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LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Welcome to our 14th year! We are gratified to have all of you as our “membres fidèles”, and thank you for all your support over the years. We have consistently enjoyed a strong group of students, at all levels, and are fortunate to have our three Professors: Florence Barrillon-Pomes, Marie-Noëlle Bases and Caroline Ferrari to lead our classes and our conversation groups.

When we began our chapter, we were pleased to welcome the [then] Consul Général in Miami, Christophe Bouchard, to Naples to help inaugurate our chapter. Since then we have had the patronage of Philippe Vinogradoff, now Ambassador in Belize, Gaël de Maisonneuve, now Deputy Ambassador in Brazil, and we welcome our newly arrived Consul General, Philippe Létrilliart, to Miami for his four year posting to Florida. You will note in his biography, which follows, that he served as a “coopérant in Gutemala which was, in fact, at the Alliance Française!



Philippe Létrilliart assumed office of Consul General of France in Miami on September 3, 2013. He was previously Head of the Department in charge of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010-2013). Being assigned multiple times in Latin America, he began his professional stay abroad as a “coopérant” in Guatemala (1989-1990), before joining the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He

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Le Message de la Présidente (suite)

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subsequently held the position of First secretary at the Embassy of France in Havana (1996-2000). Recently, he served as the senior Advisor to the Embassy of France in La Paz (2006-2010).

During his career, Philippe Létrilliart notably served at the Protocol (1993-1996) and handled multilateral affairs as Deputy Representative of France to the economic and social UN Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok (2000-2003). As part of the Center for Research and International Studies, he was also a Senior lecturer at Sciences Po (2003-2006). Born in 1963 in Casablanca, Philippe Létrilliart graduated from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po) and holds a Master of Contemporary History. He is married and has two children.

We look forward to welcoming him to Bonita Springs in the New Year!

Mimi Gregory

Obituaries

Charles Lewis



The Alliance Française will miss our good friend, board member and student, Charlie Lewis, who passed away in Essex, N.Y. this summer. Judge Lewis was active in the North Naples Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity, as a boat captain for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, as a Guardian Advocate in the David Lawrence Center and as an Ambassador for the Guadalupe Center for Children in Immokalee, Florida. He was an avid carver of song birds in both Naples and in Essex.

Jean Horvath.

L'alliance Française de Bonita Springs a appris avec tristesse, cet été, la disparition de Jean. Il avait été l'un de nos membres fondateurs. Il nous avait beaucoup aidé avec énergie et détermination. Nous ne l'oublierons pas.... Toutes nos pensées vont vers Rosianne sa compagne depuis tant d'années.

Nathalie Plotnikoff

Our greatest sympathy goes to our former Professor and friend, **Denise Hale**, whose daughter, Nathalie Plotnikoff, passed away on June 3rd, 2013. Nathalie fought bravely to overcome her diagnosis of cancer and her loss is deeply felt by her friends and family. To Denise and Nick Hale, our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

At the Arsenault Gallery in Naples, Florida - March 2013

Anne Morgan's War: Rebuilding Devastated France 1917-1924



A moving photographic exhibition from **the Franco-American Museum, Château de Blérancourt** illustrates the tremendous philanthropic efforts of Anne Morgan and 350 American women volunteers who rebuild war-torn Picardie after World War I.

The Château de Blérancourt was once the base of operation for the American Field Service and for a massive philanthropic effort to rebuild Picardie following WWI, organized by Anne Morgan, daughter of JP Morgan. Today it is a French national museum dedicated to the friendship between France and the United States.

This exhibition has been at The World War I Museum in Kansas City, The Morgan Library and Museum in NY City, the Woodrow Wilson House in DC, the French Cultural Center in Boston and last winter at the Wally Findlay Galleries in Palm Beach. With the support of the American Friends of Blérancourt, Alliance Française de Bonita Springs, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and RMN l'agence photographique de France.

