

Alliance  
Française

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du  
North Shore  
- Illinois -

# News Brief

Alliance Française du North Shore  
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## FALL 2015

*Quand vous délibérez, prenez dans le passé des exemples pour l'avenir : Ce qui est déjà connu vous fera juger de ce que vous ne connaissez pas encore.*

*Isocrate, Discours de morale (IV<sup>e</sup> s. av. J.-C.)*

*Ce n'est qu'avec le passé qu'on fait l'avenir.*

*Anatole France, Le livre de mon ami (1885)*

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### Alliance Française du North Shore Inaugurates Soirée Trivia



Soirée Trivia organizers Eileen Walvoord, Denise Rano, and Tim Rogus

The AF du North Shore Alliance Française launched its first **Soirée Trivia** on March 20, 2015, in Cunningham Hall at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Evanston, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., to celebrate la Fête de la Francophonie. The room was decorated with a tricolor theme, which conveyed a festive feeling to almost 100 registrants attending the event.

Co-chairs Tim Rogus and Eileen Walvoord worked with Trivia Committee Members Caroline Erbmman, Denise Rano, Bill Sand, and Margot Steinhart, to organize an enjoyable evening where teams of ten participants vied with each other in a friendly and fun competition. In addition, AF member Mike Johnson served as liaison between the Trivia Contest Committee and St. Mark's. Several members of the AF volunteered their services on the evening of the event.

Attendees brought snacks and soft drinks, wine, or beer to share with their teammates as they put their heads together to come up with answers to questions asked in English about French and francophone cultures. Each round comprised five questions related to a particular category, such as history, sports, cinema, vocabulary, and cuisine.

(See **Soirée Trivia** on **Page 3**)

## President's Corner



Madame la Présidente Margot M. Steinhart

As we approach Thanksgiving and the end of 2015, it is especially meaningful to reflect on our past and to express gratitude for the contributions of those who optimize the experiences we have as members of the Alliance Française du North Shore. It is also a moment to look ahead and anticipate what awaits us as we respond to our mission of promoting French language and francophone cultures in our community. This issue of the *NewsBrief* is a tribute to those who have enriched and continue to add value to our Alliance Française and to those who have exercised leadership in and support of our various activities frequently for many years and especially for the past two years, 2013–2015.

Our celebration in 2012 of the 100 years of our organization, begun in 1912 as the "French Club of Evanston," has made us cognizant of recording the illustrious past of the women and men who have sustained French language and culture in this corridor of the state. It has also made us realize that our present-day members have stories that merit recording and retelling. To that end, we undertook our project, *Souvenirs de guerre 1939-1945: World War II Remembered* in 2014. The narrators in our video and the 18 members who provided written accounts of their memories as children or adolescents before, during, and after the war made a significant effort to be part of this project. Their families have heard personal stories, sometimes for the first time, and our storytellers have also documented those memories in a way that unites our entire membership and provides references in video and book formats that can be utilized by those teaching and learning about WWII. For several participants, those contributions were an act of courage, for they represent a time that many of their generation would rather have put behind them forever.

Another major undertaking this past year was the launching of our Soirée Trivia, an evening of convivial competition of teams answering questions about France and French. This activity, which has permitted us to make a generous donation to promote French through activities for students of French, organized by the American Association of Teachers of French, was also a way to celebrate the international Fête de la Francophonie on March 21, 2015. Denise Rano presented the idea for this event, modeled on a trivia night sponsored by the Mount Prospect Sister Cities Commission (with Sèvres), and volunteered to emcee the event. Not only did the nearly 100 attendees enjoy the event, but it brought together our members and others, including students from Dominican University and Elmhurst College. The second Soirée Trivia is scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2016.

Midway through our 2014-2015 season, the AF du North Shore made a major change in its venue for programs and for its French class because of the reconstruction plans at the Wilmette Public Library (WPL). We had to remove our porcelain tea service and small library of French books from the WPL and put them into storage. We found a new location for our monthly programs at the Glenview Public Library (GPL) and classroom space at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, across the street from the WPL, for our French class. We are planning to hold our programs for the remainder of the 2015-2016 season at the GPL. The WPL advises us that construction at the library is expected to conclude in spring 2016.

