

# Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

SEIZIÈME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 1

SEPTEMBRE – DÉCEMBRE 2010



Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.

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## ANNUAL

### MEMBERSHIP FEES:

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

## SEND CHECK TO:

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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](mailto:panoramabf@msn.com)

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

December 1, 2010

Photography: Paul Pasquarello



## Holiday Luncheon Invitation

Sunday, December 5th, 2010

In response to some of our members who have expressed increased difficulty in driving at night, the AFB is proposing a Holiday Luncheon in 2010, to take the place of our usual end-of-the-year holiday dinner. The event will take place at Buffalo's newest hotel, The Embassy Suites, at 200 Delaware Avenue, (South of Chippewa) in the fabulous brand new AVANT Building on Sunday, December 5th at 1:00 p.m.

The price will be kept to a modest \$25 per person for a three course meal and gratuity. As most of you may know, our organization's tax exempt status helps hold down cost. A cash bar will be available at 1:00 p.m., and the luncheon will be served at 1:30 p.m. Please select your entrée choice from the three possibilities offered below and send your reservation along with a check for \$25 per person, **payable to the AFB** to Marianne Sprague, 1088 Delaware Avenue, Apt. 11A, Buffalo, New York, 14209. **The maximum seating capacity of the beautiful room offered to the AFB is 60 persons. Checks must be received by November 15 in order to insure the success of this event.**



1:00 p.m. Cash bar in **Embassy Suites** Lobby

1:30 p.m. Lunch in **Della Terra Restaurant**

**Soup:** Italian Wedding Soup

**Entrée** (your choice of one):

Chicken Piccata, chicken breasts sautéed in a creamy lemon-caper sauce, served with wild rice and broccolini

*or*

Pan seared Tilapia served with a lemon caper sauce, with wild rice and broccolini

*or*

Pasta Primavera, linguini served with fresh vegetables in a light red tomato sauce

**Dessert:** Chef's choice of a Holiday Dessert

*Included in meals are rolls, butter, coffee, decaf and tea*



## YEARLY FALL POTLUCK

Our annual potluck will take place on **Saturday September 18th, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the home of our newly elected board member, Nancy Burns.

After years of being beautifully welcomed in the homes of Mary Aiken,

Marianne Vallet-Sandre, Maura Cohen and lately Thuy Murray, members will now have a chance to gather at Nancy and Bill Burns' lovely Orchard Park home, in a beautiful park-like setting.

**The address is 69 Forest Drive in Orchard Park:** 90 West toward Erie. Take exit 55, then merge onto 219 South. Merge onto US-20A E toward Orchard Park. Turn right on Park Place. Turn left on Forest Drive. If you need help in getting there, please let Mary Grace know when you call to reserve and she may be able to indicate someone else who may be able to give you a lift.

The event is limited to 60 people, and it is strictly for adults. For necessary reservations, call **Mary Grace Duggan at 447-7624** or tap her a line at [mgdgg@aol.com](mailto:mgdgg@aol.com) to let her know of your intention to attend and to tell her what dish you will be sharing. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Potluck to renew friendships or meet new members after a great summer.

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## Gisèle Feal, teacher extraordinaire retires...again!

Yes, to the dismay of her AFB advanced class members, Gisèle feels it is time to “hang her hat”—she who is famous for wearing so many hats, both actually and figuratively. President Schiavone asked me to pen a few words about the event, because we have been friends for so long. Indeed, Gisèle and I have been friends since her two daughters were younger than her daughters’ children today. We both taught at Buffalo State College, we each came to chair our departments, respectively Foreign Language and Design, we each moved up to administrative positions, and eventually retired. (Gisèle’s first retirement!)

For the Alliance, Gisèle endorsed many responsibilities and played multiple roles, including but not limited to: filling a public school auditorium with local high school French students for the AFB’s yearly French play, arranging for Can-can dancers as entertainment for our past ethnic festivals and joining them on the stage, as well as helping prepare and sell tons of food during those same festivals. She served as board member for many years and as president of the organization. She distinguished herself as one of the cutest flappers for our past AFB 1920’s dinner (when we were all considerably younger).....all of this and much more, in addition to being one of the most inspiring teachers of the AFB advanced class, since Olivia Ben Haim (formerly Ardit) initiated our school more than a decade ago.

To give substance to my compliments on Gisèle’s AFB teaching career, I chose to ask each one of her current students to volunteer a thought by way of a brief sentence, telling how attending her class affected them. The sentences came right back and indeed some could not keep it to a sentence. Here are their remarks:

“Gisèle gave me the self-confidence to challenge myself to become a French speaker. It is a gift from her that I will cherish the rest of my life.” -Doris Hill

“Gisèle was a great teacher and obviously very passionate about teaching. I took the class to maintain my level of French for work

purposes, as I might work in a French-speaking country and it fitted all my needs. She made the time to ask what we wanted to learn and then followed it through. She was also very organized and methodical and mixed up the classes so we did different things each week or two.” -Jenni Adams

“I am dismayed to hear that Gisèle has decided to retire. Her classes were the weekly event that I most looked forward to. Her exceptional skill as a teacher was what made the classes not only an intellectual feast but a frolic as well. She will be greatly missed.” -Kenneth Collins

