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## LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Welcome to the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs, celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> year in Southwest Florida. Imagine, though, if you will, that the first French to step on the soil of the Florida Peninsula was in 1562! And while our Alliance Chapter celebrates a 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, France's presence here began on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year 1562 a 453<sup>rd</sup> birthday to celebrate.

In cooperation with the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, the Consulate General of France in Miami, the France Florida Foundation for the Arts, and a bevy of scholars, graphic designers, authors and editors, the birth of the Florida French Heritage Trail was delivered in print this past Autumn. Artist Paul Arsenault, a member of our chapter, has several wonderful illustrations in the book, and to celebrate the Cultural Arts of France, we were able to present an opening program for the ArtsNaples World Festival at Arsenault Gallery on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Mimi Gregory*

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Members: are you missing announcements because your e-mail address has changed ?

Please bring us up to date by sending your current e-mail address to our new email address:

**[lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org](mailto:lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org)**

and to the attention of Jean-Loup du Chéné. Thank you!

**Phone Number: (239) 592-1735**

*and for update our website address:*

**<http://www.afbonitasprings.org>**

## TRIP TO DALI MUSEUM, ST. PETERSBURG

### LA FAYETTE CIRCLE

Vincent Bolloré  
 Arnaud et Béatrice Bordalis  
 Carole Crosby  
 Charles et Colette Deviterne  
 Deborah Esayian  
 Walter & Geneviève Galliford  
 Peter & Mimi Gregory  
 Michel & Nicole Heck-Deviterne  
 Judith Hershenhorn  
 Ernest & Elsie Hunt  
 Joanne Jacobs  
 Richard & Gina Klym  
 Maître Bernard Laprie  
 George & Madeleine Michaels  
 Chris & Laurie Nielsen  
 Bruce & Jane Robert  
 Joëlle Rossano  
 Régis & Michelle Sanson  
 Joan Stonecipher  
 David Thoms  
 Wayne & Darlene Williams

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 Josef & Susanne Kuhn  
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 Linton & Gail Patterson  
 Al & Catherine Rapuano  
 Margaret Ridge  
 Dag & Michèle Scher  
 Nancy Slowikowski  
 Susan Wagner  
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On January 26, 2014, The Alliance Française de Bonita Springs took a bus trip to visit the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. Our chartered bus left Naples at 7:30 a.m. and returned at 5:30 p.m. The museum had a special exhibit showing how Dali and



Picasso influenced each other's work.

The Dali Museum opened in 2011 and the building, overlooking the bay, is a work of art in itself. The building seems to be anchored in giant boulders on the outside. On the inside a spiral staircase reaches to the upper galleries like a sail reaching up to catch the wind. Viewing this exhibit made it clear how great artists rarely create their works in a vacuum.

They inspire and challenge each other. As a result, it was easy to see the symbiotic relationship these two artists had in terms of themes, technique, color, and abstraction.

We had a relaxing lunch, and the discussions at the luncheon tables were alive as we shared our reactions to the exhibit and the museum building. All the attendees pronounced the trip a huge success as a result of the uniqueness of this special exhibit and this very special museum building.

On a four star rating system this trip got at least ten stars!!

*Robert and Coby Simerly*



## Le Rendez-Vous du 12 Février 2015

### *I was a War Child* by Hélène Gaillet de Neergaard



Hélène Gaillet de Neergaard introduced her book, *I Was a War Child*, to the members of the Alliance Française on February 12<sup>th</sup> at our monthly luncheon. Three years in the writing, Hélène recounted the misery of the Gaillet Family during the years of Occupation in France, 1940-1946. She also recounted the ups and downs of the effort to seek a publisher and it is clear that she deserves admiration for her efforts which have led to great success.



Bravo Hélène!



## Obituaries



**Gina Klym's** passing was met with sorrow as we will always remember her as our very chic Italian model for all our fashion shows and for her adorable accent. We send our deepest sympathy to her husband, Richard .



The Alliance Française bids a sad farewell to **Geneviève and Walter Galliford**, longtime friends and supporters of our club.

Their marriage of 66 years was a true love story, their passing so close together a measure of their devotion. We will miss their presence among us and send our most sincere condolences to their family.

## Le Rendez-Vous du 11 Mars 2015

Dr Francis Peel

### Can France change? Will France Change?



The Alliance Française welcomed Dr. Francis Peel back to the podium for the third time to give us his view of the issues facing France today. Under the title Can France Change? Will France Change? He discussed the serious challenges facing the country specifically on the heels of the Charlie Hebdo affair. Shifts in the conservative support are evident with the rise of Marine Le Pen and also the growth of support for the UMP or conservative party with Nicolas Sarkozy making a return to the political scene. Articles are abundant with respect to the ever growing Muslim population in France and more specifically the percentage of young people who are jobless and face few, if any, prospects. These are surely challenges that France faces today and so Dr. Peel's question, "can France change" is certainly right on target.