American Friends of Blérancourt, a non-profit organization in New York City which raises funds for the expansion and gardens of the Franco-American Museum, Château de

Blérancourt in Picardy, France.

The Alliance Française de Bonita Springs is one of a network of 115 chapters throughout the United States and is a member of the Federation of Alliances Françaises USA. Also a non-profit organization, its mission is the promotion of French Language and Culture

14 Juillet 2013 à La Playa beach Club

Adieu à notre Consul Général Gaël de Maisonneuve



Quatorze Juillet 2013 was a wonderful celebration at lovely La Playa. Everything was perfect!

Getting right in the mood, Bleu Blanc et Rouge necklaces greeted participants at the door. The round tables facilitated great conversations.

The menu, superior.....The gâteau de champignons, avec confit de canard, herbes fines au beurre de truffes, was just the "amuse-gueule" . The rest of the menu just followed the superior beginning, all were delighted with the entrée selections. The Sancerre and Crozes Hermitage wines were perfect companions for the lunch.

Gaël de Maisonneuve, our Consul Général and his wife were with us to celebrate. Gaël was leaving for his new post in Brazil. We will all miss his very personal attachment to our chapter, thanks to Mimi Gregory who worked closely with Gael during his time as Consul General. Thanks also to Joanne Jacobs for sponsoring at the La Playa.

Aline Bailey



Le Rendez-Vous du 11 Avril 2013

Les malentendus entre les Cultures Américaine et Française

En avril dernier, une soixantaine d'entre nous se sont retrouvés comme d'habitude autour d'un délicieux déjeuner. Caroline Ferrari et moi-même avons parlé, avec humour je l'espère, des nombreux malentendus entre les cultures française et américaine dans la vie quotidienne. Les stéréotypes des deux côtés de l'Atlantique engendrent parfois des quiproquos. La communication franco-américaine est quelques fois difficile et ce n'est pas toujours dû à la langue mais plutôt à la façon dont on s'exprime. Méfiez-vous des faux-amis, des sujets tabous et des fautes de prononciation qui peuvent également mener à la confusion. Nous avons élucidé le protocole de politesse suivi par l'exemple de Français lors d'un dîner et les méandres de leur conversation minée de sujets considérés tabous par beaucoup d'Américains. N'oublions pas aussi que les Français ont l'esprit très critique et adore disséquer, juger et discuter de tout et de rien.

Nous avons abordé d'autres thèmes tels que l'indiscipline des Français et leur conduite automobile qui laisse souvent beaucoup à désirer bien que le permis de conduire français soit une épreuve longue, laborieuse et coûteuse.

Malheureusement, cela n'empêche pas le Français au volant de sa voiture de redevenir le râleur et l'indiscipliné qui est dans sa nature profonde.

En bref, les Américains et les Français continueront à se taquiner et se moquer mutuellement tout en gardant une certaine admiration et amitié les uns pour les autres.

Marie-Noëlle Bases

Nos Diners de l'Été

Comme chaque année nos « Snow Birds » s'envolent dès la fin Mai... Et nos Rendez-Vous sont suspendus jusqu'à la Rentrée, mais nous, les « Summer Birds », une quinzaine environ, qui restons profiter du calme et de la douce chaleur de notre Paradis, aimons bien nous retrouver tous les mois pour de longues conversations au cours d'un dîner!!

Ainsi en **Juin** nous avons testé le nouveau restaurant français « Bonjour » qui a succédé à « Mimi's Cooking ».

En **Juillet**, c'était un lunch. Nous avons célébré la Fête Nationale Française à La Playa Beach Club et avons fait nos adieux à Gaël de Maisonneuve notre Consul Général, tant apprécié, appelé à d'autres fonctions.

En **Août** c'est le Club de Pelican Marsh qui nous a accueillis pour un somptueux Buffet.

Et en **Septembre** nous nous sommes retrouvés chez Le Lafayette pour un délicieux dîner.

