



LE MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

JOYEUX NOËL ET BONNE ANNÉE

Chers amis, je suis heureuse de partager avec vous le message ci-dessous, de notre Conseiller Culturel à l'Ambassade de France à New York, M. Antonin Baudry. Il est clair que notre but de soutenir la langue et la culture française, est toujours important et apprécié par la France. Imaginez que nous, Alliance Française de Bonita Springs, faisons partie de plus de 1.3 million d'Américains qui parlent le français ! Vive la France !

Mimi Gregory

Chers amis,



Je suis très heureux, en tant que Conseiller Culturel, de pouvoir témoigner de la très sincère gratitude de l'Ambassade de France pour la superbe action menée par les Alliances Françaises. Ensemble, nous nous inscrivons dans une histoire et assurons la continuité de la présence française aux Etats-Unis. Dans chacun des Etats, dans chacune des villes, les Alliances Françaises font vivre des morceaux de notre France et préservent des pans essentiels de notre culture dans un paysage de plus en plus globalisé.

Nous travaillons, par exemple, de façon très étroite au maintien et à la diffusion de la langue française, dans un pays où le multilinguisme devient la règle commune des échanges entre les différentes communautés. En 2012, plus de 1,3 million d'Américains parlent le français chez eux, ce qui en fait la quatrième langue étrangère en usage aux Etats-Unis. C'est le signe d'un tissu linguistique et culturel francophone vivace et toujours d'actualité.

Apprendre le français, ce n'est pas seulement apprendre des mots, c'est apprendre une façon de penser, une philosophie : l'esprit de René Descartes réfracté par la poésie de Marcel Proust. C'est pour cette forme d'ouverture d'esprit que nous nous battons, et, dans cette lutte, nous pouvons compter sur la formidable énergie des Alliances Françaises qui irriguent l'ensemble du territoire américain.

Antonin Baudry, Conseiller Culturel

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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:

lovetrench@afbonitasprings.org

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

Phone Number: (239) 592-1735

and for update our website address:

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Les Dîners de l'Été

19 Juin 2012 chez Mimi's Cooking



13 Juillet 2012 à La Playa



Célébration de la Fête
 Nationale Française sous
 le Haut Patronage de
 M. Gaël de Maisonneuve
 Consul Général de France
 à Miami



16 Août 2012 chez Café Normandie



12 Septembre 2012 chez Bleu Provence



School Reception Held for Students and New Teachers



A Wine and cheese Reception was held October 3rd at our newly refurbished school classroom.

The late afternoon social gathering provided the opportunity for new and returning students at the Beginner and intermediate levels to meet and greet our new instructors: Marie-Noëlle Bases and Caroline Ferrari.

Considering the early October date, a number of students and some spouses attended the reception where students and teachers met one another in a casual and enjoyable atmosphere. There was excitement for the new season of classes to begin.

The event was hosted by Mimi Gregory and Joyce and Bill Weidenfeller.



Holiday Wines Tasting at Beachwalk Clubhouse



Le 4 Décembre, une trentaine de nos membres étaient réunis au Beachwalk Clubhouse pour déguster quatre bons vins Français [bien sûr !].

Grâce à Joanne Jacobs qui avait organisé notre programme, la soirée de dégustation s'est déroulée dans une atmosphère chaleureuse et amicale sous la direction de John Wernette, expert en vins et membre de notre chapitre.

Nous avons dégusté : un Blanc de Blanc de François Montand, un Pinot Blanc d'Alsace, Hugel Cuvée Les Amours 2008, Aimé Roquesante Rosé, Côtes de Provence 2011, et pour terminer un Malbec, Clos La Coutale, Cahors 2009.



Le tout était accompagné de nombreux hors-d'œuvre.

Le vin de Cahors a été le plus apprécié, suivi du Rosé de Provence. Nous avons passé une très bonne et joyeuse soirée entre amis pour débiter les fêtes de Noël.

Mimi Gregory

Le Rendez-Vous du 8 Novembre 2012

Les Élections Américaines et Françaises. Enfin finies. Quelles conséquences maintenant.

Conférencier: *Dr. Frank Peel*

Le Jeudi 8 Novembre, 64 de nos membres se sont retrouvés à Pelican Marsh pour un bon déjeuner et le plaisir d'entendre Dr. Frank Peel partager avec nous ses idées sur la façon dont les élections françaises en Mai et celles des États-Unis 2 jours auparavant risquent de changer la manière dont nous vivons.

Dr. Peel was born in England, and received his education in England, France, the United States and Austria. As a boy he was a bicycle messenger for the anti-aircraft defenses in London. He later served in the U.S. army, and for a while after that was a Wall Street lawyer, before he started working for the U.N. in Geneva for what he thought would be a one-year stint. He stayed on for 51 years, serving as Deputy Director of the Wildlife Fund, and also creating the first television program in English in Europe.



Dr. Frank Peel

He remained involved with U.S. politics during those years, working on Adlai Stevenson's campaign, and later on working with Jimmy Carter and then with John McCain.

