



# La Gazette de l'Alliance Française de DuPage



## Fete Nationale

Par Cynthia McLaughlin

I look forward to the Bastille Day picnic all winter long. It always represents a promise of warmer weather and sunshine which we often don't have enough of in the winter. Each year when I reserve the shelter in January, July 14th always seems so far away but I feel warmer knowing there will be a fun summer day spent with friends honing my French skills. This year we got a little more warmth and sunshine than we bargained for! About 35 people representing members and non-members gathered at the West Shelter in the Blackwell Forest Preserve on July 17th which turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year! We were not deterred by the weather. We feasted on food that people brought to share and enjoyed good conversation. Instead of the traditional games of petanque, cro-



quet or badmitten, we played cards and games in the shade of the shelter. Thanks to everyone who braved the weather and came out of the air conditioning to make this event a success! Certainly, the picnic is about sharing experiences, renewing old friendships and forming new ones! Finally, I would like to issue a very big thank you to Monique and Cliff for creating and placing signs within the forest preserve that directed people to the shelter!

## Ca Change

### Newly elected AFD President, Charles Coulon, highlights recent changes in the Alliance Française of DuPage

In June 2011, you voted for new leadership for the Alliance Française de DuPage, and entrusted me with the responsibility of President. I have developed many friendships at the Alliance since becoming Vice-President in 2007 and it is my honor to be able to serve further what is clearly a dynamic and engaging group.

I wanted to take a few words to acknowledge my good friend and my

predecessor, Monique Davoust. Under Monique's leadership the Alliance has blossomed into a very lively, diverse and welcoming group and the enthusiasm of its volunteers speaks volumes about the great relationships Monique has built within the group. I want to thank you, Monique, and to wish you well as you enter the next, exciting stage of your life!

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### Editor's Corner

by Natalie Pankow

*Just a little musing of la vie francaise...*

If you think the French live in the Middle Ages, you're wrong. Unless you go into their bathrooms. Taking a French shower is probably one of the most uncomfortable things I did in France. It depends on where you take that shower but for the first few months that I taught English in a tiny town near Bordeaux, it was not ideal. First, the shower itself looked like a porta-potty with the ceiling and one side cut out. The showerhead, or *flexible*, gave decent water pressure but rested about 2 inches, je m'excuse, 4.257 centimetres, from my head. And I'm 5'3"! Regulating the temperature is another cauchemare! When I finally got the water adjusted to a decent temperature, it was time to begin la douche. As I lathered up my head, trying not to topple the flexible, the water started to gather at my feet. I wore flip flops as shower shoes, a throw back to college dorms because I was afraid of how clean the bottom of the shower was. The drain pretty much stayed clogged throughout the shower and the water reached above my ankles. I leaned over to wash the bottom of my feet, letting go of my flip flop. The shoe just kind of floated there in the accumulated water which is not a huge problem until you try to put it back on. The motion of stamping your foot in the flop creates a wave of water that splashes over the bottom of the shower and onto the floor leaving a lovely bath for a duck. Perfect. I guess now I know why the French have a reputation for smelling foul— it's not fun to get clean in France!

*Natalie Pankow lived and worked in France from 2005-2006.*



## Ca Change, con't

of maintaining our website and email account for as long as some of us can remember. She has always been great about updating the website in a very timely manner, while bearing with last-minute requests, corrections etc. Thank you Becky for your outstanding website work for the Alliance all these years!

Replacing me as Vice-President is Sabina Zeynalova. Most of you know Sabina as a very outgoing person with loads of energy and ideas, and willingness to contribute positively not only to the Alliance,

but to society as a whole. These assets, along with her love of all things French make her a wonderful addition to our leadership.

Diane Hoffmeyer will continue in her role as Treasurer of the Alliance and Cynthia McLaughlin will also continue in her role as Secretary. Thank you Diane and Cynthia for staying on the leadership team!

Joining us on the leadership team is Jillian VanTuyle as the new webmistress for the Alliance website. In the coming weeks you can expect to see a change in layout on the website as responsibilities transition from Becky to Jillian. Jillian will also take over the management of the e-mail newsletters to our members and extended contacts. We are working on an enhancement where emails will come from our Alliance general email account.

The Alliance is doing very well financially thanks to your continued patronage of the organization through your memberships and volunteer service. In August, we had a very successful event, French Connection Day at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, where countless visitors to our booth allowed us to bring a very generous pool of money into the Alliance's account. This will allow us to continue in the trail of stability we have blazed, without having to consider increases in membership dues or sign-up fees to events.



Our beautiful new AFD shirts. On sale now!



Selling those goods at French Connection Day

Our 2011-2012 calendar is already dotted with very exciting programming which is sure to please everyone. Our popular café-conversations will continue. We are happy to report that we will return to the Arcadium Coffeehouse in St. Charles for some Fox Valley conversation groups, while trying out a new chocolate store in Geneva too. We're experimenting a new Downers Grove location for Monday evening conversation groups. Our calendar also includes various cultural and culinary programming - Stay tuned to our website for more details.

We are also working behind the scenes to strengthen our relationship with North Central College in order to ease the scheduling of meeting space for some of our more formal events.

Please expect to see ongoing editions of this Alliance Française Gazette in your mailbox several times a year. Even in this age of digital media and "going green", we trust you enjoy the simple pleasure of sitting down and reading a print publication from the Alliance every once in a

while. Remember that every one of you can submit contributions to the Gazette, so feel free to send them along.

