

Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

QUATORZIÈME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 2

NOVEMBRE-DECEMBRE 2008



Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.

P.O. Box 721
Buffalo, NY 14207
Phone: (716) 688-4171

Web Site:
www.afbuffalo.org

E-mail contact:
info@afbuffalo.org

TO BECOME A MEMBER:

Contact: Colette Jowdy
Phone: (716) 706-0505
Courriel: cfjowdy@yahoo.com

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Supporting	\$85
Individual	\$40
Family	\$50
Full Time Student	\$20
Teacher of French	\$25

SEND CHECK TO:

Colette Jowdy
59 Quail Run Lane
Lancaster, NY 14086

Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance
Rédaction

Send your articles, petites annonces, (free for AFB members), travel news, in English or in French, preferably in digital format, to:

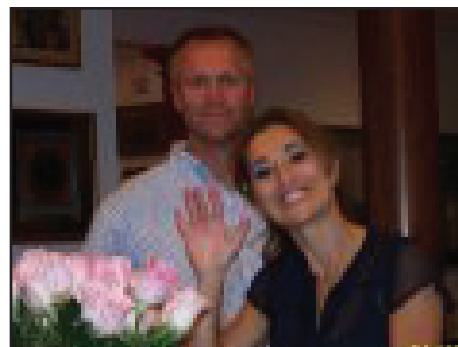
Jessica Blaser
milleblaser@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
December 1, 2008

A Pot Luck Supper Extraordinaire on Saturday, September 20th!

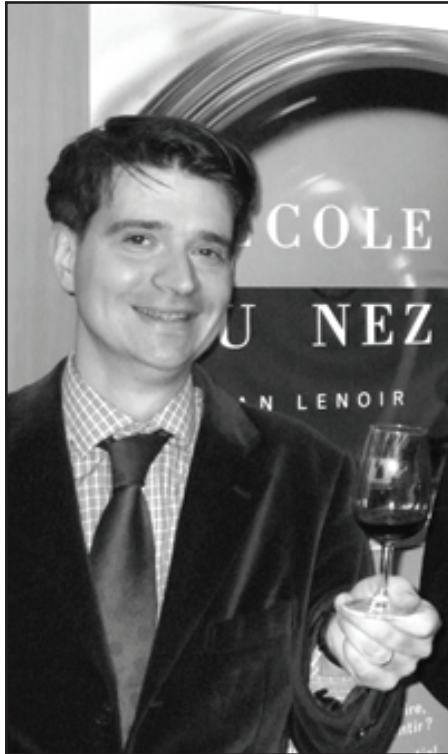
If Paul Carroll had not phoned me and asked if I would like a ride to the potluck dinner at Norm and Thuy Murray's house, I probably would not have gone. If that were the case, I'd have missed an extraordinary evening!

Paul followed the directions he had attached to the steering wheel of his car and we talked as he drove. Soon, we were out in the country. Suddenly we were driving along Sesh Road in Clarence Center, when he slowed down and turned right. There in front of my eyes loomed a beautiful house. It reminded me of homes I've been in when I went on tours of plantation houses in Virginia. Norm, a tall man in a blue and red shirt, wearing cowboy boots, welcomed us in the parking lot and guided our car into place. A garden with tall colorful flowers, tended by Thuy, grew on each side of winding steps that ascended into the enclosed verandah of the house where wine and soft drinks were available. Thuy greeted everyone warmly and organized the variety of dishes people had brought. She remembered the year I brought a Vietnamese student to the Bastille Day Picnic.



Dans ce numéro

1. Potluck supper recap
2. Traditional wine making in France
Cello and Piano recital
3. Cercle de Lecture: *La Femme Coquelicot* by Noëlle Chatelet
French Classes
Welcome / Bienvenue
4. Potluck continued
Goûter de Noël Celebration
5. A transatlantic Friendship Continues
Annual AFB Holiday dinner, Special raffle
Petites Annonces
6. Calendrier
 - Special inserts: Holiday dinner menu
 - Traditional wine making lecture flyer
 - November 22 cooking workshop flyer
 - French classes flyer



Traditional Wine Making in France

Alexandre Martin will offer an introduction to and a historical overview of viticulture and winemaking in France (harvests, pruning, barrel-making). Wine is introduced as the "product of a civilization," and as a stimulation of the sense of taste. The introduction is followed by a description of the main winemaking processes, in which Martin will reveal the secrets of the making of still (non-sparkling) white and red wines and for certain sweet, late harvested wines. He will also discuss the special process for making rosé wines, the alchemy behind brandies such as Cognac and Armagnac, and of course, the complex method for creating a very special wine : champagne.