Following board approval in January 2015, the Alliance Française du North Shore filed with the State of Illinois and was approved as a non-profit corporation on September 11, 2015. The primary purpose of this corporation is "to encourage and further knowledge of the French culture and language and to foster friendly relations between the American and francophone people." This is the first step that we hope will lead us to a 501(c)(3) federal designation as a non-profit corporation. We are working with an attorney, James Arndt, to complete all the paperwork, which includes new bylaws and an application

for the 501(c)(3) status. The initial directors of this corporation, who are recorded in the Articles of Incorporation, are Robert Bonges, Caroline Erbmman, Timothy Rogus, Eileen Walvoord, and Margot Steinhart.

Several of our leaders have invested many years in support of the various committees and activities that the Alliance Française du North Shore sponsors. Their service is invaluable. Many of their names are noted in our list of officers and committees. One of these leaders who has reached a milestone is Melody O'Leary, who served as co-president in 2006-2007 and has been the webmaster for the AF du North Shore for 15 years. During this time, she launched the first website for the chapter and a year ago obtained a domain name for us. As publicity chair, she also prepares the communication of our monthly activities for members and for the general public. In addition, she created our chapter's banner and a special tablecloth with our logo, which are used at monthly meetings. Her creative contributions to various activities, including our centennial celebration in 2012, have been many and noteworthy. In addition, as chair of publicity for the chapter, her efforts attracted the attention of Editor Riley Simpson and led to a full-page newspaper article on our activities in *The Glenview Lantern* on September 17, 2015: "French Organization Very Involved in Glenview."

Our reading groups expanded to four in 2013, with the initiation of *le Cercle des textes variés*, led by Mike Johnson. In response to our members' request, we plan to form an additional group to meet the interest of our members to read and to talk about what they have read. Will a leader or co-leader step forward to organize this new group?

This season, we added a third monthly conversation gathering, Café Conversation Apéro, which meets at Glenview Grind, 989 Waukegan Road, Glenview, at the corner of Waukegan and Glenview Roads. Glenview Grind offers wine, beer, coffee, tea, charcuterie, cheese, and pastries in the evening. The idea for this new group and location came from Eileen Walvoord and Rosemary Heilemann. It meets the fourth Monday of the month, all year-round, 7:00–8:15 p.m. Although not required, attendees are encouraged to send a reservation to the AF du North Shore email account with "Apéro" in the subject line to facilitate the reservations with Glenview Grind. (alliancefn@yahoo.com)

The Alliance Française du North Shore is increasing in membership each year, thanks to the enthusiasm, imagination, and initiatives of our members and volunteers. At the end of 2014-2015, we reached 111 members and wish to keep growing! We have found that the best advertisement of what the AF has to offer is by word of mouth: our members talk to their friends and acquaintances who have an interest in renewing their connection to French and want to use the language in friendly and encouraging settings. New members are, of course, welcome at any time of the year. Please invite those with an interest in French to join us at one or more of our events and let them experience what makes our AF very special. We have much to offer!

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## SOIRÉE TRIVIA (cont. from page 1)

Each question was read twice. Each team conferred and concurred on its five answers for that category.

Denise Rano, AF du North Shore Secretary and leader of the *Café littéraire*, served as mistress of ceremonies for the Soirée Trivia. She provided the trivia questions and challenged the teams to respond with correct answers. After the judges tallied the scores for each round, the emcee provided the correct answers, along with a detailed explanation. Not only did the event provide an opportunity to test one's knowledge and collaborate with team members, but it provided a context to learn something new about French language and culture. The members of the winning team each received gift certificates to World Market.

Not only was the French trivia contest an opportunity for fun but it was also a fundraiser to support area students of French through programs sponsored by the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American

Association of Teachers of French. Committee members and assistants, including Claire Price, also solicited raffle prizes for a *tombola terrible*. Local merchants generously donated raffle prizes. These included Belgian Chocolatier Piron, Marie Parie Boutique, Bennison's Bakery, Delbe's Café, Leonidas Chocolate Cafe, Bistro Bordeaux, Crêperie Saint Germain, and Patisserie Coralie, all of Evanston; Raven and Dove Antique Galerie of Wilmette; and Libanais Sweets of Lincolnwood.

At the end of the evening, three significant restaurant raffle prizes were awarded: a five-course, three-wine dinner for two at Restaurant Michael in Winnetka, including a visit in the kitchen; the chef's five-course menu for two at Oceanique in Evanston; and lunch for four at Froggy's in Highwood. AF members are encouraged to patronize the supporting establishments and to thank them for their support.



Soirée Trivia at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Evanston

Another special feature of the event, which corresponded to the theme of *la Fête de la Francophonie*, was a complimentary tasting of Québécois beers, including *Fin du Monde*, *Maudite*, and *Trois Pistoles*. The Quebec Government Office in Chicago contributed a variety of Unibroue beers and a liqueur, *Sortilège*, to the tasting.