Un grand merci to all of you who donate your time and energy to the Alliance! We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events soon. A bientôt!



*To all the members of the Alliance Française de DuPage, just wanted to bid you goodbye as President and welcome Charles Coulon as our new President, and Sabina Zeynalova as our new Vice President. You, the members of the AFD, are the best! I know you will back Charles and Sabine and help them as you did me.*

*The last two fundraisers in August were a success and I feel I ended my tenure on a high note. That was thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers who not only gave generously of their time and talent, but also all the materials used to make our crafts, and all the donations of books and trinkets. I am happy to say, that our joint efforts put over \$1,000.00 in the AFD coffers. We had a lot of fun, and I hope we meet again, annually, at the French Connection Day in Cantigny. Charles and Sabine, I promise to join the ranks of active volunteers...in a couple of months. Thank you both for taking on the job and I am looking forward to a new and exciting season at the AFD.*

*Monique Davoust*

*Ex-president of the Alliance Française de DuPage*



## De Temps en temps

Par Janine Webbles

De temps en temps j'ai besoin d'entendre ma langue maternelle, le français de mon enfance. Heureusement j'ai découvert, il y a plus de douze ans, le service DISH-NETWORK auquel je me suis abonnée. De ce fait je peux voir et entendre TV5MONDE dont je ne pourrais plus me passer. Une fois branché, on peut jouir de programmes en langue française 24 heures par jour, par exemple il y a les nouvelles émanant de Belgique, du Canada, de France, de la Suisse et des quatre coins du monde qui nous offrent une per-

spective différente et plus détaillée que celle des chaînes commerciales américaines. De plus, il y a de bons films, de merveilleux documentaires, des jeux et des court-métrages discutant un livre, expliquant l'origine d'une expression, présentant du jardinage, des dessins animés, etc. Ce n'est pas que je regarde beaucoup la télévision, ayant d'autres choses à faire, mais j'apprécie la qualité de ces programmes, ils en valent bien la peine d'être regardés.

For all those who wish to have another occasion to speak French!

Announcing: **FRANCOPHONE BILINGUAL TOASTMASTERS!** Like the English Toastmasters, you will be able to do your speeches and partake in the other roles in either French or English as you choose.

Where: Breakers , 5333 N. Sheridan, Chicago, Underground parking in the building.

When: First and Third Tuesday of each month, 6:45 pm to 9:15 pm

Feel free to contact AFD member **Bryant Harner, 312-735-2699, VP Francophone Bilingual Toastmasters Public Relations**, for cost information or if you have any questions.

## Ask the Alliance!

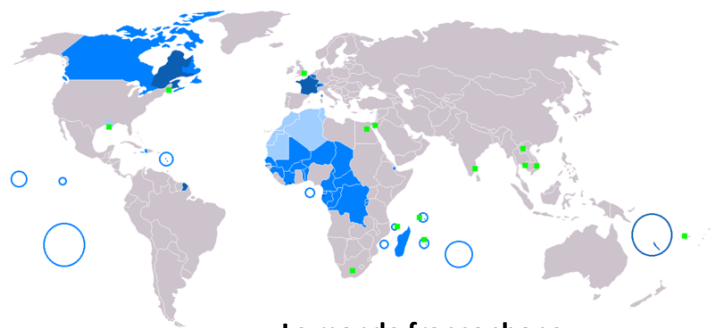
Each edition we ask members a random French-related question. **Octobre's Question: Quel(le) pays/region/ville dans le monde francophone tu voudrais visiter que tu n'as jamais visité? Which country/region/city in the francophone world would you like to visit that you have never visited?**

**"Southern France"- Sam Farler**

**"Martinique"- Eileen Basso**

**"Alsace"- Cliff Whall**

**"Maroc"- Bryant Harner**



Le monde francophone

**Next edition: What's something you find surprising or interesting about French/francophone culture?**

**Send your answers to: nataliepankow@yahoo.com**



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OF DUPAGE**

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To:

**Do you like AFD yet?**  
We are on Facebook!  
Search for us and make  
sure you sign up to our  
page! We also remain on  
Meetup.



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\* **Meet Your Board!** \*  
\* President: Charles Coulon \*  
\* Vice President: Sabine Zeynalova \*  
\* Treasurer: Diane Hoffmeyer \*  
\* Secretary: Cynthia McLaughlin \*  
\* \*  
\* Extended Board: \*  
\* Webmaster: Jillian Van Tuyle \*  
\* Membership: Diane Hoffmeyer \*  
\* Newsletter Editor: Natalie Pankow \*  
\* Photographer: Cliff Whall \*  
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**Octobre**

**10/2**

Café-Conversation, 2 pm  
Arcadium Café, St Charles

**10/5**

Café-conversation, 10 am  
Cocoa Bean, Geneva

**10/13**

Café-conversation, 7 pm  
Panera, Wheaton

**10/29**

Wine Tasting  
Chez Sam Farler (email [afdupage@gmail.com](mailto:afdupage@gmail.com) for further details)

**Novembre**

**11/4**

Haiti Presentation, 7 pm  
Location TBA

**11/11**

Game Night, 7 pm  
Location TBA

**Decembre**

**12/2**

Fete de Noel  
Chez Corinne

We need volunteers! Email [afdupage@gmail.com](mailto:afdupage@gmail.com)