



Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.

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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:

Patricia Schiavone, panoramabf@msn.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

December 1, 2009

Photography: Paul Pasquarello

Another successful potluck on Saturday September 26th!

Once more, the Murrays opened the doors of their gorgeous home to our annual potluck. About 30 members attended, and the food was great as usual. The best was kept for last with a vast variety of desserts of which two were baked by our new member, Kenneth Lambert. And, pour clôturer la soirée, two talented musicians, Joe Kolasny and one of our members' friend, played a few jazz tunes that kept the crowd jamming...until it was time to leave. Merci mille fois Thuy et Norm!



From top, clockwise:
Joe Kolasny, Patricia Schiavone, Norn & Thuy Murray; Jean Hill; Mesdames Fiden et Jammal; Natalie Andraud and Colette and Kamal Jowdy,



Goûter de Noël celebration

In 2009, the Goûter de Noël and annual Bûche de Noël Competition will be held at Canisius College, on Saturday December 5th, at 2:00 p.m., 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!

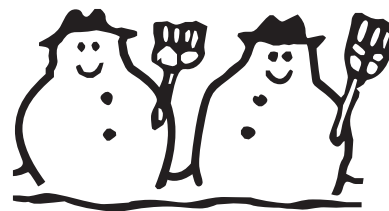
This event is free and open to all AFB members, their children and grandchildren! We look forward to starting our holiday celebrations with you! –Stephan Gamard

Dans ce numéro

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Annual AFB Holiday Dinner



Come and join us once again on Sunday December 6th 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 6:00 p.m. 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, Marthe Ngwashi and myself.

Our sit down dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. 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. .

The \$ 2.00 raffle tickets are now for sale (or 12 for \$ 10.00). If you need more than the ones you will receive in the mail, please contact Jean Hill at 883-4932 or jhill@buffalo.com

Our first prize is the one-week stay in an apartment in Paris offered by Dr. and Mrs. Alain Eluard. 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: a few scholarships and our cultural events!

Bonne chance à tout le monde! —Patricia Schiavone



Coucou, c'est encore moi, le petit Nicolas!

Vous vous rappelez que la dernière fois, je vous avais dit que Mary Ellen et Patricia allaient parler de moi, mais on savait pas encore quand et où. Eh bien, maintenant, on peut vous le dire, et en plus, vous avez deux choix. C'est chouette, non? Alors, voilà! J'espère que vous viendrez nombreux pour bien rigoler, mais pas trop fort quand même, parce qu'il faut pas fâcher Mary Ellen et Patricia!

Do you remember me from the last time when I told you that Mary Ellen and Patricia were going to talk about me, but we did not know yet when or where. Well, now, we can tell you, and, you have two choices. It's great isn't it? I hope you will be many to come and laugh, but not too loud because we don't want Mary Ellen or Patricia to get mad!

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THURSDAY

Nov. 5, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Cheektowaga Central High School
Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY

MONDAY

Nov. 9, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Nichols School
1250 Amherst Street
Buffalo, NY

C'est bientôt les Fêtes de fin d'année...

...Which means that it's almost time for shopping! Meet me again at New York NY International, 6705 Transit Rd, East Amherst, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday November 19th. New York NY International is a wonderful boutique where you will find an original gift for a special person. Our charming hostesses, Karen and Gabrielle, will guide you.

This is also special for the AFB as Karen will donate 10% of the profit to our organization. —Patricia



Don't miss our Franco-African singer/artist Brice Kapel!



Brice will be finishing his US tour with Buffalo and his last album Porto Seguro, a mixture of songs sung in French, English and Mina, Brice's mother tongue from Togo.

The audience will be on their feet from young ones to older ones! « Ceci est un événement à ne pas manquer » (you cannot miss this event). Brice's songs are poetic, tender and funny at the same time. The music and lyrics are entirely written by Brice himself. I hope to see many of you to welcome Brice.



I am appealing to all our members who are also teachers of French: This is a rare opportunity for your students (petits et grands) to experience such an event. Brice would love to have students sing with him! His songs have a lot of meaning and are perfect for a great analysis (grammatical, sociological, etc.). Teachers, if you are interested I can mail you the lyrics and a CD. Spread the word to your colleagues, please.

As usual, after the performance we will go out for dinner with our guest. Let me know if you are interest to join.

Tickets are available by sending me a check made out to AFB at Patricia Schiavone 103 Eastland Pkwy Cheektowaga NY 14225 or on-line at <http://www.buffalostate.edu/pac/> or by contacting the Performing Arts Center at (716) 878-3005.

If you order through me I will have your ticket available at the door.