The participants came from the Alliance Française de DuPage, the Palatine Sister Cities Committee, the American Association of Teachers of French, and teams from Dominican University and Elmhurst College, as well as from the AF du North Shore. The enthusiasm of the attendees was palpable and is reflected in these post-event comments:

*The trivia night was such a good time! I don't know what I enjoyed most: the atmosphere, the emcee, the categories of questions, etc. It was all very well done and I look forward to attending next year.* — Marnice Lewis, Student Teacher at Walter Payton College Prep

*The Dominican University team enjoyed spending the evening with other Francophiles! Thank you so much for organizing the event.* —Beth Landers, French professor, Dominican University

*Le mot juste : la convivialité. Félicitations sur tous les fronts!*

Jim Harmon, Docent, Chicago Architecture Foundation

*I had a great time at the Soirée Trivia and can't wait for the next one. The questions were a mixture of easy ones and difficult ones, and the company and your "équipe" were a delight. I even won a gift certificate!* —Tom Sapp, French teacher, Loyola Academy

Buoyed by the success of this inaugural Soirée Trivia, the AF du North Shore's Trivia Committee is already

planning a return engagement on **Friday, April 8, 2016**. Save the date!

## AF du North Shore Donates \$1,700 to AATF Chapter



Martha Behlow, AATF chapter president, receives donation from the Alliance Française du North Shore from Margot Steinhart, AF chapter president. (Waterleaf, College of DuPage)

The Alliance Française du North Shore donated \$1,700 to the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of AATF to strengthen the latter's programs to benefit students of French. At the AATF spring luncheon in Glen Ellyn on May 2, 2015, we enjoyed co-chair Eileen Walvoord's PowerPoint presentation, which showcased the French trivia contest. Then Margot Steinhart, AF chapter president, presented a giant, symbolic check, created by Denise Rano, as well as an actual check, to Martha Behlow, AATF chapter president. This amount represents the profit (admission and raffle tickets) received from the 2015 Soirée Trivia organized by the AF chapter.

The AATF chapter is considering the specific projects to which these funds will be devoted. Martha Behlow indicates that a sum of \$400 to \$500 will allow the Journée d'Immersion to engage a musical, dancing, or other type of cultural entertainment for high school students, while still keeping the participation fee low enough to encourage attendance, regardless of the economic level of the students and school. A second amount, again, a sum of \$300 to \$500, is to be discussed by the Executive Council as a potential incentive fund for a project to encourage students to continue their French studies at the post-secondary level through a video competition. This project would have the added benefit of increasing the presence of French on the World Wide Web, and of promoting French college



programs.

The Alliance Française Board voted to donate profits from the 2016 Soirée Trivia to the AATF chapter to benefit students studying French.

## Reflections on "Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity" in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Drawn from the Art Institute of Chicago Exhibit  
Summer 2013

by Patricia M. Balsamo



Édouard Manet's *La Parisienne* (circa 1876)

The year is 1880. You are a woman in Paris in need of a gown for a grand celebration. Where should you look for just the right style? If you were a member of the fading aristocracy still clinging to inherited resources (which happen to include a distinguished family name), you may be received by the couture house of Worth. Despite the founder's recognized disdain for all but the top echelon of *la haute société*, even Charles Frederick Worth is finding it a challenge to maintain the aristocratic hierarchical standards of the recent past, the Empire of Napoleon III and his Spanish Empress Eugénie, gone but a decade.

Nowadays, the bourgeois wives of newly rich industrialists, coal mine owners, and shipbuilders, for example, need to be catered to in order to keep fashion in front and a little out of public reach. So, you work with the Maison Worth, or rather the couture house deigns to work with you, recommending the couturier's latest versions, featuring pale fabrics from the most exclusive silk looms of Lyon. Trim in the form of embroidery, lace, and beads—all done by hand—is meticulously applied to the bodice and voluminous skirt, which are constructed separately. Around the waist of the skirt, an interior waistband carries the name of the

*maison de couture*. In three months or so, after an equal number of fittings or often more, your gown is ready. After the ball, if you take care, your gown will keep its fresh look throughout the years, because you will wear it only once.