“Gisèle! I love her amazing personality, her beautiful French, her haircuts, her clothes, her end of the year parties at her house, and those action packed Monday night classes.” Much love from Lois O’Brian

And finally: « C’est avec regret et aussi avec reconnaissance que nous saluons la nouvelle que notre chère professeur du lundi soir va prendre sa retraite. Pour nous, ses élèves, sa classe était un rayon de soleil, un élixir fortifiant à la fin d’une journée ordinaire. Gisèle était un prof extraordinaire. Son enthousiasme pour son sujet – soit la littérature moderne ou classique, les complexités de la grammaire, ou les nouvelles du monde – était bien contagieux. Elle nous engageait dans des discussions et des débats; elle nous présentait des défis, et elle nous encourageait à nous améliorer. Elle nous a donné beaucoup plus que de simples leçons de français. Elle a créé une atmosphère d’amitié où l’on était bien à l’aise pour parler. Avec son grand intérêt pour la vie, nous sommes sûr que pour Gisèle, l’avenir sera rempli de possibilités prodigieuses! Merci bien Gisèle, on vous souhaite tout ce qu’il y a de mieux! » -Mary Claire Kosek

Que rajouter de plus, sauf bien sur « merci Gisèle pour tes années de dévouement! Et surtout, ne disparaît pas complètement! » Quand aux tristes élèves qui se sentent certainement un peu délaissés, vous aurez tout de même la grande consolation d’apprendre à connaître (si vous ne la connaissez pas déjà) votre charmante nouvelle prof : Émilie Bournaud qui prendra la relève en septembre. -Marianne Vallet-Sandre

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## Excursion à Toronto

**La scène : le 15 mai, 10 h 00 du matin.  
Le stationnement de Canisius.**

It is easy for me to remember that there were 11 of us waiting (and waiting) in the parking lot of Canisius College for Patricia Schiavone to arrive with the 12 seat rented van to drive us *ensemble* to the Théâtre Français de Toronto. That is because when she did arrive, the van was one seat short. The single seat in the far back had been removed.

Already running late because Patricia had stopped to buy us all croissants *et de l’eau gazeuse* for our trip, we tried to remain calm, reassuring each other that the play didn’t start until 3:30 p.m. and our early departure had been scheduled to build in some shopping, lunch, or sightseeing time. Pierre Ringenbach volunteered to sit on the floor in the back of the van and spryly demonstrated that it could be done. But would we get across the border like that?

Mark O’Brian to the rescue! He had planned “for just such an emergency” (as Foghorn-Leghorn would say) and brought our map of Toronto. Paul Carroll and Pierre moved into our van along with our croissants. Nancy Burke, Mary Grace Duggan, Gina Passantino, Jean Hill, Evelyne Harris, Thérèse Clarke and Phillip Friot stayed with Patricia. Thérèse had prepared to teach, during the drive, a lesson of French Canadian expressions used in the play that those of us in the O’Brian van would be missing. But she gave us our cheat sheets, and we were off!

We made it as far as the Gardener Expressway when we met with the road closed for construction. After creeping along forever, we came to a fork in the road. Our van went one way, Patricia’s the other. Both choices were slow going, although those of us who weren’t driving enjoyed seeing parts of Toronto we had never seen—and hadn’t planned on seeing. Both vans were filled with people telling the driver which way he or she should be going. One of the vans had a driver telling the passengers which way they should be going. Our van arrived one hour before the show, the other arrived one minute before the show. Good thing we had had those croissants.

*Fragments de mensonges inutiles*, the most recent of French Canadian playwright Michel Tremblay’s plays, was excellently staged and performed. It is about two 16 year old boys in love with each other. The one boy, however lives in 1957 and the other in 2007 and it compares and contrasts the problems of the times for each boy. Super titles accompanied the performers for those of us whose French, or whose French Canadian, needed assistance. Reactions to the play were varied, with most of us truly liking it.

Following the theater, our dinner at the nearby *Le Select Bistro* at 432 Wellington Street West came off without a hitch. The restaurant was beautiful, the menu very French and tasty, and the conversation flowed. What stories we had to tell of what had turned into a long and arduous journey to Toronto! Will we be signing up for the play next year? Yes! -Lois O’Brian

## Minding your Manners in France

As you become more familiar with French culture and language through your membership in l'Alliance Française, many of you will plan to travel there. There are some basics you should know that will make your visit more enjoyable.

The French like to look at people: that's half the point of cafés and fashion, so get used to being looked at; it's as natural there as breathing. They'll look at your shoes or your watch, check out what you're wearing or reading. (And probably know immediately that you are American!) What they will not do, is maintain steady eye contact or smile. If a stranger of the opposite sex smiles at you, it's best to do as the French do and return only a blank look before turning away. If you smile back, you might find yourself in an unwanted situation. Visitors' exuberance—and accompanying loud voices—may cause discreet Parisians, or any French person, to raise their eyebrows or give a deep chesty sigh. They're not being rude, but they're telling you that they think you are. Be aware of your surroundings and lower your voice accordingly, especially in churches, museums, restaurants, theaters, cinemas, and the métro. We are used to bigger space differences and tend to have louder voices. Take notice in a crowded French restaurant—not much noise.