His gut feeling about the American election is that although President Obama clearly won, he only won by 2% of the vote (with or without the Florida delegates, it must be said), and that is not a very strong mandate. Besides, the House still has a Republican majority; therefore it means the president has to reach out to both sides of the aisle. Will the Republicans cooperate? Will the Tea Party be willing to compromise?

En France l'élection de François Hollande semble être un peu un repli du pays sur soi.

M. Hollande a toujours été et reste un fonctionnaire alors que M. Sarkozy était un « battant » très impliqué dans la nouvelle vision de l'Europe. M. Hollande semble établir ses plans pour l'avenir sur une base de 5 ans, la durée de son mandat, ce qui défie parfois la logique basée sur d'autres réalités.

Dr. Peel est pessimiste quant à l'avenir de l'Euro, parce qu'il considère que, pour réussir, une union monétaire doit être basée sur une union politique et il ne pense pas que les 17 pays de la Zone Euro constituent une véritable union politique.

President Obama's reelection and the fact that the balance of power in both Houses remains the same means that the transition will be smoother than with a lame duck session, but with the "fiscal cliff" looming ahead Congress must get to work right away. By the way, Dr. Peel told us that he asked about the French translation for "fiscal cliff" and was told there was none as the French use the American expression! The truth is that we are at a very critical juncture, with changes as important as the industrial revolution in the 19th century.

Technology and demographics are rapidly modifying the world we live in, and with globalisation that world has become much smaller.

During his campaign President Obama frequently mentioned that he had ended two wars, the one in Iraq and the one in Afghanistan. Does it mean that the U.S. is withdrawing from running the world?

Avec le gouvernement socialiste, il semble que la France aussi se replie sur elle-même.

Cette attitude va-t-elle permettre à l'Allemagne de se mettre en avant et de forger ses propres alliances, peut-être avec la Chine et la Russie?

There are many question marks in our future. Dr. Peel's excellent presentation made us more aware of them and helped us understand them in a very lively way and with a sense of humor that translates well in both languages.

He wanted to mention that he had been helped by Paul Bovagnet of Lyon, France, and RL Caron of Naples, Florida, and each received a round of applause for their generous help.

We all felt strongly that we had spent a very enjoyable afternoon and had learned a lot about the state of our world. Let us just hope that the people whom we have elected do a good job for our countries and for the world.

Catherine Rapuano

Le Rendez-Vous du 13 Décembre 2012



History was recited in epic form by guest speaker David Worthington to our December Alliance luncheon attendees. Fifty of us were reminded of the ending of twenty years of tyranny in Europe perpetrated by that clever fellow Napoleon Bonaparte, and David's special interest in that famous battle brought back the details of that moment which also ended Napoleon's "second coming".



David's interest in history began with his great admiration of Admiral Lord Nelson and he is an avid collector of memorabilia of this important time in history. The recitation, it must be noted, was of David's own verse, four pages of history in metric form which showed his devotion to this famous, historic engagement: "starring" the Prussian, Marshall Blucher, the Duke of Wellington and, of course, Bonaparte. [Later sent to a retirement community on St. Helena].



*And for all time, it should be known,
Never was France more nobly shown.
A French soldier in ranks was seen,
Arm shattered by cannon's careen,
To wrench it off and then retort,
«Vive l'Empereur» jusqu'à la mort!*



Thank you, David, for this wonderful presentation.



Paul Sinesi died suddenly on July 5th after a brief illness. Paul was a devoted member of our Alliance Française chapter and was also a long time member of the Alliance chapter in Boston. He will be remembered by all of us for his devotion and appreciation of the mission of the Alliance Française worldwide, and we send our sympathy to his dear wife, Nancy.



Our sympathies go out to Karin Holmes and her family for the loss of Robert Holmes, on September 16th. Bob fought a long and valiant battle against cancer and his courage was enduring. I quote from his Memorial Service, "If you are looking for me, Look into your hearts, I live through your memories."

Quel beau jeu de mots !

JOLIMENT BIEN DIT ! L'emploi du pronom indéfini

Il était une fois quatre individus qu'on appelait

Tout le monde—Quelqu'un—Chacun—et Personne

Il y avait un important travail à faire,

Et on a demandé à **Tout le monde** de le faire.

Tout le monde était persuadé que **Quelqu'un** le ferait.

Chacun pouvait l'avoir fait, mais en réalité **Personne** ne le fit.

Quelqu'un se fâcha car c'était le travail de **Tout le monde**!

Tout le monde pensa que **Chacun** pouvait le faire

Et **Personne** ne doutait que **Quelqu'un** le ferait

En fin de compte **Tout le monde** fit des reproches à **Chacun**

Parce que **Personne** n'avait fait ce que **Quelqu'un** aurait pu faire.

MORALITÉ

Sans vouloir le reprocher à **Tout le monde**

Il serait bon que **Chacun**

Fasse ce qu'il doit sans nourrir l'espoir

Que **Quelqu'un** le fera à sa place

Car l'expérience montre que

Là où on attend **Quelqu'un**,

Généralement on ne trouve **Personne**!