But hold on: your husband (or lover) is completely taken by the way you look in that creation. He asks you to sit for one of the modern impressionist painters such as Claude Monet, whose incomparable understanding of the way light amplifies and reflects color in nature and its surroundings best shows the mood of the times. Unlike a photograph, depicting fixed details of reality, impressionist paintings such as Monet's *Women in the Garden*, Berthe Morisot's *Woman at Her Toilette*, or Auguste Renoir's winsome *Madame Charpentier and Her Children*, catch the inspiration of the moment and the impermanence of time. (As someone wrote in describing that work, you wonder how soon the sitting will be over and the children sent out to play so that Madame may receive the afternoon's visitors.) Impressionism, like fashion, shows the importance of capturing the present: shortly everything will change, taking another form, from the sun's rays to what people consider to be of the moment and, therefore, desirable.

Perhaps in the era of Paris in the 1880s you belong to another larger and increasingly important social group: the rising middle class. You have social occasions to attend, friends to call on, and you need a new gown for the season. This one will need to last: it is a look you can afford, but it must serve you well, for your budget, or rather your husband's allowance, permits only one. Having neither the social prestige nor the funds to visit a *maison de couture*, you could visit one of the new department stores, such as Bon Marché on the Left Bank. Out of habit, though, you opt for your usual seamstress to create a new look for you. You and she have researched fashion periodicals such as *Journal des demoiselles* to scope out new trends and finally decide on a gray silk gown with black lace trim. You visit the wholesale fabric mercer to select just the right goods. Because your *petite couturière* knows you well, you need only a few fittings before your outfit is complete. You are able to wear it to an afternoon ball on shipboard where artist James Tissot captures the look of a middle-class gathering celebrating the sun, sea, and the light of the moment. After a while, your gown is back with the seamstress to be updated with the latest trimmings to take part in the next season's fashion trends. Meanwhile, the fashion journal is shared with an artist friend of your seamstress so that he may capture the fashion of the hour in one of his works.

Both artists and fashion followers hunger for newness. Before long, impressionism gives way to cubism, viewing subjects from a new perspective: many angles at once. Fashion moves through the garment restrictions of a "Gilded Age," and while women find themselves liberated from corsets by couturier Paul Poiret, he temporarily traps them in hobble skirts. Poiret is an artist, inspired at times by the glamor of the Orient; he capitalizes on it in his use of line and color. In the early 20th century, modernism appears in full force. Many innovative art forms appear: Jean Cocteau and Salvador Dalí collaborate with Elsa Schiaparelli to create works such as a gown with a lobster painted down the front and a hat shaped like a shoe, among other items. Contemporary art and fashion contributions include theater costumes and stage settings by Dali, Karl Lagerfeld, and more. Current designer runway shows are peppered with artists. One example: Jeff Koons regularly sits up front at Stella McCartney's Paris showings. Clearly, art and fashion are related: both thrive on innovation. For the artist, a new point of view can inspire creativity, self-expression, accomplishment, and growth. For the fashion enthusiast, a new look can produce much the same result. The two look to each other for mutual reinforcement, as the "Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity" exhibit brilliantly demonstrated.

Where will you seek inspiration for your next important new outfit: fashion magazines? television programs? Internet channels? mobile devices? your favorite seamstress? Or how about surfing over to Rent the Runway and borrowing something for the next three or four days, before the fashions change?

### **From Wilmette to Glenview Changes in 2014-2015**

The tea service, which accompanies the social time following our monthly lectures, experienced a major change this year. Following the retirement of Joan Lindsey as chair of the *Thé* committee, Ninfa Redmond assumed responsibility in fall 2014 for organizing our refreshments, first at the Wilmette Public Library and then at the Glenview Public Library through January 2015.



Ninfa Redmond and Joan Lindsey

We were able to use our porcelain teacups and plates until December 2014 when, due to the impending reconstruction at the WPL, we were asked to empty the cupboard in which we had stored our tea service items for many years. A new tea committee stepped forward to assist in fall 2014: Tim Rogus, Carol Liner, Diana Wendt, and Bill Sand. After the monthly programs were moved to the GPL, Mary Paula Baumann, Linda Martin, Ninfa Redmond, and Antje Draganski joined the committee to add their support. At the GPL, we substituted paper products for porcelain and catered coffee and tea, rather than making it ourselves. In fall 2015, Rosemary Heilemann assumed the leadership for the tea service.



Rosemary Heilemann

For several years, we maintained a small lending library, supervised by Monique Whiting and Chantal Shapiro, in our foyer cabinet at the WPL. In December 2014, we suspended the library and moved all the books and the tea service to the home of past president Monique Whiting. This undertaking was accomplished with the assistance of Chantal and Bill Shapiro immediately after our December 15 program.

