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## LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF ALLIANCES FRANÇAISES USA

New Orleans will greet us this October for our Annual Meeting, slated for October 14-17, 2010. It is with a certain pleasure that we return to New Orleans after many years, to share in the renaissance of this special city whose French Heritage is one we continue to celebrate.

The Alliance Française of New Orleans and President Alexandra Stafford are planning a welcome to "NOLA" that I am confident we will all remember.

The Federation is at work preparing the workshops and other presentations that invite your participation and aid in the continuing success of your chapters. Sharing best practices and helping each other are the hallmarks of our Federation, we look forward to seeing you there.

À Bientôt

*Mimi Gregory*



#### Editor Colette Deviterne ( [colettedeviterne@embarqmail.com](mailto:colettedeviterne@embarqmail.com) )

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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>**

## Le Rendez-Vous du 18 Mars 2010

### « The Andes By Bicycle »

*Speaker: Bill Weidenfeller*

The March meeting started off at 11h30 with Mimi presiding over the annual meeting. Following the annual meeting, guests were introduced, along with new members, and we were a fine group of 82 in attendance. After lunch, Bill Weidenfeller gave a very interesting power point presentation on his 40 day bike trip through Chili, Bolivia, and Argentina, with a quick tour through Uruguay at the end. Bill, accompanied by eight other bikers flew to Santiago, Chile and, after a brief stay, flew to Antofagasta, in the northern part of the country. From there, the bike trip began, first eastward into Bolivia, reaching altitudes of 15,000 feet, which caused some of the bikers to incur altitude sickness.

The power point presentation, both still and video, gave credence to the incredible scenery and



diverse landscape the bikers encountered, from arid desert to Andean peaks to lush forests. From Bolivia the trip continued into northern Argentina, spending time in Purmamarca, Jujuy, Cordoba, Rosario and across the Uruguay River into Uruguay, a country, which, according to Bill, was created to keep the Portuguese

Brazilians from cutting the throats of the Spanish Argentinians! For the same reason the Andes keep the Argentines and Chileans at bay. The final trek took the bikers across the Rio de la Plata to Buenos Aires.

For more information on this type of vacation, contact Bill.

*Peter fschauzier*

#### LA FAYETTE CIRCLE

Vincent Bolloré  
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Charles et Colette Deviterne  
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Annick & Douglas Stiefel-Werner  
Gérard & Ursula Swart  
Bill Weidenfeller  
Anne Weill Weinberg  
John & Leonor Wleugel

## Le Rendez-Vous du 18 Février 2010

### La Campagne de Russie de Napoléon 1er

*Speakers : Mimi Gregory & Charles Deviterne*

At the February luncheon Napoleon's Russian Campaign of 1812 was skillfully presented through a dialogue between 27 year old Adrien, Jean-Baptiste, François Bourgogne, an officer in Napoleon Bonaparte's Army, and Daska Ivanova, third cousin of Anna Pavlovna Scherer, favorite of the Empress Marya Fedorovna of Russia. Charles Deviterne, Vice President and Mimi Gregory, President, each wrote and then read their text portraying the two antagonists delineating the reasons for the attack and the horrible toll it took on both sides.

Russia's economy was being hurt by Napoleon's Continental System that banned trade with Britain and internal pressures forced Tsar Alexander to turn a blind eye to those who broke it. Bonaparte decided to bring the Russians back in line and gathered a grand Armée of more than 500,000 men, but the threat did not work because the Tsar ordered two Russian armies to protect the Motherland. His armies retreated to the outskirts of Moscow where General Mikail Kutusov set up defensive positions with 120,000 men, against 133,000 invaders. A brutal battle ensued with a loss of almost half of each army until Kutusov retreated into a burning Moscow, which Daska Ivanova complained was set on fire by the Russians themselves. Bonaparte waited five weeks for the Russian surrender, which never came. Against advice to go through a better supplied route Bonaparte sent his men back through the already plundered Smolensk. Then the snows arrived, together with hunger and cossack at-



tacks that Bourgogne described as horrific. Eventually the French were almost destroyed when crossing the river Beresina but after a two day battle the Russians allowed what was left of the army to leave. When Napoleon crossed the Niemen out of Russian territory he returned to Paris with only 20,000 of his faithful sol-

diers.