Avis aux amateurs!!!! Brice is looking for a female voice to accompany him on one song, in French, bien entendu. Inutile de dire that you must have a nice voice...Let me know if you want to become the next American idol at 895-0415.

When?
Monday November 2nd

Time?
6:30 pm to approximately 8:00 pm

Where?
Rockwell Hall (building facing the Albright Knox gallery) at Buffalo State College on Elmwood Ave

Price?
\$5.00 for students, \$ 10.00 for members \$ 12.00 for general public

Welcome | Bienvenue!

New Members for November & December

Nader Nasief Abdel-Sayed 602-1499
Jennifer Amo 404-2516
Barbara Powrie and Alan Barasch
866-6700
Shawn Corio 628-6760
Nicholas A. D'Aloise 940-2852
Caitlin DeTine 881-1813
Adele and George Detitta
Philip Friot 931-5027

Shannon Griffin 627-5308
Jessica and Lance Johnson 860-1640
Hyowon (Nina) Kang 696-0389
Kenneth Lee Lambert Jr. 585-798-1310
Karen McMahon 631-1383
Megan Pailler
Frances Sanfilippo 633-1824
Scott R. Stencilik 316-8935
Katharine Tussing 874-9730



Cercle de lecture pour November

Mercredi 18 novembre à 19 h 00 (7:00 p.m.)
319 North Forest Road, Williamsville.
Contact: Genevieve James, (716) 633-4766

PETITES ANNONCES

Félicitations à...

César and Mary Bonato! They celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with friends, neighbors and relatives at a festive open house at their home on August 22, 2009.

Jodie Reed and her husband for the birth of their first child, Braeden Joshua Reed, on July 25 2009. C'est la joie de leur vie!

ATTENTION ALL ADULTS!

Piano lessons in your own home. It's never too late to begin. Call Joe Kolasny, member of the Alliance Française, at 877-1401.

KNITTERS!

I am looking for someone to knit baby clothing. Call Marie-Claude at 871-0088



La Fleur lunch excursion

On a late summer afternoon, with only a slight hint of crispness in the air, eleven of us set out to Chautauqua to enjoy an exquisite lunch at La Fleur, the AAA “Four Diamond” French restaurant operated by Jonathan and Saskia Haloua.

La Fleur is located in a spacious, old brick farmhouse that was rehabilitated and transformed into an elegant restaurant by Halouas seven years ago. The décor is quite tasteful and charming, with touches of Provençal, including thick wood buffets, delicate ceramics hung on the walls with ribbons, and white tablecloths on every table. The spacious room in which we were served lunch was light and airy, and perfect for a sunny, warm day. In the garden, which is carefully groomed, the lavender and Russian sage were still in bloom, and while the lovely hydrangeas had dried, they were still abundant.

Just after one o'clock, when we had all arrived, Jonathan and Saskia cordially served us delicious *amuse-bouches* in the foyer of the restaurant. We enjoyed *tartelettes aux champignons* polenta cakes, and tuna. We were offered red and white wines, the latter of which we could mix with a syrup of our choice to make a sweet *kir* aperitif. Chef Jonathan, a native of Paris, was a wonderful host, telling us about his restaurant and its environs; his hopes to open a new restaurant in Miami, where he and his wife spend winters; and of his childhood visiting friends of the family in Chautauqua during the summertime. After allowing us plenty of time to mingle, tour the house, and savor our treats, we were escorted to our tables.

While less than a dozen of us attended the lunch at La Fleur, we soon discovered that only one degree separated many us. My French high school teacher, Thérèse Clarke, was there with three handsome “escorts,” Pierre Ringenbach, Ron Allera and Kenneth Collins. Thérèse now teaches at Buffalo State College, and her BSC colleagues Andrea Guiati and Kimberly Blessing (with her husband Tim Bohlen) also attended the lunch. Philip Priot, a new AFB member who had been a student of my mother’s at Buffalo State in the 1970’s, and is a retired Buffalo Schools principal, ran into his former colleague, Linda Glabach from Maryland, whom he had not seen in years, but was in town to accompany her friend, Annlouise Cirelli, to lunch. Obviously, we found a great deal to talk about, and enjoyed each other’s company as much as we enjoyed our copious meal.

We occupied two tables in a large dining room, although more intimate tables are available in another room since the restaurant maintains its house-like floor plan, including a cozy “parlor” where one may sit on a sofa or in overstuffed chairs to enjoy a cocktail or coffee.