When entering and leaving a shop, greet and say good-bye to the staff. A simple *bonjour, monsieur/madame* and *au revoir, merci!* are considered a virtual necessity for politeness. When there, I go to the boulangerie every morning and I am always wished *une bonne journée* when I leave. I reply with an *à vous aussi, madame*. Other basic pleasantries in French include *bonne soirée* (have a nice evening); *enchanté(e)* (nice to meet you); *s'il vous plaît* (please); and *je vous en prie* (you're welcome). When asking for directions or other help, be sure to preface your request with a polite phrase such as *excusez-moi de vous déranger, madame/monsieur* (excuse me for bothering you, ma'am/sir).

**Greetings:** when meeting someone for the first time, whether in a social or a professional setting, it's appropriate to shake hands. Other than that, the French like to kiss. For the Parisians, it's two *bisous*, which are more like air kisses with your cheeks touching lightly—don't actually smack your lips onto the person's face!

**Out on the Town:** when visiting a French home, don't expect to be invited into the kitchen or to take a house tour. The French have a very definite sense of personal space, and you'll be escorted to what are considered the guest areas. If you're invited to dinner, be sure to bring a gift, such as wine, champagne, flowers, or chocolates. Table manners are often considered a litmus test of your character or upbringing. When dining out, note that the French fill wineglasses only until they are half full—it's considered bad manners to fill it to the brim. They never serve themselves before serving the rest of the table. During a meal, keep both hands above the table, and keep your elbows off the table. Bread is broken, never cut, and is placed next to the plate, never on the plate. Place it right on the tablecloth or place mat. Placing it on the plate indicates that you think the tablecloth isn't clean enough! When slicing a cheese, don't cut off the point (or «nose»). Coffee or tea is ordered after dessert, instead of with dessert. (In fact, coffee and tea usually aren't ordered with any courses during meals, except breakfast.) Ask for un café *américain* if you want coffee that tastes like those at home. Checks are often split evenly between couples or individuals, even if someone ordered only a salad and others had a full meal. Eating on the street while walking, is generally frowned on—though with the onslaught of Starbucks you can sometimes see people drinking coffee on the go.

**Language:** one of the best ways to avoid being an Ugly American is to learn a little of the local language. The French may appear prickly at first to English-speaking visitors, but it usually helps if you make an effort to speak a little French. A simple, friendly *bonjour* (hello) will do, as will asking if the person you're greeting speaks English *parlez-vous anglais?* Be patient, and speak English slowly—but not loudly. A phrase book and language-tape set can help get you started. Follow just these basic courtesies and you will endear yourself to the French for your efforts. And better yet, you will have a wonderful experience! -Doris Hill

### Goûter de Noël & best Bûche contest

**When?** Saturday December 11th  
**Time?** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Where?** Buffalo State College, 1300 Elwood Ave., Buffalo  
Butler Library, room 210

*Père Noël* will be at the *rendez-vous* for *les petits et les grands*: Bring a wrapped gift for your child. Come and share French Christmas songs, desserts and good company. There will be crafts for children.

#### Enter the best Bûche contest and win a prize!

It is also the day on which we will announce our two raffle winners for the Cannes and the Paris condominiums one-week stay!!!! You will be able to purchase tickets at the last minute!

To make a reservation, call Stephan Gamard at 876-0844 or [sgamard@yahoo.com](mailto:sgamard@yahoo.com)

### Galette des Rois (Kings' Day)

**When?** Saturday January 8, 2010  
**Time?** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Where?** Buffalo State College, 1300 Elwood Ave., Buffalo  
Butler Library, room 210  
**Price?** \$3.00/person

Come and celebrate, *petits et grands*, *la Galette des Rois*, a French tradition on Kings' Day. Come and share a piece of *galette* and a glass of cider. You may be crowned king or queen for the day if you are lucky to bite into the *fêve*!

Please, make your reservation with Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415 or [panoramabf@msn.com](mailto:panoramabf@msn.com)

-Patricia Schiavone

**GROUPE DE LECTURE**

# George Sand

(1er juillet 1804 – 8 juin 1876)

Trois contes étaient le centre de la conversation chez Madame Geneviève James, le 26 mai dernier. Ils sont du genre à faire plaisir aux gens de n'importe quel âge. Les deux premiers sont tirés d'histoires folkloriques de la grand-mère de l'auteur : *Le chien* et *La fleur sacrée*. Le troisième est un conte fantastique, *L'orgue du Titan*.

Il est difficile d'ignorer la biographie de l'écrivain en parlant des œuvres de l'auteur. George Sand, nom de plume d'Aurore Dupin, née Amandine Aurore Lucile Dupin, plus tard baronne Dudevant, était un personnage dont les mots pour la décrire constituent une liste formidable. Personnage coloré, elle était exubérante, rebelle, intelligente, douée, de moeurs légères, audacieuse, amie des artistes et amantes de plusieurs d'entre eux. Elle vivait à contre-courant du dix-neuvième siècle, prenant le nom de George Sand et s'habillant de vêtements masculins pour se joindre aux cercles des hommes qu'elle croyait plus intéressants et privilégiés que ceux des femmes.