Le Rendez-Vous du 9 mai 2013

Discover France and Franco-American Relationships *by Mimi Gregory*

It was my pleasure to attend a presentation by the French Consul General in May when he spoke of France and Florida. He very kindly passed his power point on to me which I offered at our May luncheon. Here are two enduring images of that presentation:



Discover France and Franco-American Relationships



Yesterday, today, and tomorrow

By Consulate General of France in Miami

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, A FRENCH IN MIAMI (AND ELSEWHERE)



- From Thomas Jefferson to Jim Morrison, many famous Americans lived in France for several years or for the rest of their lives
- Although no official figure is available, it is estimated that over 165,000 American citizens reside currently in France, making our country one of the top destinations for American expatriates
- Similarly, close to 125,000 French nationals are registered at the French diplomatic and consular missions in the United States.
- We probably have to double this figure if we want to take into account the whole French population living on this side of the Atlantic
- It is estimated that **30,000 French citizens** reside in the state of Florida.
- Whether it be state and official relations, or people to people connections, the relationship between France and the United States has never been stronger.



Le Rendez-Vous du 14 Novembre 2013

Conférencier : Dr. Frank Peel

Nous étions près d'une soixantaine à nous retrouver à Pelican Marsh le jeudi 14 Novembre pour un délicieux déjeuner aussi bien que pour le plaisir de retrouver notre conférencier d'il y a un an, Dr Frank Peel, et d'entendre ses impressions sur un sujet qui nous tient tous

« Où va la France ? Où va l'Europe? »



Dr. Peel is a dual citizen of both England and the United States and he received his education in England, France, the United States and Austria. He was trained as a lawyer but after a stint on Wall Street he started to work for the U.N. in Geneva for what he thought was a one-year commitment. He stayed on for 51 years, serving as Deputy Director of the



Wildlife Fund, and also creating the first TV program in English in Europe. Even today he spends the greater part of each year in Switzerland.

He remained involved in U.S. politics during all those years abroad, working on Adlai Stevenson's presidential campaign and, later on, on the campaigns of Jimmy Carter and John McCain.



À la retraite maintenant, le Dr. Peel est toujours passionné par la politique et l'histoire. Il explique le malaise français, cette crise qui touche à la fois l'économie, la politique, et le sens de bien-être des Français, en remontant jusqu'au Général de Gaulle.

Charles de Gaulle est mort en 1970 mais la Cinquième République qu'il a créée et la

Constitution qu'il a basée sur sa propre personnalité constituent un héritage qui ne s'est pas adapté aux changements dramatiques de ce dernier demi-siècle non seulement en France mais dans le monde entier.



Dr. Peel went on deploring the fact that de Gaulle's successors to the Presidency of France did not fit the mold and struggled with it. Among possible past and future candidates he mentioned Dominique Strauss-Kahn, a very competent economist and strong personality who could have worked well within the Constitution but whose private life got in the way,

and Marine Le Pen, daughter of Jean-Marie Le Pen the hardline leader of the Front National and a softer version of her father. She advocates curtailing immigration, dropping the Euro and leaving the



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Le Rendez-Vous du 14 Novembre 2013 (suite)

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European Union. Her party, the single largest in France, is expected to gain many seats at the expense of the moderate center in the Municipal and European elections of May 2014.



N'ayant rien de très positif à dire à propos du Président Hollande, le Dr. Peel ne lui a consacré que quelques minutes. Après quoi il nous a tout de même laissés sur une note d'espoir en mentionnant que la Bourse a monté de 17% depuis le début de l'année, que l'industrie Française est en train de faire une cure d'amaigrissement, et que le Gouvernement semble avoir plus de



poigne pour prendre les décisions difficiles nécessaires.

Dr. Peel a même brandi sa boule de cristal pour y voir le jeune Français ou la jeune Française qui saura prendre la relève en s'inspirant de Charles de Gaulle tout en acceptant les changements nécessaires afin que la France vive mieux au 21ème siècle.