Practical application: exercises in identifying the characteristic aromas derived from these different winemaking processes, followed by a tasting of 2 different wines selected for this learning purpose.

Reserve your spot by sending your check to Marianne Vallet-Sandre as indicated in the enclosed flyer.

Tradition et élaboration des vins de France

Du travail de la vigne et du vin en France (les vendanges, la taille, la tonnellerie) aux principaux procédés d'élaboration en cave, Alexandre Martin présentera le vin comme un « produit de civilisation » et insistera sur l'importance du sens olfactif en dégustation. Il révélera les secrets de fabrication des vins tranquilles (non effervescents) blancs et rouges et de certains vins moelleux, liquoreux. Il abordera bien sur les procédés de vinification spéciale des vins rosés, l'alchimie des eaux de vie telles le Cognac et l'Armagnac sans oublier l'élaboration complexe d'un vin particulier : le Champagne.

Application pratique: parcours de reconnaissance de quelques arômes résultant de ces différentes pratiques, suivi d'une dégustation appliquée précisant l'origine et le caractère de 2 vins sélectionnés pour leur intérêt pédagogique.

**MARDI, LE 18 NOVEMBRE A 19H.30/
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 7:30 PM.**

Bulger Communication Center West,
Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo

Une superbe Conférence et Dégustation de
Vins, présentée en Anglais :

« Tradition et élaboration des vins de France,
l'aventure du goût »

A great Lecture in English, followed by
a Wine Tasting with finger food

Please see the enclosed flyer for admission prices and reservations details.

The French Embassy which promotes this program among its Cultural Offerings of the season, indicates the audience must be limited to 80. In spring, under the same auspices we will present a lecture on fine chocolate by another French expert, but for now, it is Wine, Cognac and Champagne

(The Bulger Communication Center is the only round building, 4th on your left as you enter the campus to the right of the clock tower building on Iroquois Drive.)

—Marianne Vallet-Sandre

All-French Composers, Cello & Piano Concert!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008 @ 7 PM
ROCKWELL HALL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE, 1300 ELMWOOD AVENUE, BUFFALO
(Front building, immediately across from Albright-Knox)



Please do not miss the rare opportunity to hear Amélie Fradette, Buffalo Philharmonic cellist, accompanied on piano by Buffalo State College music professor: Dr. Bryan Boyce in an all French program featuring Debussy, Ravel, Fauré and Franck!

There will be an optional pre-concert lecture in French at 5:45, in Rockwell Hall, room 124, preceding the concert.

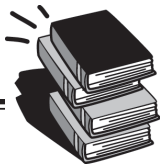
The program is co-sponsored by the Alliance, the AATF, and the departments of Modern and Classical Languages, and of Music, at Buffalo State College. The modest admission prices are \$12 for general public, \$9 for students, and only \$7 for students reserving in groups of 10, hopefully arranged by their instructors of French and/or Music. These low fees are meant to make great music accessible to all. *(Standing room only tickets being \$35 at the Buffalo Philharmonic for instance).* Please help spread the good news so that we may continue great planning and collaborating with other organizations to enhance French cultural offerings in the Western New York community.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the Performing Arts Center office at Buffalo State College at 716.878.3005

Cercle de Lecture: Septembre : LA FEMME COQUELICOT de Noëlle Chatelet

La réunion du mois de Septembre du cercle de lecture eut lieu chez Florence Fradin qui s'était très gentiment proposée comme hôtesse, cela après une petite relâche pour les vacances d'été.

C'est récemment que moi-même j'ai joint ce groupe de lecture qui m'a accueillie chaleureusement. J'ai trouvé que ces réunions mensuelles étaient très chaleureuses et en même temps intéressantes : soit que l'on puisse facilement parler en français ou bien que l'on fasse l'effort de s'exprimer dans cette langue. Pour ceux qui, comme moi, n'avaient pas frayé au début avec beaucoup de membres du cercle français, cela m'a permis de faire plus ample connaissance avec d'autres membres tout en bavardant un tout petit peu ensemble avant bien sûr de se concentrer sur la discussion du livre choisi pour le mois.



French Classes

WILL START NOVEMBER 3-
DECEMBER 17
(7 WEEKS)

Welcome New Members!