Mme James a commencé la conversation avec un court récit de la vie de Sand et tous ont réagi avec enthousiasme en exprimant ce qu'ils savaient sur le sujet. George Sand est encore connue de nos jours. Parmi ceux qui gardent son souvenir on retrouve Céline Dion. En 2007, elle a enregistré une chanson composée de mots tirés d'une belle lettre écrite par Sand à Alfred de Musset. Cette pièce fait partie de son album, *D'elles*.

Par contraste avec le caractère choquant de l'auteur, ses œuvres révèlent la profondeur de sa pensée et l'étendue de son talent. *Le chien* propose l'idée de l'évolution. L'histoire commence à la table où sont assis des invités, adultes et jeunes. C'est la maison de M. Lechien, un homme qui croit avoir été un chien dans une vie antérieure. Bien que les gens trouvent la proposition incroyable, ils encouragent leur hôte à parler de cette vie. Comme les détails défilent, tous s'animent et posent des questions à propos de leurs propres existences.

M. Lechien raconte son expérience comme bouledogue. Selon lui, il était un compagnon bon et obéissant. Il dit, « on avait

certainement compris que je méritais d'être homme ... » M. Lechien ne savait pas les circonstances de sa transformation mais il était convaincu de sa vérité.

Inspiré par cette histoire, un ami de M. Lechien, un certain Anglais qui s'appelle Sir William, constate qu'il était antérieurement un éléphant dans la région du Laos et de la Birmanie (Myanmar). Sir William invente une drôle d'histoire. Il parle d'un éléphant blanc portant le nom de La Fleur Sacrée, qui mène une vie tranquille avec sa mère qu'il aimait beaucoup. Il est content d'être dans la jungle, utilisant les dons de la nature pour survivre.

Un jour, il est capturé par des chasseurs qui tuent sa mère et le mettent dans une prison construite de « bambous monstrueux. » Plus tard, il devient une des possessions du roi de Birmanie et expérimente le luxe d'une vie royale. À cause de sa couleur extraordinaire, on le regarde comme un dieu. Tout au long de ses aventures, il a un gardien : Aor. La Fleur Sacrée comprend la langue d'Aor et démontre l'intelligence d'un homme. Les deux s'entendent bien et restent amis jusqu'à la mort de cet homme fidèle et aimé.

Le conte est comme un rêve qui traverse les paysages et les endroits peu connus. À chaque pas on trouve des indices qui contribuent à la théorie de l'évolution de l'homme et ses environs. On ne peut pas ignorer le fait que Charles Darwin était de la même époque que Sand. À la fin, les jeunes auditeurs veulent savoir quelle récompense attend l'homme après avoir été chien honnête ou éléphant vertueux. Sir William répond, « Ce qu'il y a de certain pour moi, c'est que tout être aspire à se perfectionner. . . » « Que sais-je? » « Il suffit que je vous aie lancés dans le monde du rêve. » Il les encourage à rêver et à imaginer.

*L'orgue du Titan* est un conte fantastique qui raconte l'histoire de deux musiciens : Maître Jean et son protégé, Angelin. Malheureusement le maître croit avoir un talent bien supérieur et n'admet pas les dons d'Angelin. Il l'appelle souvent, Âne. Il y a deux événements au fond de cette fantaisie : l'aller et le retour d'un voyage.

En route pour visiter des amis dans le village de Chanturgue, les compagnons passent par deux grandes montagnes. Maître Jean explique leur origine à Angelin. Il lui dit que les Titans de la mythologie les ont construites pour arriver au ciel et détrôner Jupiter, dieu des Romains, sans succès. Le maître remarque que quelques-uns de ces géants terribles existent encore. Ça fait peur au jeune homme qui croit tout.

De retour chez eux, une pierre taillée en tablette et une grosse tige d'arbrisseau deviennent un orgue et un soufflet aux yeux du maître. Il sait que seul un titan peut jouer de l'instrument mais poussé par l'orgueil, il insiste qu'il pourrait aussi le « faire chanter. » Maître Jean ordonne à Angil de souffler mais puisque le jeune ne voit pas de soufflet, il est forcé de jouer du clavier imaginaire. À ce moment il voit ses mains prendre des proportions colossales. Il joue une pièce formidable qui « surgissait de son cerveau. » Subitement, il y a un éboulement de rochers. Les deux souffrent de blessures causées par la chute de pierres. Un peu plus tard, ils continuent leur voyage regagnant le chemin qu'ils avaient perdu.

Qui sait ce qui s'est passé? Est-ce que c'était l'ivresse car ils avaient bu trop du bon vin de Chanturgue? Une hallucination? Ou peut-être quelque chose de surnaturel? Peu importe. L'incident a confirmé le talent d'Angil. Il reçoit l'entraînement qu'il lui faut pour être musicien extraordinaire. Puis, plus âgé, il fait plaisir aux auditeurs avec ses compositions. Ceux qui assistent à ses concerts voient de temps en temps la transformation que subissent ses doigts, vestige de l'illumination expérimentée ce jour-là entre les rochers.