## Le Rendez-Vous du 8 Avril 2015

**Professor Jeffrey Merrick**

### **Life and Death in 18th C . Paris**

Our April 8<sup>th</sup> Rendez-Vous hosted **Dr. Jeffrey Merrick**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. A scholar of French History, he informed and amused us with tales of life and death in Paris in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. While the word “amusement” seems an odd fit, the political shenanigans to avoid taxation, or the declaration of insanity being the cause of death for a victim of suicide, thus allowing religious burial, all opened our eyes to some of the oddities of life in those times. His talk was well received.



## **Appel à solidarité pour l'Alliance Française de Katmandou**

Notre Alliance a décidé, réponse à l'appel de la maison mère de Paris, de faire un don de \$200 pour l'Alliance Française de Katmandou. Les pertes, à la suite du tremblement de terre, sont estimées à €43.500.

Si vous voulez aussi envoyer quelques Euros/Dollars, voici l'adresse:

Solidarité Katmandou : IBAN 3056 8199 0400 0219 5992 034  
Banque Transatlantique  
26, avenue Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
75008 PARIS  
FRANCE

## FLORIDA FRENCH HERITAGE TRAIL

28 Avril 2015

### *Celebrating the Cultural Arts of France*

75 Francophones/Francophiles settled into the Arsenault Gallery while **Paul and Eileen Arsenault** took the audience for a walk through the Centuries of French presence in Florida. From 1562 to the present day, Paul's paintings illustrated the sites in Florida that were filled with historical French presences.

Guests of honor, **M. Philippe Letrilliart**, Consul General of France in Miami, and his wife, Valerie, were there to enjoy the opening of the ArtsNaples World Festival, 10 days of celebrating France.

The audience then moved to Le Lafayette for a wonderful dinner to conclude the evening.



## Alliance Française Euro Book Club

### The Euroreview of Contemporary European Literature

Based on the great success of the European Book Clubs at the Alliances Françaises in Washington and New York, our Alliance chapter here in Bonita Springs is pleased to offer our membership the opportunity to discover literature currently being read and discussed in Europe. The books chosen will offer the chance to read from the contemporary authors that have made their mark in the countries of the European Community, thus revealing new talents and trends in the latest best sellers. Many of the works we read relate to France and the francophone community worldwide.

Ours is a truly bilingual book club. During alternate months, we read a literary work that has been written in either French (one month) or English (the following month). Many of these selections are available in translation for those members whose French may still be a "work in progress". Members are free to contribute to the discussion in whichever language they feel more comfortable. However, when we read in French, the presentation and discussion are principally in French, and when we read in English, our conversations are primarily in English. We are committed to the belief that members' understanding of European and world issues, as well as their second language skills, can be strengthened by reading with us and participating in our monthly discussions.

The book club meets for an hour each from November through May (with no meeting in December) immediately following the Alliance Française luncheon meeting. We welcome suggestions for books to read from our members, as well as from the book clubs of other chapters of the Alliance. Additionally, we welcome everyone to participate in the discussions and encourage members to take turns volunteering to present a literary work at our meetings.

**We will meet after the luncheon, at Pelican Marsh Golf Club, led by Lois-Ann Folliard**

The Book Club met yesterday following our luncheon to discuss « **L'Étrange Voyage de Monsieur Daldry** ». All agreed that the characters, coming somewhat late in life to the ultimate romance, had issues that had persuaded them to be cautious in recognizing this emotional attraction. Michele Scher gave a convincing review of the book and cited Charles Aznevoir's recognition of author Marc Levy's coverage of the Armenian Genocide which featured in the novel. Members are sending suggestions for summer and next season reading to Lois Ann Folliard. If you wish to join the book club, please get in touch with Lois Ann at [lafolliard@gmail.com](mailto:lafolliard@gmail.com), or check our web site: <http://www.afbonitasprings.org>



## Congrès de la Culture Française à Orlando



Chère Madame Gregory,  
Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la bourse de l'Alliance Française. Je suis enthousiaste à l'idée d'étudier la langue française à l'université. Je me souviens de l'année dernière quand j'ai donné ma déclamation aux membres de l'Alliance Française, j'ai eu une peur horrible. Après avoir fini ma déclamation, les membres m'ont donné la confiance dont j'avais besoin pour le Congrès. Je remercie aussi votre organisation et vous même pour tout ce que vous faites pour mon école et pour moi. Je ne peux pas vous remercier assez pour votre travail. Grâce à vous, la langue française continue à vivre dans le sud-ouest de la Floride. J'espère qu'avec l'aide de ma bourse, je pourrai aller étudier en France. Quand j'ai eu seize ans, j'ai voyagé à Paris, et j'ai étudié avec l'organisation Académie Program, et je suis tombée amoureux avec la langue française et sa culture. Merci encore, Kate Golden



Notre Chapitre a remis deux bourses  
cette année : la première le 12 Mars au Congrès de la Culture Française à Orlando.