CONCLUSION

Je vais le transférer à **Tout le monde** afin que **Chacun** puisse l'envoyer à **Quelqu'un** sans oublier **Personne**

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" !

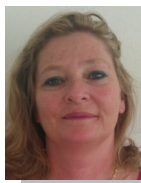
Minimum of 4 people, 10 week session, \$120.



- 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 and Marie-Noëlle Bases

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

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.

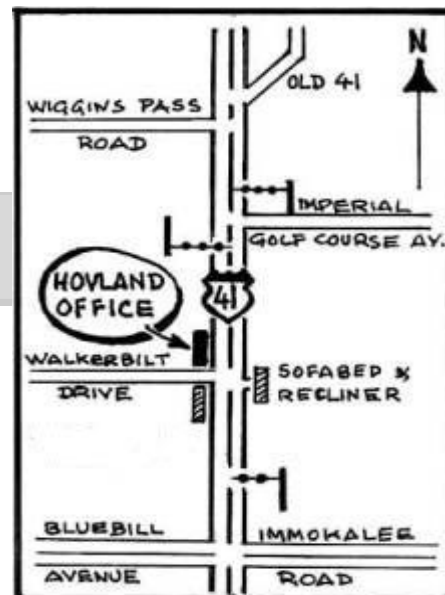


Clémentine heard that you were having trouble locating our Office/ Classroom/Library. Here is a little map to help you : →→→→→

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 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 **January 17th, 2013 at 4:00 pm, February 21st, 2013 and March 21st**, we will meet at the « Montenero » 7575 Pelican Bay Blvd, hosted by **Susanne Kuhn, in the Card Room on the lobby floor.**

Susanne Kuhn

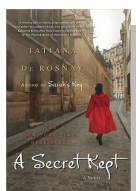
On January 17th, 2013: In the program: "One Book/ One Federation":

The title of the book in french, is: **La petite fille de Monsieur Linh** by Philippe Claudel



- *Philippe Claudel's short novel La Petite Fille de Monsieur Linh is a unique and polished love story. The story of true love rising up between two old men who in their loneliness find companionship in the most unlikely of places – a park bench in a noisy French city. Monsieur Linh is a Vietnamese refugee, washed ashore with a wave of other destitute boat people like himself. He is unbelievably sad for the village and homeland he's left behind, for the son and daughter-in-law who were killed. His only reason to live is the infant granddaughter he has carried with him across the ocean, in the hopes of giving her a new home.*

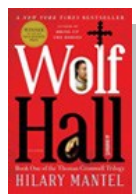
On February 21st, 2013 : The title of the book is : **A Secret Kept** By Tatiana de Rosnay



- *Antoine Rey thought he had the perfect surprise for his sister Mélanie's birthday: a weekend by the sea at Noirmoutier Island, where the pair spent many happy childhood summers playing on the beach. It had been too long, Antoine thought, since they'd returned to the island—over thirty years, since their mother died and the family holidays ceased. But the island's haunting beauty triggers more than happy memories; it reminds Mélanie of something unexpected and deeply disturbing about their last island summer. When, on the drive home to Paris, she finally summons the courage to reveal what she knows to Antoine, her emotions overcome her and she loses control of the car.*

Trapped in the wake of a family secret shrouded by taboo, Antoine must confront his past and also his troubled relationships with his own children. How well does he really know his mother, his children, even himself? Suddenly fragile on all fronts – as a son, a husband, a brother and a father – Antoine Rey will soon learn the shocking truth about his family and himself. By turns thrilling and seductive, with a lingering effect that is bittersweet and redeeming, A Secret Kept is the story of a modern family and the invisible ties that hold it together.

On March 21st, 2013 :The Title of the book is : **Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel



- *England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. Henry VIII wants to annul his marriage of twenty years and marry Anne Boleyn. The pope and most of Europe opposes him. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell: a wholly original man, a charmer and a bully, both idealist and opportunist, astute in reading people, and implacable in his ambition. But Henry is volatile: one day tender, one day murderous. Cromwell helps him break the opposition, but what will be the price of his triumph?*

In inimitable style, Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall is a darkly brilliant reimagining of life under Henry VIII. . . . Magnificent. (The Boston Globe).



Alliance Française
de Bonita Springs

Alliance Française de Bonita Springs



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FL. 34133

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REMEMBER

10 Janvier 2013
14 Février 2013
7 Mars 2013
11 avril 2013
9 Mai 2013

☎(239) 592-1735

AGENDA

Jeudi 10 Janvier 3013: « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon avec l'Amiral Patrick Martin

Jeudi 14 Février 2013: « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 7 Mars 2013 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon - Annual Meeting

Jeudi 11 Avril 2013 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

Jeudi 9 Mai 2013 : « Le Rendez-Vous » at Pelican Marsh @ Noon

BOOK CLUB

If you are interested in joining us, please call Susanne Kuhn at : 239-566-8561, for details.