Des images apportées par Oleg Voronin ont fait vivre le paysage. Nous pouvions voir le terrain et les rochers où le drame avait eu lieu. Ce dernier conte est un exemple du style de Sand. Elle parle de la réalité, telle qu'elle est, tout en faisant allusion au fantastique sous-jacent.

Tous les membres du cercle se sont bien amusés. Ils ont exprimé des commentaires vraiment intéressants. Ils ont goûté des amuse-bouches et bu une boisson de leur choix. Merci Mme James! Et merci à votre fils pour ses savoureuses chips de lentilles.  
*-Frances M. Sanfilippo*

## FUTURES RÉUNIONS

### *du Cercle de lecture*

**Le mercredi 22 septembre à 19 heures (7 :00 p.m.)**

La discussion portera sur *La sonate de Kreutzer* de Tolstol tirée du site Internet [www.litteratureaudio.com](http://www.litteratureaudio.com)

**Le mercredi 20 octobre à 19 heures (7 :00 p.m.)**

La discussion portera sur *Oscar et la dame en rose* d'Eric E. Schmitt. Contactez Geneviève James ou Marianne Vallet-Sandre afin d'obtenir le texte

**Le mercredi 17 novembre à 19 heures (7 p.m.)**

La discussion portera sur *Yasmina, La Rivale* d'Isabelle Eberhardt tirée du site Internet [www.litteratureaudio.com](http://www.litteratureaudio.com)

Aucune réunion n'est prévue pour le mois de décembre

Les réunions auront lieu chez Geneviève James, 319 North Forest Road, Williamsville. Pour confirmer votre intention de vous joindre au groupe, veuillez prendre contact avec Geneviève au 633-4766 ou par courriel : [jamesg@canisius.edu](mailto:jamesg@canisius.edu)

**De nouveaux participants sont toujours les bienvenus !**



## Children's Playgroup celebrates la rentrée des classes!

The Children's playgroup will meet again on Saturday September 11th, at 2:00 p.m., at the Amherst Community Church. Contact Stephan Gamard for any questions at [sgmard@yahoo.com](mailto:sgmard@yahoo.com) or 876-0844.

## END OF THE YEAR raffle

### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!

If you want to be more involved in making decisions for our events, in sharing ideas to contribute to the AFB and help in its promotion, and you have two hours once a month (none in Summer) to attend our meetings, our board would like to welcome you!

At this moment, we have only 12 board members, and have 3 vacancies. Please, consider becoming a board member. Contact Kathryn Missert at 897-1430 or [kmisser@yahoo.com](mailto:kmisser@yahoo.com) ~Merci! Your President, Patricia Schiavone

You may have noticed that in recent years we have attempted different versions of our end of the year raffle to raise funds to help support our cultural activities. This year again, we will explore yet a new way of running the activity. We will have only two prizes, but indeed two grand prizes, thanks to the enduring generosity of Bill and Geneviève James, and Alain and Susan Eluard who once more, kindly offered their properties in Cannes and Paris to benefit the AFB.

The Cannes prize offers a one week stay in a fine residence which sleeps four, available from June 1 to June 8, 2011

The Paris prize is a one week stay in a residence which sleeps from two to four, available from July 11 to July 18, 2011

The price per ticket is only \$10!

The winning odds are higher than in the past as there will be only 250 tickets sold for each destination!

Winners will be drawn and announced on Saturday December 11th during our Goûter de Noël's event! Winners need not be present.

You may purchase your tickets by sending your check in the amount corresponding to the number of tickets desired, made out to AFB, to Patricia Schiavone, 103 Eastland Pkwy, Cheektowaga, NY 14225 or during our potluck event on Saturday September 18th. *Bonne chance!*



## June Meeting of the Cercle de lecture

The Cercle de Lecture met at Viviane Jamal's house on June 23 to discuss two short stories by J.M.G. Le Clézio's, *Vent du Sud* and *Trésor*. I blew in on my bicycle just in time for the start, worried that I hadn't understood the story well enough to understand the discussion. A crispy apricot tart and some savory snacks later, I was doing just fine, hearing that the fluent speakers in the group also found the second story a bit confusing.

*Vent du Sud* revolves around a European boy and his father in Tahiti, and their Tahitian maid. Many in our group remarked on Le Clézio's beautiful use of language in this tale of a short period in a pre-adolescent boy's life. In contrast, *Trésor* is, among other things, about a middle-eastern boy in his own country, and a European woman, possibly his mother.

Many of the participants had looked up the city of Petra, the city itself a central character in the story, and came prepared with historical information and photos from the Internet. For me, the photos and history increased my understanding of the story and made up for what my French lacked.

An interesting point brought up in the discussion was that the story traveled across the Middle East without recognizing the current political boundaries of countries.