Le gagnant de notre bourse de \$500 est un jeune homme, **Jaume Molins** de « Ronald Reagan Doral High School ». Il était le second meilleur étudiant au Congrès.

Comme d'habitude nous avons également donné notre bourse de \$300 au meilleur étudiant de français de la « Community School of Naples ».

Cette année la gagnante est **Kate Golden**, elle va continuer ses études de français, l'année prochaine à « Holy Cross Collège ».

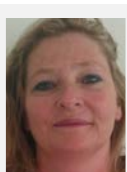
## Nos Professeurs de Français



- Florence Barrillon-Pomes was born and educated in Paris and did her studies in Law and Political Science. She joined the United Nations in Geneva followed by a transfer to the UN in New York where her career spanned 30 years and sharpened her many linguistic skills. Moving to Bonita Springs 14 years ago, she has been teaching French for our Alliance Française for the last 12 years.



- Marie-Noelle Dubedout-Bases was born in Paris and raised in Versailles. She relocated to the U.S. and received her Master's Degree in Education from Hunter College in New York City, where she taught both French and English as a Second Language. She also taught in Westchester County before moving to Naples in 2004. For the past eight years she has been teaching French privately.



- Caroline Adelis-Ferrari was born and raised in Paris. She received her Master's Degree in Psychology at Paris X before relocating to Milan, Italy, and then to New York (NY) and Greenwich (CT) where she began teaching French at Inlingua in Manhattan and then also taught at the Alliance Française of Greenwich. She moved to Naples in 2009 and has been teaching "Home Schooled Children" since 2010.

## NOS CLASSES DE FRANÇAIS

**Level One, Beginners:** Professor: Marie-Noëlle Bases

**Level Two, Advanced Beginners:** Professor: Marie-Noëlle Bases

**Level Three, Intermediate:** Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes, Marie-Noëlle Bases and Caroline Ferrari

**Level Four, Advanced:** Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

**Level Five, Advanced Plus:** Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

**Immersion Courses :** Caroline Ferrari

*We will also offer a course in French History and a special course about*

*“Les Reines et Les Favorites de France” with Florence.*

Classes are of **8 consecutive** weeks \$:175, 1½ hour weekly.

Private class : 1 hr \$45 Semi private class : 1 hr [2 people] \$25 each

### Classes must be taken consecutively

Our office, where all classes are held, is located at 11983 Tamiami Trail N. [US 41] Room 136.

« COME JOIN US FOR A BREATH OF FRENCH AIR »

« OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN YEAR ROUND AND OUR TEACHERS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE »

Our classes are offered at all levels and are taught only by Native French Speakers.

We follow the suggested curriculum of the Alliance Française de Paris, part of a Worldwide Network supporting French Language and Culture.

« WE HAVE A CLASS FOR YOU »

You must be a member of the Alliance Française of Bonita Springs to join our classes.

Student fee is **\$15** for the first year, **\$35** thereafter.

For information, please call Bill Weidenfeller : (239) 304-9220

Contact us at : [lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org](mailto:lovefrench@afbonitasprings.org)

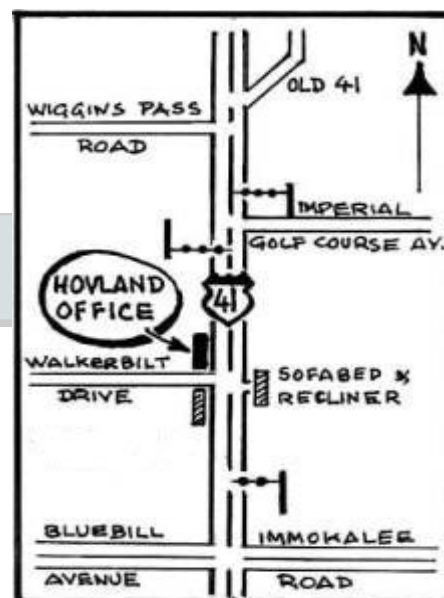
or visit our web site at: <http://www.afbonitasprings.org>

Nous vous rappelons que + de 150 livres d'auteurs français contemporains sont gratuitement à la disposition de nos membres à notre Bibliothèque située dans notre salle de classe dont l'adresse est ci-dessous avec

Clémentine heard that you were having trouble locating our Office/ Classroom/Library. Here is a little map to help you : →→→→→

We are located on US 41, 1,3 mile North of Pelican Marsh, exit on 41 and 0,5 mile North of Immokalee Road. We are on the left side of 41 as you are heading North, just after the yellow blinkers.

11983 Tamiami Trail North (US 41) Room 136





Alliance Française  
de Bonita Springs

## Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



### RETURN ADDRESS

P.O.Box 1511  
Bonita Springs  
FL. 34133

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### REMEMBER

☎ (239) 592-1735

## AGENDA

Please , for more information, check our Website:

<http://www.afbonitasprings.org>

### BOOK CLUB

*If you are interested in joining us, please call **Loïs-Ann Folliard** at : 201-592-9832, for details.*