This tragedy could be explained by Albert Camus, who wrote, "For the (Greek) chorus knows that up to a certain limit everyone is right and the person, who from blindness or passion, oversteps his limit is heading for a catastrophe if he persists in his desire to assert a right he thinks he alone possesses." Such a comment does not



apply to one leader or country in history but to all of us today. Mimi and Charles were roundly applauded for a thought provoking presentation.

*Ernie Hunt,*

*(retired Dean, the American Cathedral, Paris.)*

## NOS CLASSES DE FRANÇAIS

**Level One, Beginners:** Professor: Denise Hale

**Level Two, Advanced Beginners:** Professor: Denise Hale

**Level Three, Intermediate:** Professor: Florence Barrillon-Pomes

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

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

**French Conversation:** Professors: Florence Barrillon Pomes, Denise Hale

Day and evening classes at all levels. Classes may be tailored to students specific needs. Private, Semi-private. Discussion groups, Literary circle, French film review, Travelers French and classes for children are available. A minimum of three students required in each class.

Classes are of **8 consecutive** weeks \$: 165, 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.

Clementine has drawn a little map for you below

« 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 (239) 592-1735 and ask for Bill Weidenfeller

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

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

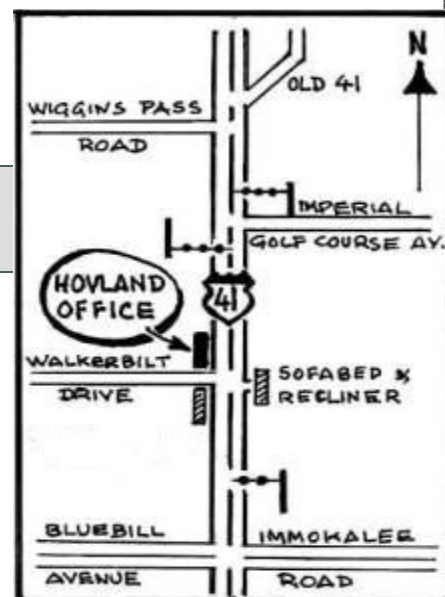
Nous vous rappelons que + de 150 livres d'auteurs français contemporains sont gratuitement à la disposition de nos membres à notre Bibliothèque située dans notre salle de classe dont l'adresse est ci-dessous avec le plan.

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

(Entry to parking from Walkerbilt Drive)





## 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 can join this trend in offering our membership the opportunity to discover what is happening in European literature today.

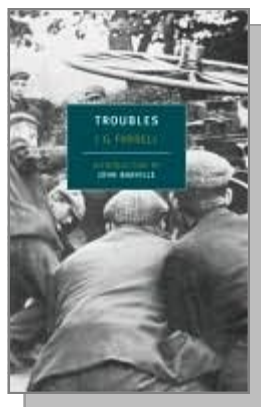
The books chosen will offer the chance to read from the contemporary authors that have made their mark in the countries of the European Community; thus revealing new talents and trends in the latest best sellers.

The books are all read in their English translation and will be discussed at a monthly meeting. In offering this new project, the Alliances open the door to members whose French may still be a "works in progress", but their interest in Europe can be embellished by these literary works.

During the season, our book club members met at **4 pm on Wednesday's at the "Montenero" in Pelican Bay**. For an hour or more, once per month, we critiqued the chosen book, albeit we were a bit shaky at first with our comments. We did settle into a solid group of 10 and suggestions were made by members and other Alliances with book clubs. Everyone participated in the discussion and opinions and each person was encouraged to present a book. Our first season behind us, we will resume in the Fall. Our first meeting will be in **November** and the book that was chosen is: : **"TROUBLES"**, by J.G. Farrell, the winner of the Lost Man Booker Prize. The story is Ireland's struggle for independence from England. The edition is available in paperback and ebook.

Susanne Kuhn, Director

#### Synopsis



1919: After surviving the Great War, Major Brendan Archer makes his way to Ireland, hoping to discover whether he is indeed betrothed to Angela Spencer, whose Anglo-Irish family owns the once-aptly-named Majestic Hotel in Kilnalough. But his fiancée is strangely altered and her family's fortunes have suffered a spectacular decline. The hotel's hundreds of rooms are disintegrating on a grand scale; its few remaining guests thrive on rumors and games of whist; herds of cats have taken over the Imperial Bar and the upper stories; bamboo shoots threaten the foundations; and piglets frolic in the squash court. Meanwhile, the Major is captivated by the beautiful and bitter Sarah Devlin. As housekeeping disasters force him from room to room, outside the order of the British Empire also totters: there is unrest in the East, and in Ireland itself the mounting violence of "the troubles".

