former WOAC President and Bloom Director. Fran & Tina have served on both the WOAC Board and the Bloom Policy Committee, and we have been blessed by their wisdom, dedicated involvement and support. To Tina, Fran and their families, and to all our members who are saying goodbye to Paris this summer, we wish you all the best at your next stop on this journey. Good luck & God bless.



Tina Blair and Fran Rhodes enjoying the music at the Strawberry Tea

If you're new to Paris or are staying a while longer, make plans to join us for coffee this summer. WOAC will host two coffees this summer. Information will be sent by Coffee Group Coordinators, so make sure you're on their email lists. Details will also be posted on the www.woac.net calendar.

I would like to say a special thank you to Misun Lu, Fran Rhodes and Pam Levy for all their help in making the Strawberry Tea such a great event. In addition to the great food, the musical entertainment was sublime thanks to visiting musicians Michelle LaPorte and Gerry Saulter of the chamber ensemble *Serenade Duo*. And serenade they did. What an afternoon; beautiful warm sunshine, food and friends, all surrounded by lovely flute and guitar music.

Have a wonderful, safe, travel filled summer. See you at the coffees or during rentrée !

Ingrid Wills, President





Mmmmmmm! Strawberries AND chocolate!



Serenade Duo

[WOAC Board News](#)

The **Volunteer Coordinator** position continues to remain open. WOAC is also looking for another **Coffee Group Coordinator** to train with current Coordinator Misun Lu who will be returning to the States this winter, and continue as Coordinator in 2008. 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

Look for this column to return this fall. I'm taking the summer off to travel the States in search of the perfect college for our daughter. If you have a story to share that could help your fellow Expats, **please** consider contributing to this column. I'm happy to discuss any ideas you might have. Contact me through www.woac.net.

***** June Coffees*****

Paris I: *Group (8, 16, 17 arrondissements, Billancourt, Boulogne, Neuilly/Western Suburbs)*
Paris I Coffee Group will be having their next coffee on Tuesday, June 19 from 10 am to 12 pm at the home of Fiona Scott in the 17th arrondissement. We will be sharing ideas re travel in France and beyond so please come armed with your travel tips and ideas! Please RSVP to Fiona Scott by phone 01 47 63 61 02 or email fionascott@mail.com for the full address/door code information. Unfortunately, childcare cannot be provided.

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

The last WOAC coffee morning of the school year will be held on Thursday, June 21st at the home of Regina Jorg from 10 am to 12 pm: 14 rue Edgar Faure, 75015 Paris, 01 40 61 98 42. Codes are the following: A3674 (twice), 4682B, 54B (interphone), Fifth Floor.

Evening Group: For people who work – meets evenings
Contact: woac_evening@woac.net



The Spring Cocktail on May 3rd was a great success. What a wonderful opportunity it was to meet new people and see old friends!! There was plenty of food, drinks and lively conversation. Thank you to all who attended and made the evening so special.

Learn about the history of our Church
and watch our future come alive!

“Expect the Unexpected”

Saturday, 9th June
7pm, in the ACP Theatre

This will be sure to be a memorable night. Refreshments will be available; donations accepted at the door. No need to reserve tickets in advance, but arrive early for best seats!

Bet you never knew that oysters, cheerleaders and ACP’s new elevator have something in common! Who was Mark Wilks? And what does the rue Taitbout have to do with the quai d’Orsay?

Find out the answers at the premiere of “Expect the Unexpected” a play performed by a cast of stars comprising ACP’s own members. Hidden talents will delight you and clever scriptwriting will amaze. Suitable for all ages, this play celebrates the past, present and future of the American Church.

A cast of more than 40 ACP-ers have been rehearsing for weeks to bring to life the script, written by our very own Christa Lesté-Lasserre. She described the play as a “historical musical comedy” - and it is just that: informative, entertaining and funny.

Habitat for Humanity

The winning Quilt raffle ticket will be drawn
during the Intermission!

For additional information contact: lafamillegrout@yahoo.com



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 just a few weeks my family and I will be moving back to the United States (California) to live. We have been here in Paris for 5 years and we know that the transition will be a big challenge for us. We are dealing with a lot of grief about leaving Paris and some joy at the prospect of being closer to family. Our daughter is worrying about fitting into American teenage culture.

Perhaps we need to remember the lessons about being in another culture that are taught at our own “Bloom where you are planted” programs. We are, after all, going home to a culture that we are no longer used to. So for those leaving, and for those who are just arriving, I hope that these reminders will help. Let’s remember:

- *That the ways of the new culture are not “bad” or “good”; they are just different. We need to learn to understand them, if we are to bloom.*
- *To find a community of support quickly, especially a faith community.*
- *To find ways to serve our community through local organizations, such as parent groups, churches or synagogues, and other associations.*
- *To continue learning, taking classes, visiting sites of interest in the area, learning the history of the area.*
- *To be patient: it takes months to truly settle in and feel comfortable in new surroundings.*

Most important of all, my family and I know that God brought us here and God is sending us back. Therefore God will be with us, here and there, guiding, encouraging, and supporting us. And, just as our time here has deepened our knowledge and our faith, our return to the States will also provide ways for us to grow in our faith.

The same principle applies to those of you left behind as you watch the transitions in the lives of your friends and in the life of the American Church congregation. Friends will come and leave, pastors come and leave, but God never leaves. We can rest easy with this truth!

I bid you au revoir, not adieu – I plan to return for the big 150th anniversary celebration of the church in October. Thank you, members of the WOAC, for having helped make my stay in Paris rich and fulfilling. May God bless each one of you as you travel your path into the future!

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.

[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) had their last party before the summer on May 20th. Hope they will be returning in the fall! 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 .

[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
(October 1 & 2, 2007) (October 6, 2007)

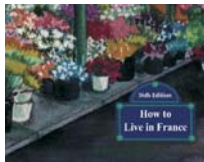
**Annual Orientation Program for English Speakers of all
Nationalities & Affiliations**

Pre-register for a 15 euro savings!

Join the Bloom Team

Now recruiting for Bloom Where You're Planted and Bloom While You Work Fall Programs for 2007:

Interested in volunteering for Bloom? There are so many opportunities to help, and we're currently organizing the team that will help make this year's Bloom a great success. I would like to invite you to consider joining the Bloom Team. It is a great opportunity for hands on community service in a worthwhile project of outreach to English speaking newcomers in France. In addition - it's just so much



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