Emily Dinsmore 864-2545
Marie-Ruth Dubuisson
Jacqueline Garza
Teresa Gilland
Jaafar Hamdan
Karen Heavey 447-0327
Stephen D. Holder 863-9884
Emily Mackay
Joyce Merkle
Nathali Montes
Sara Otto 390-3327
James Resetar 667-2771
Kathleen Mary Ross 310-5773
Sahana Setty
Halley Shaw
Donald Trainor 982-4202
Lindsay Wicka 863-6811

Le livre de discussion choisi était : "LA FEMME COQUELICOT" de Noëlle Chatelet. Noëlle Chatelet est un écrivain et enseigne à l'université à Paris. Elle a participé comme comédienne à de nombreux tournages pour la télévision et le cinéma jusqu'en 1987. Elle est l'auteur d'essais, de recueils de nouvelles et de romans traduits dans plusieurs langues dont le livre qu'on a discuté à cette réunion, celui de "LA FEMME COQUELICOT".

C'est un tout petit roman publié en 1992, très facile à lire, mais tellement prenant à cause du sujet choisi. Il s'agit d'une grand-mère de 70 ans, Marthe, veuve à présent, qui après tout une vie maritale très banale et routinière avec son mari, "Edmond le maussade, le bilieux Edmond" découvre que même à son âge on peut changer de vision sur la vie et reprendre goût à tout ce que l'on fait, jusqu'à changer ses habitudes, à retaper son intérieur tellement terne auparavant avec ces couleurs peu flatteuses beige, froides ou neutres en les remplaçant avec des couleurs vibrantes et écarlates, avec le rouge du coquelicot, sa couleur fétiche et symbolique de l'amour, un amour qui naît soudainement pour quelqu'un d'autre. Elle est aidée par sa fille qui ne comprend pas ce changement soudain mais qui s'y met de bonne grâce.

La raison majeure de tout ce changement est due à la rencontre de Félix, ce "Monsieur aux mille cache-col" comme elle l'appelle, parce que chaque jour, où elle passe les heures creuses de l'après-midi, elle le rencontre, un familier comme elle, à la brasserie des "Trois Canons". Et chaque fois c'est une différente couleur d'écharpe qu'il porte.

Ce monsieur de 10 ans son aîné l'observe chaque jour avec son calepin de croquis en main. Elle en est touchée et en même temps flattée.

C'est le début d'une passion qui grandira petit à petit, qui la fera frissonner, lui redonnera goût à la vie. Petit à petit ils commencent à se découvrir l'un l'autre, à se comprendre, à échanger leurs passés pour mieux se connaître; lui, son art comme peintre, son amour pour la musique et l'opéra, elle, sa vie de famille quand même importante; une vie simple et sage, assez rangée par ses enfants à la rubrique "troisième âge" et grand-mère gâteau. Elle est maintenant métamorphosée par cet amour naissant. Tout autour d'elle change de raison d'être. Il est permis, même à cet âge d'aimer, de se sentir aimée, de rougir pour un petit rien, de se donner l'un à l'autre corps et âme, sans honte, sans regret. Ce n'est pas trop tard et qu'importe si ses enfants devront accepter ce changement miraculeux en elle.

C'est donc à cette nouvelle Marthe, femme coquelicot éclatante et fragile toute au bonheur d'aimer et d'être aimée que le public est convié.

Viviane Jammal



NOVEMBER 19, 2008

Three short stories from Françoise Sagan's *Musiques de scène, Le chat et le casino Souvenirs ... souvenirs, L'Échange*

At the home of Genevieve James, at 7:00 pm, 319 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. RSVP 633 4766

Books are available on line from:
www.amazon.ca; www.shoenhofs.com; www.bookfinder.com

Librairie Champlain 468 Queen Street East
Toronto, Ont. M%A 1T7
Tel: (416) 364-4345, Fax: (416) 364 8843

Also through Buffalo Erie County Library.

The Cercle de Lecture
will meet in November
only. No Cercle de
Lecture in December
because of everyone's
busy schedule during
the holiday season.



Potluck continued...

I wandered around the house and was reminded of the many different rooms in the Louvre. The Murray's house had spaces decorated with large Asian artifacts, other rooms featured American treasures. The room where I had dinner had a large sculpture of a stagecoach, driver, guide and a rider less horse. The foyer had a huge eagle and there were several sculptures of birds. The room where the food was served had a beautiful display of Christmas villages and ornaments that took up an entire wall.