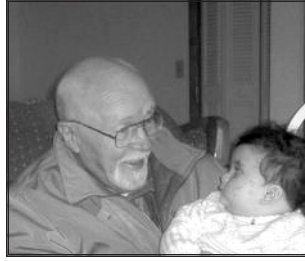
Upon being seated, we were offered a choice of *pinot blanc* or *pinot noir*, and our glasses were generously filled throughout the meal. We were then served our choice of *premier plat*, a local corn soup or a savory pear and blue cheese tart. While I tasted both appetizers and liked them very much, my favorite was the corn soup. It was very flavorful, fresh, delicately sweet and served with a cold truffled lobster salad presented in the center of the shallow bowl.

Our main course was a choice a filet mignon or Arctic char. The former was served with a béarnaise sauce, and a gratin of potatoes, as well as asparagus. The fish was accompanied by a leek *fondue* and seasonal vegetables. Both were absolutely delicious.

As though we had not yet had our fill, Chef Jonathan regaled us with an assortment of exquisite desserts—three, side-by-side, on a long plate. He referred to it as a “sample” though it was a generous plate of sweets, better described by the name on the menu, *trilogie de dessert*. I liked best the raspberry sorbet and Tahitian vanilla bean ice cream served with a macaroon, and saved the chocolate molten cake to bring home to my children. The third option was a very French *baba au rhum*.

After offering us cordials and serving coffee, Jonathan announced that a trolley was waiting us outside to take us on a brief tour. We paused to take a group photo outside the restaurant, and then boarded the trolley which took us to a nearby warehouse where Chef Tim Murphy operates an artisan bakery and creates his own vinaigrettes, salad dressings and salsa under the name Red Brick Village Gourmet. We were invited to sample some of his creations which are sold to area restaurants (one is the “house dressing” at the trendy downtown Buffalo restaurant, Club 31) and at Premier Gourmet in Kenmore.

Upon our departure, like children leaving a birthday party, the chefs treated us with “goody bags” of croissants and a baguette to take home. At that point, some of us headed back to Buffalo and others stayed in Chautauqua to visit a bit more. In either case, it had been an extremely memorable day, and not surprisingly after such a wonderful meal, I fell soundly asleep on the way home.
—Sophie Feal.



Mon Ami Oleg...

Dans une ville immense pour celui qui y débarque en provenance d'un pays lointain et perdu, un homme trace des sentiers lumineux et fleuris sous la neige. Infrangibles.

Il passe de longues nuits au coin d'un feu qui n'en est pas un. Pendant qu'il neige grave et immuable dehors, il monte des châteaux de papier à force d'algorithmes ailés qui cheminent tous dans une même direction, bercés par une langue très douce que ce lecteur nocturne a choisi de choyer entre toutes. Il se glisse dans des univers construits il y a des milliers d'années par des écrivains de génie qui réussirent à défier le passage poussiéreux des ans, arpente des ruelles étroites dans des livres lus et relus au fil du temps qui passe et qui revient, traque les pas des écrivains modernes.

Cet homme, je l'ai croisé un soir à Canisius College il y a 6 ans tout juste par un mois d'octobre mouillé comme aujourd'hui. J'y enseignais alors le Français langue étrangère une fois par semaine. Paul Carroll, à l'époque trésorier de l'Alliance qui se donnait à fond pour tenir les comptes de notre petite organisation et gardien jaloux de ce mini sanctuaire de la francophonie qu'on appelle le French Club de Buffalo, m'avait promis la semaine précédente d'emmener un nouvel étudiant dans ma classe. C'est dans un couloir de Canisius donc, que j'aperçus un homme de noir vêtu, assis sur une chaise quelconque, la barbe blanche, la tête baissée, le visage radieux. Oui, radieux. C'est sans doute cette lumière que j'entrevis sur le front de cet homme si digne dans ce bâtiment propre mais désert, qui me fit espérer que l'étudiant promis et cet homme ne fussent qu'une seule et même personne.

Et comme les petits souhaits, les rêves minuscules semblables à des poussins à peine sortis de l'œuf, possèdent une sorte de fée bleue qui prend bien soin de les couvrir et de les rendre vivants, un quart d'heure plus tard Oleg Voronin se retrouvait assis devant moi, muni de son cahier, de son regard clair et de son grand cœur où la langue française s'était taillé une place unique de loges années auparavant et y avait siégé en invitée d'honneur.

Oleg s'était présenté ce soir-là parlant de son Ukraine lointaine d'une voix toute jeune en dépit de toutes les épreuves vécues ou subies, de l'Amérique, de l'amour qu'il porte à son pays d'adoption et surtout d'Irène, la fée de son foyer dont la présence à ses côtés continue à lui rendre la vie un long fleuve tranquille imperméable aux orages et à la grisaille des jours.