Ses derniers mots: **Vive la France!**

Catherine Rapuano

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 joined this trend, offering our membership the opportunity to discover what is happening in European literature today. The books chosen offer the chance to read from 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 Alliance opens 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 past season, our book club members met for an hour or more, once per month, to critique the chosen book. We settled 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. Beginning, on **November 21, 2013 at 4:00 pm**, We will meet at the « Montenero » 7575 Pelican Bay Blvd, led by **Michèle Scher**, in the Card Room on the lobby floor.

There is no meeting in **December** and in **January 9, 2014** we will meet after the luncheon, at Pelican Marsh Golf Club.

The Federation of Alliances Françaises, « One Book, One Federation », chooses a French language book each

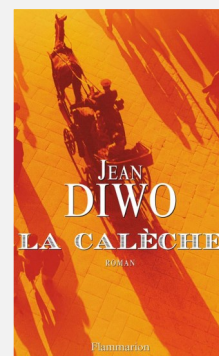
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Alliance Française Euro Book Club (suite)

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year which is offered to the AF Chapters throughout the United States. The book for 2013 is « **La Calèche** » by Jean Diwo. A complete history of the Hermes Family, it will undoubtedly be a fascinating read for our Book Club members and others who will read it for their personal interest. Through the efforts of the French Institute - Alliance Française in New York and librarian Katharine Branning, there is a suggested list of questions for discussion and leadership by the book club director which should be available on www.afusa.org, under “one book”.

- *Cette biographie traverse les tourments d'une époque en nous faisant partager la vie d'un homme dont la ténacité et l'excellence ont traversé les remous de l'histoire depuis les campagnes Napoléoniennes jusqu'à la république de monsieur Thiers. Jean Diwo nous emmène en un pays où tout est luxe, calme et volupté.*



And Announcing: “Vins et Verbes” Conversation Courses:

Advanced level Tuesdays at 4:30 with Florence

Intermediate Level Thursdays at 5:00 pm with

Marie Noelle and Caroline.

One Hour of Conversation “avec un verre” !

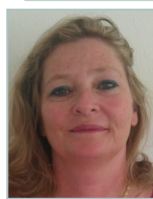
Minimum of 4 people, 10 week session, \$120.



- 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

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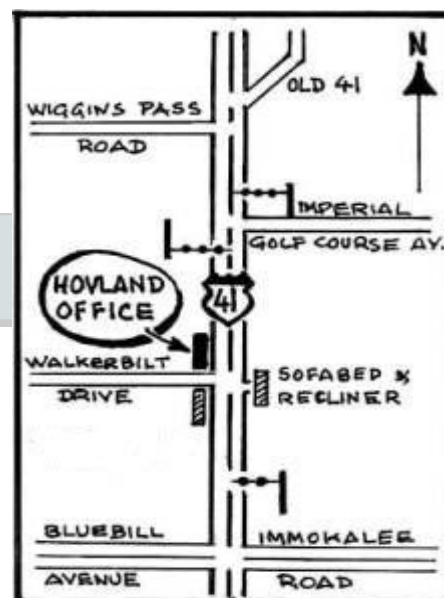
or visit our web site at: <http://www.afbonitasprings.org>

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

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de Bonita Springs

Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



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REMEMBER

Beginning in January
2014, our Book Club will
be held at Pelican Marsh
Golf club after our
Luncheon

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AGENDA

Attention! Vendredi 13 Décembre 2013: « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 9 Janvier 2014: « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 13 Février 2014 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 13 Mars 2014 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon - Annual Meeting

Jeudi 10 Avril 2014 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 8 Mai 2014 : « Le Rendez-vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Please , for more information, check our Website:

<http://www.afbonitasprings.org>

BOOK CLUB

*If you are interested in joining us, please call **Michèle Scher** at : 239-514-2640, for details.*