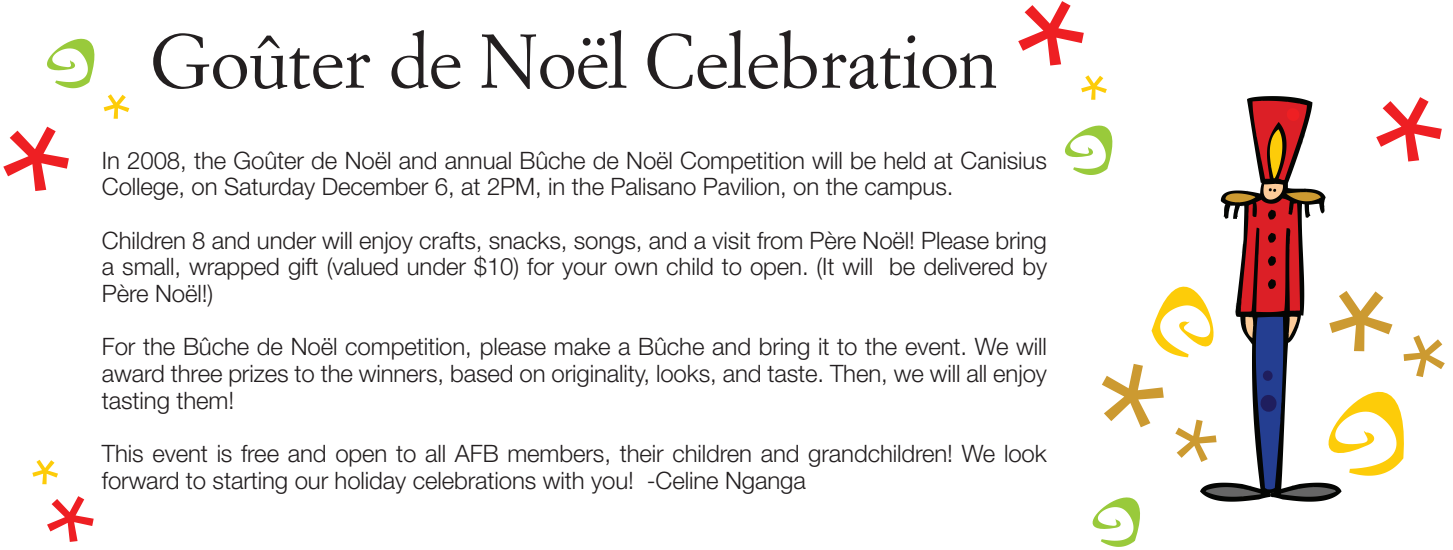
Norm and Thuy took time to talk with everyone. Our president Patricia Schiavone quietly organized a variety of colorful dishes, and carved a pork roast in the kitchen. A five-star potluck dinner was served course by course at a leisurely rate. I enjoyed talking with Gabrielle Gougon, Therese Gay, Ann Lewis, Alessandra

DeSimone and Ken Kaczmarek, the James' and others in the group of more than forty members in attendance.

I'm glad that Paul Carroll called and offered me a ride to the potluck and I'm more than happy that I said yes. If not, I would have missed the unique experience of enjoying delicious food in a beautiful home, the company of friends, all hosted by gracious world-travelers, Norm and Thuy Murray. Merci mille fois pour tous!

Veronica Breen Hogle

Goûter de Noël Celebration



In 2008, the Goûter de Noël and annual Bûche de Noël Competition will be held at Canisius College, on Saturday December 6, at 2PM, in the Palisano Pavilion, on the campus.

Children 8 and under will enjoy crafts, snacks, songs, and a visit from Père Noël! Please bring a small, wrapped gift (valued under \$10) for your own child to open. (It will be delivered by Père Noël!)

For the Bûche de Noël competition, please make a Bûche and bring it to the event. We will award three prizes to the winners, based on originality, looks, and taste. Then, we will all enjoy tasting them!

This event is free and open to all AFB members, their children and grandchildren! We look forward to starting our holiday celebrations with you! -Celine Nganga

A Transatlantic Friendship Continues!