En ce mois d'octobre qui me paraît aujourd'hui lointain, Oleg et Irène se préparaient à fêter leurs noces d'or. Lui, dans sa fougue, dans son ardeur toute pure, parlait de celle qu'il avait rencontrée alors qu'il n'avait que 22 ans et qu'elle n'en avait que 17 ans en dressant d'elle un portrait fidèle. Lorsque j'ai eu la chance de rencontrer Irène par la suite, j'ai compris qu'elle aussi, à sa manière, était de la trempe des femmes parfaites cultivant le bonheur autour d'elles tout en s'occupant de leur potager. Toujours aux petits soins pour sa famille mais sans jamais oublier de garder jalousement le jardin secret de son homme avec ses milliers de livres, son ordinateur et jusque ses chats, honneur de la maison.

Vous me diriez tout cela est bien beau mais où voulez-vous en venir ? Et vous avez bien raison de me poser la question parce qu'il me faudrait des milliers de pages pour parler d'Oleg. Ceux d'entre vous qui fréquentent les groupes de conversation le connaissent sans doute. Les bibliophiles amateurs des clubs de lecture réguliers de l'Alliance aussi.

Et si j'écris ce mini-texte c'est pour me faire plaisir d'abord. Je me répète que j'ai toutes les raisons de vivre ici parce qu'un pays c'est d'abord un endroit où veillent sur vous des yeux amis. Et ensuite, c'est pour que mon ami Oleg tombe sur ce texte en épluchant, avec sa jolie méticulosité d'amoureux des lettres -Et comment ne le serait-il pas lui le fils d'un grand écrivain et traducteur dont l'œuvre a brûlé dans l'un des moments des grandes folies qui marquent l'histoire des hommes. Toute l'œuvre en dehors d'un seul livre retrouvé ici même à la bibliothèque du Pentagone- la Newsletter de l'Alliance.

Mon ami Oleg, merci pour le cadeau précieux qu'est votre amitié, pour avoir été, en compagnie de votre fée, les premiers à m'honorer de votre visite à l'hôpital lors de la naissance de mes deux enfants. Pour continuer à tenir auprès d'eux le rôle de grand-père honoraire comme vous le dites vous-même alors que c'est toute ma petite famille qui a l'honneur de vous connaître. Mais j'arrête mon discours. Il se fait tard. Et je me demande si Madame la Présidente trouvera une place dans la newsletter pour ce texte que j'aurais voulu rallonger jusqu'à ce que mes pauvres mots- tellement banals qu'ils ressemblent presque à mes journées remplies de tâches domestiques que je répète en boucle- miment la petite lumière que vous semez sans cesse sur votre passage.



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Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

QUINZIEME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 8

NOVEMBRE – DÉCEMBRE 2009

Novembre

GROUPES DE CONVERSATION

MATIN : tous les jeudis

HEURE : 10 h 15 - 11 h 45 • LIEU: Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.
CONTACTEZ : Paul Carroll au 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

FRENCH CONCERT

DATE: Monday, November 2 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
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 11 TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Amherst Community church, Washington Hwy, Snyder
CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at (716) 895-0415

PLAYGROUP

DATE: Saturday, November 14 TIME 2:00-4:00 p.m.
PLACE: Amherst Community Church Child Care Center
77 Washington Highway, Snyder 14226
CONTACT: Stephan Gamard at (716) 876-0844

LE PETIT NICOLAS lecture

DATES: Thursday November 5th at 3:00 p.m. at Cheektowaga HS Union Rd,
Cheektowaga or Monday November 9 at 4:00 p.m. at Nichols School
CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone (716) 895-0415 or panoramabf@msn.com

CERCLE DE LECTURE

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, TIME 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 319 North Forest Road Williamsville
CONTACT: Geneviève James (716) 633-4766

SHOPPING AT New York NY INTERNATIONAL

DATE: Thursday November 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
PLACE: 6705 Transit Rd, East Amherst

Décembre

GROUPES DE CONVERSATION

MATIN : tous les jeudis

HEURE: 10 h 15 - 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 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Palisano Pavilion, Canisius College

Main Street, Buffalo

CONTACT: Stephan Gamard (716) 876-0844

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

DATE: Sunday, December 6 TIME 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Salvatore's Italian Gardens

CONTACT: Alessandra Cassini (716) 400-5619

BOARD MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, December 9 TIME 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Amherst Community Church, Washington Hwy, Snyder

CONTACT : Patricia Schiavone (716) 895-0415

Save the Date

Annual Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
Salvatore's Italian Gardens