Gisèle Feal was our discussion leader and began the evening with a general view of Le Clézio. There were 12 participants. -Lois O'Brian

## Welcome Bienvenue!

### NEW MEMBERS

Chris Cangialosi  
[cleo\\_chris@yahoo.com](mailto:cleo_chris@yahoo.com)

Chelsea Gifford  
649-9446  
[cgiff1@brockport.edu](mailto:cgiff1@brockport.edu)

Margreta Mobley  
854-2347  
[mmretiree@verizon.net](mailto:mmretiree@verizon.net)

# Congratulations

to the Certificate of Excellence Award recipients  
for the 2009-2010 academic year

## HIGH SCHOOL

Batavia High School  
Brockport High School  
Brocton Middle High School  
Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart  
Cassadaga Valley High School  
Chautauqua Lake High School  
Cheektowaga Junior-Senior High School  
Clarence Senior High School  
Cuba Junior High School  
Depew High School  
Eden Junior-Senior High School  
Fredonia High School  
Hamburg High School  
Holland High School  
Holy Angels Academy  
Immaculata Academy  
Lackawanna High School  
Lancaster High School  
McKinley High School  
Orchard Park High School  
Park School of Buffalo  
Starpoint Junior-Senior High School  
Williamsville East High School  
Williamsville North High School

## TEACHER

Johnson, Laura  
Hopkin, Amy  
Morrison, Julia  
Horohoe, Martha  
Mancuso, JoAnn  
Walsh, Karen  
Valenti, Suzanne  
Thome, Jan N.  
Blair, Marian  
Gianturco, Mary Ellen  
Janowsky, Nicole  
Gawlak, Sandra  
Haveron, Martha  
Muldoon, Kara  
Emerling, John  
Zgoda, Susan  
Roberts-Mahoney, Heather M.  
Dubuisson, Marie-Ruth  
Frank, Kathryn  
Burns, Nancy Z.  
Jeswald, Beth Anne  
Staskiewicz, Susanne  
Scheiderer, Ellen G.  
Swartzwelder, Marie

## STUDENT

Dupin, Thomas  
Kuhn, Katherine  
Nickerson, Nicole  
Michalski, Alexandra  
Marsh, Meagan  
Sullivan, Thomas  
Sperrazza, Colin  
McNally, Ellen  
Clark, Brittany  
Wasielowski, Kristin  
Steen, Douglas  
Murray, Lisa  
Braun, Mary  
Van Remmen, Sarah  
Blumberg, Alexandria  
Wolf, Courtney  
Turner, Andrew  
Krnjaich, Sara  
Christian, Courtney  
Lancer, Nicholas  
Sanchez, Andrew  
Loyd, Stephanie  
French, Amy  
Willer, Christopher



## Digital Directory and Newsletter

Dear members:

During our annual meeting on June 17th I spoke about a few changes regarding the directory and the newsletter. Those changes were necessary to alleviate the job of our volunteers, and at the same time, to save money which we can invest in our events.

**The directory is now on-line: Welcome to the 21st century!** It is easy to access, and it is constantly updated as new members join. Please call me at 895-0415 to obtain the information necessary to access the directory, and the new password, (changed from the one previously published). For AFB members who do not have access to a computer, please call me as well, and I will mail you a paper copy of the directory, similar to the ones published in the past.

**The newsletter:** As you know, the graphic design of the newsletter is solely done through the volunteer work of Shelly Kuzniarek. The editing is done by Marianne Vallet-Sandre and Marie-Claude Hébert, the printing by Kamal Jowdy, and, finally, the mailing process is

done by Thérèse Gay. It takes a tremendous amount of time out of private lives and duties to gather the texts, and to edit, format, and finalize them. With the publication of six letters yearly, when one newsletter was finished and mailed, it was almost time to tackle the next one.

I came to realize that chapters such as New York City, Chicago or Washington DC, with as many as some six thousand members, publish their newsletter three times per year only. This prompted me to adopt the same logic, reasoning that this practice could also work for our own three hundred or so members.

**From now on the newsletter material gathering deadlines will be August 1st,** (for the September, October, November and December letter) **December 1st** (for the January, February, March and April letter), and **April 1st** (for the May, June, July and August letter). Nothing will be changed except that it will require more planning in advance for board members as well as for AFB members with contributed announcements or articles. You will continue to receive reminders via e-mail (done by Doris Hill) or by phone for those of you who do not have access to the internet. Continue to check our website, regularly updated by Olivia Ben Haim (formerly Arditi) at <http://afbuffalo.org>

  
*Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance*



*From left to right: Sophie Taillefer accompanied by her able young students; AFB board member Holly Franz, chairperson of the program; and below: Sophie charms Sasha Pack*

## *Soirée de Cabaret*

It was time for old chestnuts when Sophie Taillefer headlined a cabaret evening on April 24 sponsored by the Alliance Française de Buffalo which drew a delighted audience to the 32nd Degree Masonic Hall in Cheektowaga. The songs were known and loved by the audience of 80, and Sophie Taillefer was making a return visit to the Buffalo area where she had performed in a 2004 event sponsored by our Alliance. She received a rousing welcome from many who returned to hear her again.

The Montreal-born mezzo-soprano, now a resident of Bordentown, New Jersey, is equally at home in operatic roles and as an interpreter of French popular music. It was the latter which she displayed so well to the Alliance audience. Sophie Taillefer was ably assisted by Kalhil Gunther, her accompanist, and three young and talented students in her Rising Stars Voice Studio, Michelle Foster, Rachel Multer and Megan Malfi. James Langford, Sophie's husband, handled lighting and sound.