From mid-May to mid June 2008, Robert Blessing, father of AF-Buffalo member Kimberly Blessing, enjoyed a sojourn as a visiting professor in the Faculty of Sciences in the University of Nancy, and over the final weekend of his stay in France, Robert and three of his friends and colleagues from Nancy visited Chartres. In February 2008, Kimberly and her husband Tim Bohlen had hosted le Quatuor de Chartres and Philippe Duchesne during their visit to Buffalo for their AF-Buffalo sponsored performance at Canisius College, and Robert had met the French musicians at that time. In advance of his visit to Chartres, Robert contacted Patrice Legrand, the quartet's founder and first violinist, to try to arrange a rendezvous with him for a drink with Robert and his traveling companions. Mais, pas de chance! for just a drink! Certainement, it would have to be an invitation for the four visitors from Nancy to join Patrice and his wife for Friday evening dinner in their lovely home in Lèves, a village at the northern edge of Chartres. The home is a tastefully renovated and modernized village farmhouse that has been in Patrice's family since the late 18th century. The soirée commenced with a delightful champagne apéritif in the home's beautiful back garden created and kept by Mme Legrand, and continued with a delicious dinner of roti de boeuf accompanied by a choice red Bourgogne and marvelous stories of travel and tour adventures of Patrice and the quartet – especially adventures in Africa. Patrice, as ebullient and skilled as a raconteur as he is as a musician, also demonstrated playing of the masinqo, the traditional Ethiopian one-string violin, which Patrice explained is probably the world's oldest form of violin instrument. Merci beaucoup, AF-Buffalo, for the introduction that led to the invitation!

Robert H. Blessing, Ph.D.

Dr. Blessing is Senior Research Scientist at the Hauptman-Woodward Institute and Professor of Structural Biology—SUNY-Buffalo

Annual AFB Holiday Dinner

Come and join us once again on **Sunday December 7th, 2008** to celebrate good friends and good food at one of the most well known restaurants of Western New York, Salvatore's Italian Gardens!

The festivities will begin at 6pm in the Venetian Ballroom with an hour of butler-passed hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and fun games. During this hour you will be able to browse through and check out the various items of our Silent Auction and bid on the valuable prizes collected by the effort of our board member Jean Hill and our President Patricia Schiavone. Our sit down dinner will be served at 7pm.

Please make your reservation early and don't forget to include your dinner selections. As a reminder, this event is open to all our members, their family and non-member friends. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only visit with old friends but also to make new ones!

At the end of the dinner we will be drawing the winning tickets of our annual raffle. We will also draw our special raffle, awarding two lucky winners. One with a one week stay in Cannes and the other with a one week stay in Paris. This year as a special bonus each winner will also receive two round trip tickets to their destination.

Special raffle tickets are still available!
Bonne chance à tout le monde!



Special Raffle

Dear members:

We still have tickets left for the special raffle to Paris or/and Cannes. Remember that for \$20 you have a chance to win two airfares to France and the use of a condominium for one week! This could make a nice holiday present for someone!

Also, the \$ 1.00 raffle tickets are now for sale. Many wonderful prizes such as overnights, wines, baskets and gift certificates are available.

Thank you to all of you for making this possible, and remember that it is for a great cause: our study-abroad scholarship and our cultural events!

Contact me at 895-0415 or panoramabf@msn.com

Petites annonces

THE AFB MOURNS THE LOSS OF A MEMBER AND FRIEND

Albert P. D'Errico, a faithful member of the Alliance Française de Buffalo and a captain in the Merchant Marine, died Sept. 9 (2008) after suffering a heart attack while on a visit to Lafayette, Louisiana. His accomplishments were numerous.

Albert had studied at the University of Georgia, Whittier College and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. A lifelong learner, he held a master's degree in business administration, a doctorate in psychology and theology and had been employed by the State of Louisiana as a psychologist, as well as serving as captain of various commercial vessels.

A native of Dallas, Texas, he was a Lockport resident and had learned French while working in Quebec.

He was a regular participant in the Thursday morning French Conversation Group of the AFB. The Alliance extends its sincere sympathy to his wife, Marilyn P. Brown-D'Errico, and to his stepchildren and step-grandchildren. – Paul Carroll

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"We at the Alliance, extend our deepest sympathy to Saskia and Jonathan Haloua for the loss of Saskia's father who passed away in Paris, France in September". Some of you may recall that the AFB had planned an excursion to the restaurant compound owned by Jonathan for September 27th, which had to be cancelled, due to this sad event.

### CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

AFB members Marie-Claude Hébert and Stéphane Blouin welcomed their daughter Érica Maora Blouin into the world, on Friday September 12 in the early morning!

Bébé, Papa, Maman are all doing splendidly! The Alliance sends congratulations and welcomes its new member, and the AFB playgroup is waiting with open arms!

Congratulations also to JoAnn and Michael Thomasson for the birth of their daughter Anna on July 3rd, 2008. All are doing well.

