



# La Gazette de l'Alliance Française de DuPage

## State of the Alliance

*President Obama delivers his State of the Union to the citizens of the US and notre President, Charles Coulon, now delivers the Alliance Française of Dupage's State of the Alliance. Vive l'Alliance!*



A New Year is upon us already and the times continue to be exciting at the Alliance Française de DuPage. Many exciting events are in the pipeline, including many opportunities to eat and enjoy culinary delights at some of our favorite coffeehouses and restaurants. We are trying out a new book club concept revolving around short stories, which will take place over several weeks in order to better focus on specific content. We'll be discovering the brand new College of DuPage Culinary Center and there are plans to have Belgian officials come visit us for a lecture/discussion. All of this within the next 3 months. If there's one thing we won't be doing, it's getting bored! And that is a good thing!

We continue to see new and returning faces at our conversation groups and through outreach to North Central College and College of DuPage, we are renewing partnerships which should drive traffic to our events while giving us better access to anchor locations within our communities.

At the national AF level, the recent convention I attended in Louisville in October 2011 was a success, with repeated opportunities to meet and mingle with other AF representatives and to realize that for a small Alliance, we are faring extremely well. Worthy of note is the fact that the AF Federation is rolling out an eLearning, web-based French language program which can be ideal for Alliances such as ours. We will be able to suggest the program to our members as well as interested parties and create even more value for our chapter.

As always, please know that the success of the Alliance is yours. Without the commitment and dedication of our members we would not be able to make our quality programming happen. My thanks to each and every one of you, and all best wishes to you and to our Alliance for a Bonne et Heureuse Année 2012!

Toutes mes amitiés!  
Charles Coulon

## Haiti...Savez-vous?

If you missed our presentation on Haiti this fall by Susan Frame never fear! Below are 5 interesting facts shared by Sabine Zeynalova learned during the night.

The cultural capital of Haiti is Jacmel, boasting beautiful beaches, French colonial structures and cathedrals.

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on Jan 12, 2010, leaving 316,000 people dead and 1.6 million homeless.

Jakmel Ekspresyon is an organization that provides local artists with space and facilities to create and explore different mediums of artistic expression in a safe and non-discriminating environment.

Doris Frame is known as the "Diaper Lady" for transporting donated diapers to tent cities in Jacmel in order to reduce the spread of cholera ravaging the country after the earthquake.

Jacmel's film school is growing a local industry known as Jollywood developing a new genre of film making in Haiti.

## Recette

Bon, not all of us can make resolutions to eat kale and go on juice fasts for the new year. If you are ready to indulge, try this recette from AFD member and resident culinary expert Karen Thielman. Don't forget to come to our chocolate tasting February 21st (see Upcoming Events)!

### Chocolate Mousse

Serves 6 to 8

7 ounces semi-sweet chocolate

7 egg whites

2 Tb. granulated sugar

1 pinch salt

7 egg yolks

1 ¼ cups heavy whipping cream

Melt chocolate over a double boiler. Remove from heat and ensure the chocolate is thoroughly melted.

Whip the heavy cream to medium stiff peaks. Set aside.

Whip the egg whites with the salt until soft peaks form and then sprinkle in the sugar and continue whipping until medium stiff peaks. Fold in egg yolks.

Fold the melted chocolate into the egg white mixture. Then fold in the whipped cream mixture. Spoon into dessert cups, and chill until firm. Grate a little chocolate on top as a garnish.

Note: For best results, use high quality chocolate.



### Ask the Alliance!

Each edition we ask members a random French-related question. This edition's question:

**What's something you find surprising or interesting about France?**

Merci to Diane Hoffmeyer for her response!

*Dogs really do get around! In Paris I've seen them in cafes and restaurants, and one walking with his owner in the Galeries Lafayette department store. Also, in the past several years, driving through various regions of France (Normandy, Loire, Burgundy, Rhone-Alps) we found the roads and highways to be in excellent condition. It was a pleasure to drive. On our first road trip, we were surprised to have a Ford as a rental car - I was looking forward to a Peugeot, Renault or Citroen!*



# Upcoming Events

## Fevrier

**2/1**

Café-Conversation, 10 am  
Cocoa Bean, Geneva

**2/5**

Café-conversation, 2 pm  
Arcedium Café, St Charles

**2/10**

**Soiree Crepes, 7 pm**  
**Chez Jeannie Cowart**  
**RSVP for details**

**2/20**

Café-conversation, 7 pm  
Ballydoyle, Downers Grove

**2/21**

**Chocolate Tasting, 7 pm**  
**All Chocolate Kitchen, Geneva**

## Mars

**3/4**

Café-Conversation, 3 pm  
Panera, Bolingbrook

**3/7**

Cafe-Conversation, 7 pm  
All Chocolate Kitchen, Geneva

**3/11**

**Visit to COD Culinary Center, 12 pm**  
**College of Dupage**

**3/15**

Café-conversation, 10 am  
Caribou Coffee, Naperville

**3/19**

Café-conversation, 7 pm  
Ballydoyle, Downers Grove

## Avril

**4/1**

Café-conversation, 2 pm  
Arcedium Coffeeshouse, St Charles

**4/4**

Café-conversation, 10 am  
Cocoa Bean, Geneva

**4/16**

Café-conversation, 7 pm  
Ballydoyle, Downers Grove

**4/19**

Café-conversation, 7 pm  
Panera, Wheaton

**Stay tuned for details on our annual luncheon in May 2012 and please check the website, [www.afdupage.com](http://www.afdupage.com) for updates on our events!**



**ALLIANCE FRANCAISE  
OF DUPAGE**

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To:

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*L'AFD vous souhaite une bonne annee!*