The opening number, *Wilkommen-bienvenue*—Cabaret, followed by Kurt Weill's *Je ne t'aime pas*, led to themed segments with love songs, many familiar, some less so. After a song group entitled

*Histoire d'amour*, came *Boîte de nuit*. Then three songs from *Les Misérables* by Claude-Michel Schönberg, including the rousing anthem *À la volonté du peuple*, French version of *Do You Hear the People Sing?* in which the three young singers joined their mentor. *Les Chansons d'Édith*—four songs of the incomparable Piaf—delighted one and all. After intermission came *Medley Starmania*, four songs by Luc Plamondon from a rock opera. Sophie Taillefer, who has performed in opera houses in Montreal and Toronto, told us how much singing in French and bringing French music to an American public means to her.


The audience gathered around cozy tables and enjoyed wine and soft drinks as well as plates of bread and cheese

and desserts, a true cabaret setting. The cabaret format itself

is something of an old chestnut for our Alliance and has proved a hit a half dozen times over the past 15 years including performances by Annie Royer, Jacques and Marie, and our own Georgette Dionne Jebb.

The success of the event is due to the efforts of the entire Board of Directors of our Alliance, but in particular to Holly Franz, general chairperson, as well as Shelly Meyer who designed and arranged printing of posters, fliers, tickets and programs, and Mary Grace Duggan who was responsible for food and beverages. Holly Franz expressed special thanks to Steve Curvin and Marianne Vallet-Sandre for their help. -Paul Carroll





### FRENCH CLASSES

Our French classes will resume on Monday September 13th (see also flyer included). Please note that there are a few changes:

**Novice A**  
Mondays 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Nathalie Andraud

**Novice B**  
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Nathalie Andraud

**Intermediate**  
Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Émilie Bournaud

**Advanced**  
Thursdays 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Émilie Bournaud

*Exceptionally, Novice A and B will have only 13 classes this semester. Due to the final exams at Canisius, classrooms will not be available. Fees have been adjusted accordingly. Merci de votre compréhension.*



## Fête nationale de la prise de la Bastille

Le pique-nique annuel de la fête nationale a eu lieu dimanche le 18 juillet, à Clarence Town Park, à côté d'un étang pittoresque. Heureusement, c'était un bel après-midi chaud et ensoleillé. Une quarantaine de membres de l'Alliance Française de Buffalo y ont assisté. Kathryn Missert a organisé et supervisé cet événement traditionnel avec un petit coup de main de Sy Ledoux le jour même, et de l'aide aux réservations de la part de Patricia Schiavone, qui ne pouvait être présente le jour de la fête. Bill Fenzel, a joué des pièces de musique animées sur son accordéon. Comme d'habitude, tous les convives se sont levés pour chanter l'hymne national des États-Unis ainsi que La Marseillaise. Tout le monde a dégusté des plats estivaux typiques. Il y avait une grande variété de plats français et américains. Il faut noter la présence de deux invitées du Nord de la France; Olivia Ben Haim, actuellement de Lille, et ancienne présidente de l'AFB, passait quelques semaines de vacances dans notre région. Elle est venue au pique-nique et a renouvelé ses amitiés. À présent, Olivia continue à maintenir le site Internet pour l'AFB. Une autre jeune Française, Marie Nowé de Calais, a été présentée à tout le monde par Marianne Vallet-Sandre qui avait été la seule à répondre aux multiples requêtes de cette jeune fille afin de trouver une famille pour la recevoir cet été. Amy Pikula, enseignante à Orchard Park s'était portée volontaire en premier lieu, et elle-même a assuré la découverte d'une autre famille à Orchard Park pour rallonger la visite. Expert photographe, Paul Pasquarello, a pris des photos du groupe entier comme on peut constater ci-joint. -Nancy Burns



*From top to bottom left: AFB picnic group; Marianne Vallet-Sandre, Amy Pikula with daughter Madeleine hosting Marie Nowé, visiting from Calais; Sascha Pack and Émilie Bournaud Pack; Mary Ellen Gianturco with her children Ava and Reed, Olivia Ben Haim and Gloria Gianturco; Michel Fontaine, Susan and Stephan Gammard look on while Bill Fenzel shares his music with a young admirer!*



## CALENDRIER DES ÉVÈNEMENTS: *La Semaine du français de l'AATF*

### Friday, October 15

Deadline for Poster and Essay Contest. Topic: Les Antilles françaises : Histoire et culture/The French Caribbean: History and Culture. Includes Haïti. Contact Nancy Burns. E-mail: NanetteFr.lyon@buffalo.com



### Monday, November 1

Béret Day in the schools and French classes. Make and wear your own bérets. For a pattern, email: masalajazz@hotmail.com

### Wednesday, November 3

La Météo: The Weather Outside on Channel 7. Have your students appear with you on the Weather Outside! Have fun, promote your school! Space limited to 10 students per teacher. For info and reservations, email: mcritelli@hamburgschools.org by October 23.