Marianne Vallet-Sandre

*If you would like to place an announcement, please contact Marianne Vallet-Sandre, mvs52@verizon.net or Jessica Blaser, milleblaser@gmail.com. This service is free for current AFB members or for a fee of \$30 for non AFB members.*



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PO Box 721, Buffalo NY 14207

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## Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

### *Novembre*

#### **GROUPES DE CONVERSATION**

**MATIN** : tous les jeudis

**HEURE** : 10 h15 - 11 h 45 • **LIEU** : Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.

**CONTACTEZ** : Paul Carroll au (716) 883-9378

**SOIR (Williamsville)** : tous les lundis

**HEURE** : 18 h 30 • **LIEU** : Café Starbucks, 5429 Main St., Williamsville

**CONTACTEZ** : Layla Beaini : lilotresor@yahoo.fr ou 836-9159

#### **CELLO CONCERT**

**DATE** : Wednesday, November 5 **TIME** : 7 PM

**PLACE** : Rockwell Hall Performing Arts Center

Buffalo State College, 100 Elmwood ave. Buffalo 14222

**CONTACT** : P.A.C. office, (716) 878-3005

#### **BOARD MEETING**

**DATE** : Wednesday, November 12 **TIME** : 7 :pm

**PLACE** : Lafayette Presbyterian Church

Corner Lafayette & Elmwood avenues

**CONTACT** ; Patricia Schiavone at (716) 895-0415

#### **PLAYGROUP**

**DATE** : Saturday, November 15 **TIME** 2-4 pm

**PLACE** : Amherst Community Church Child Care Center

77 Washington Highway, Snyder 14226

**CONTACT** : Celine Nganga at (716) 884-4354

#### **TRADITIONAL WINE MAKING IN FRANCE**

**DATE** : Tuesday, November 18 **TIME** 7:30 PM

**PLACE** ; Bulger Communication Center west

Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood avenue

**CONTACT** : Marianne Vallet-Sandre (716) 886-0886 or mvs52@verizon.net

#### **CERCLE DE LECTURE**

**DATE** : Wednesday, November 19, **TIME** 7PM

**PLACE** : 319 North Forest Road Williamsville

**CONTACT** : Geneviève James (716) 633-4766

#### **COOKING WORKSHOP**

**DATE** : Saturday, November 22 **TIME** 9-12

**PLACE** ; 52 Lexington Avenue. Buffalo

**CONTACT** : Marianne Vallet-Sandre (716) 886-0886

### *Decembre*

#### **GROUPES DE CONVERSATION**

**MATIN** : tous les jeudis

**HEURE** : 10 h15 - 11 h 45 •

**LIEU** : Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.

**CONTACTEZ** : Paul Carroll au (716) 883-9378

**SOIR (Williamsville)** : tous les lundis

**HEURE** : 18 h 30 • **LIEU** : Café Starbucks,

5429 Main St., Williamsville

**CONTACTEZ** : Layla Beaini,

lilotresor@yahoo.fr ou 836-9159

#### **GOUTER DE NOEL**

**DATE** : December 5 **TIME** 2PM

**PLACE** ; Palisano Pavilion, Canisius College

Main Street, Buffalo

**CONTACT** : Celine Nganga (716) 884-4354

#### **ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER**

**DATE** : Sunday, December 7 **TIME** 6PM

**PLACE** : Salvatore's Italian Gardens

**CONTACT** : Alessandra DeSimone (716) 400-5619

#### **BOARD MEETING**

**DATE** : Wednesday, December 10 **TIME** 7pm

**PLACE** ; Lafayette Presbyterian Church

Corner Lafayette & Elmwood Avenues

**CONTACT** : Patricia Schiavone (716) 895-0415

*Quatorzième Année, Numéro 2*  
*Novembre-December 2008*

*Save  
the Date*

#### **NOVEMBER 5**

Cello Concert

#### **NOVEMBER 18**

Wine Lecture & Tasting

#### **NOVEMBER 22**

Cooking workshop II

#### **DECEMBER 6**

Goûter de Noël

#### **DECEMBER 7**

AFB Holiday Dinner &  
raffle drawing

\* The fall session for the Club des Copains was postponed, due to low registration. The Alliance hopes to restart the sessions once again by the summer of 2009. If you are an interested parent, or grandparent, neighbor or friend, please stay tuned and keep in touch with Kathryn Missert at kmissert@yahoo.com or (716) 632-2709