**Troubles** is a hilarious and heartbreaking work by a modern master of the historical novel.

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## Le Rendez-Vous du 19 Mai 2010

### *Remise notre Bourse d'étude annuelle*

The Alliance Française was delighted to give its annual scholarship to Community School Student Sacha Samotin this past May. Sacha has been accepted into the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business, a dual program between the University of Pennsylvania and the Wharton School of Business.



"target a language" which we are pleased to hear means a continuation of his French. He will also have the opportunity to study abroad in the Francophone World.

Félicitations, Sacha, et bonne chance!

*Mimi Gregory*

The program requires that he

Caroline Ferrari et Mimi Gregory ont assisté à un stage « Smart Steps to French » à l'Alliance Française de Miami dans l'espoir de commencer des classes pour les enfants à Bonita Springs.



[www.SmartStepstoFrench.Org](http://www.SmartStepstoFrench.Org)

A world leader in teaching French to adults, the Alliance Française applies its expertise to Children's classes.

Leading Alliance chapters in the United States teamed up with French experts to design French curricula and activities specifically catered to the needs and interests of little and not so little ones.

Whereas most programs rely on repetitive workshops with limited material, the Alliance Française offers children the possibility of evolving through complete beginners to advance levels for each of 4 age groups. Unlimited options are yours to discover, so you can shape your child's experience with the help of true specialists.

Striking the balance between fun and serious, the extensive program offers rigorous academic objectives while entertaining children with games, activities and what the Alliance is probably the most famous for... cultural immersion.

To learn more about Smart Steps to French and find out if it is proposed in an Alliance near you, please [contact your local chapter](#).

## Dîner du 19 Août chez Bleu Provence

L'Alliance Française de Bonita Springs a accueilli avec plaisir notre nouveau Délégué Général, Jean-François Chenin, à un dîner chez Bleu Provence le 19 Août. Nous étions quatorze membres de notre chapitre, y compris trois membres de notre conseil d'administration. Nous avons passé une soirée accueillante et chaleureuse.

La Délégation des Alliances Françaises, USA a définitivement déménagé pour installer ses nouveaux bureaux à l'Alliance Française de South Florida à Miami.

En plus de sa fonction de Délégué Général, Jean- François continuera à occuper son poste de Directeur Exécutif de l'A-F de South Florida à Miami.

Si vous voulez leur rendre visite, l'adresse est:

Alliance Française **South Florida**  
618 SW 8th Street  
Miami, FL. 33130



## Notre nouveau Délégué Général, Jean-François Chenin



His career began as an elementary school teacher before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he concentrated on Education and Women's Rights. He managed the Mission Europe of ONISEP and created the Research and Development Department of ONISEP (Office National d'information sur les enseignements et les professions).

He has held two posts abroad in the French Cultural Network: Director of Institut français de Tel Aviv and for Alliances Françaises, Deputy Cultural Counselor and Délégué Général de la Fondation Alliance Française in India.

He has also managed, in France, a private company to produce intermediate products for pastry. He has three children.

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M. Chenin was born in Lorraine and spent his childhood abroad; living in Iran, Turkey, and Greece. He studied philosophy at the University of Grenoble and the Economy of Education at Dijon.



Alliance Française  
de Bonita Springs

### RETURN ADDRESS

P.O.Box 1511  
Bonita Springs  
FL. 34133

### REMEMBER

14-17 Octobre 2010

A G Fédération AF USA

At New Orleans

☎ (239) 592-1735

## Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



Affix address label

### AGENDA

#### C'est la Rentrée !

*We will return to the second Wednesday of each month throughout the year.*

Mercredi 13 Octobre 2010: at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

*« a Fun Conversation »*

Mercredi 10 Novembre 2010: at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

*TBA*

Mercredi 8 Décembre 2010: at Pelican Marsh Golf Club @ Noon

*TBA*

### BOOK CLUB

*The AF Book club will read “TROUBLES” by J.G. Farrell, the winner of the Lost Man Booker Prize.*

*If you are interested in joining us, please call Susanne Kuhn at : 239-561-8561, for details.*