### Thursday, October 28

Le Grand Gala: Come and mingle with your fellow Francophones and Francophiles and enjoy wine and Hors-d'oeuvres from a sumptuous TABLE CAMPAGNARDE prepared by French chef Vincent Carrière. 5:50 - 7:30 p.m. at Sonoma Grille, 5010 Main Street at the Thruway. \$25.00. Please reserve tickets by Friday, October 22 876-7811 or BBenzin@aol.com

### Friday, November 5

French Heritage Day at Old Fort Niagara: An interdisciplinary, interactive program for middle and high school students. 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Info: ofn@oldfortniagara.org or call 745-7611.

### Saturday, November 6

Le Franco Festival du Beau-Fleuve: Unitarian-Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. This is Buffalo celebrating French-speaking cultures! Music, arts, crafts, video clips, foods from French-speaking countries, African drum and dance workshop, story telling, poetry readings, folk dancing, games, exhibits, shopping. More information: masalajazz@hotmail.com \$5.00/\$3.00.



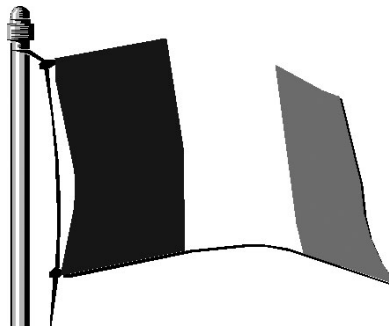
### Monday, November 8

The French Cooking School at Tops International Market: A celebration of authentic cuisine from various countries of the French-speaking world. The cooking schools take place in the Southtowns at 355 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca, and in the Northtowns at 3980 Maple Road in Amherst.

Session 1 is 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.; Session 2: 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Professional chefs will present demonstrations and samplings. Space is limited to 35 students per session. Student groups must be accompanied by a teacher. Limit 10 students per school. Reserve by October 30! Email: KennedySchultz@hotmail.com (for Maple Road) or lwahler@westseneca.wnyric.org (for West Seneca). This event is free!

### Wednesday, November 10 (starting at 10:00 a.m.)

CAREER PANEL: Students learn about the importance of French in various professions from a variety of local professionals. Participants and place tba. Contact person: BBenzin@aol.com



### Wednesday, November 10

Soirée Francophone: This is a panel discussion, en français, of issues pertinent to the French-speaking world. Participants and place tba. Audience: Adults and French college students. Contact person: BBenzin@aol.com

### Thursday, November 18

Célébrez le Beaujolais Nouveau! 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.: Allen Street Hardware Store Café! Enjoy the new wine and some tasty light dishes. 245 Allen Street at College. Info: masalajazz@hotmail.com

### Friday, November 19 (tentative)

Cooking School for Adults at Savvy Gourmet in Snyder. Menu tba.

### Saturday, December 4 (tentative)

Gala Fundraiser for Buffalo's Sister town in Haïti, Soukri! Wine tastings, Hors-d'oeuvres, silent auction, art exhibit, jazz concert.

Presented by the American Association of Teachers of French-WNY, with the collaboration of Buffalo State College, The Alliance Française de Buffalo, The Buffalo - Lille Sister City Association, and the Buffalo Public Schools World Languages Department.



*Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance*  
Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.  
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# *Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance*

SEIZIÈME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 1

SEPTEMBRE – DÉCEMBRE 2010

## **ANNUAL POTLUCK**

DATE: Saturday, September 18, 2010  
TIME: 6:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Home of Nancy and Bill Burns  
69 Forest Drive, Orchard Park  
CONTACT: Mary Grace Duggan at 716-447-7624

## **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

DATE: Sunday, December 5, 2010  
TIME: 1:00 p.m.  
PLACE: The Embassy Suites  
200 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo  
CONTACT: Marianne Sprague at 716-882-1639

## **GOÛTER DE NOËL**

DATE: December 11, 2010  
TIME: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Buffalo State College,  
1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Butler Library room 210  
CONTACT: Stephan Gamard at 716-876-0844

## **BOARD MEETINGS**

DATES: September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8, 2010  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Amherst Community Church, Washington Hwy, Snyder  
CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at (716) 895-0415

## **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: tous les lundis  
HEURE: 18 h 30  
LIEU: Spot Coffee, Main St, Williamsville  
CONTACTEZ: Layla Beaini lilstresor@yahoo.fr ou 716-836-9159

## **PLAYGROUP**

DATES: September 11, October 16, November 20, 2010  
HEURE: 14 h 00 (2:00 p.m.)  
LIEU: Amherst Community Church, Washington Hwy, Snyder  
CONTACTEZ: Stephan Gamard at (716) 876-0844  
December 11th will be our Goûter de Noël from 2 to 4 p.m. at Buffalo State College, Butler 210 !!!!!

## **CERCLE DE LECTURE**

DATES: Mercredis 22 septembre, 20 octobre et 17 novembre, 2010  
HEURE: 19 h 00  
LIEU: 319 North Forest Rd, Williamsville  
CONTACTEZ: Geneviève James au (716) 633-4766

## **La Galette Des Rois**

Saturday, January 8, 2011  
Buffalo State College

*Save the Date*