The chapter president, a resident of Glenview, facilitated the move in January 2015 to the GPL for the monthly programs. Our temporary residency has

benefitted from the state-of-the-art IT equipment and support staff, seating to accommodate 80, and a covered parking area during inclement weather, as well as handicap access. The AF du NS will ask to reserve the Community Room East for its monthly programs through spring 2016.

Continuity between the two libraries has been provided by those who greet attendees at each meeting: Treasurer Robert (Bob) Bonges and *Accueil* Chair Birgit Werth.



Glenview Public Library

## 2013-2015 Programs

In 2014-2015, Margarita Redmond assisted Caroline Erbmann, program chair, in inviting speakers for the monthly programs. In 2015-2016, she and Caroline Erbmann became co-chairs of the Program Committee.



Caroline Erbmann and Margarita Redmond

The following programs were presented during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons:

September 16, 2013



"Les quatre années qui viennent" by **Fabrice Rozié**, French Cultural Attaché in Chicago (right) and an update of AF activities by **John (Jack) McCord**, Executive Director of the Alliance Française de Chicago (left) (pictured with Margot Steinhart)

October 21, 2013



"Les Américains à Paris : d'hier à aujourd'hui" by **Maris Harrington**, who spent 20 years in Paris and now lives in Winnetka, on being part of Parisian life and maintaining American identity (pictured with Caroline Erbmann)

November 18, 2013



"Chanson : le Beaujolais et les vendanges," a cabaret concert in anticipation of the Beaujolais nouveau, by **Claudia Hommel**, chanteuse and **Pat Spaeth**, accordionist (with Margot Steinhart)

December 16, 2013





"Le Québec, l'hiver et le carnaval de Québec" by **Eric Marquis**, Québec Government Representative in the Midwest (pictured with Janet Evans)



"Les aventures d'une Belge francophone à Chicago" by **Raphaëlle Penelle**, center, Director of Finance and Administration at the AF de Chicago (pictured with Margot Steinhart and Bill Sand)

January 13, 2014



"Souvenirs de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale" by members of the AF du NS (left to right) **Janine Oberrotman, William (Bill) Sand, Eva Shane, Janine Pefley and Claire Stern**

April 21, 2014



"L'influence de l'architecture des Beaux-Arts de Henri Labrouste sur les architectes américains du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle" by **David VanZanten**, professor in the Department of Art History at Northwestern University (with Monique Whiting, left, and Margot Steinhart)

February 10, 2014



"Louis XIV et son siècle" by **Jeanine Teodorescu**, professor at the University of Chicago's Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies and at the Newberry Library (pictured with Margot Steinhart)

September 13, 2014



"Le cœur peut se transformer : mon chemin vers la réconciliation juive-allemande" by **Judith N. Levi**, associate professor emerita in the Department of Linguistics at Northwestern University

March 17, 2014

October 20, 2014





"De l'Ardèche à l'Amérique" (cuisine and culture from the Rhône-Alpes region of south-central France) by **Alain Rochelemagne**, Food and Beverage Manager for Froggy's French Restaurant in Highwood (pictured with Margot Steinhart)

November 17, 2014



"La Grande Guerre - WWI" (story behind the AF de Chicago's exhibit about the Grande Guerre (1914–1918) by curator, **H. Randolph (Randy) Williams**, attorney and past president of the AF de Chicago and the 15-minute film featuring connections between Chicago and France and the stories of two former presidents of the AF de Chicago, narrated by **Jack McCord**, Executive Director of the AF de Chicago. From left to right: Margot Steinhart; Jack McCord, Executive Director of AF de Chicago; Jessica Liebing, intern, AF de Chicago; Randy Williams, past president of AF de Chicago; Renée Saito, Director of the Resource Center at AF de Chicago

December 15, 2014



"La politique étrangère de la France" by **Vincent Floreani**, Consul General of France in Chicago (pictured with Margot Steinhart)

January 19, 2015



Annual *causerie* led by members of the AF du NS, who discussed the recent terrorist attacks at *Charlie Hebdo* and the kosher grocery in Paris, and freedom of the press. The AF held its own *rassemblement de solidarité* in support of France, holding placards of "Je suis Charlie" and a pencil in tribute to the cartoonists who were murdered, and singing *la Marseillaise*.



Eileen Walvoord shows a cartoon by Cabu, one of the victims of the Paris massacre at *Charlie Hebdo*.

February 16, 2015



"Une vie d'artiste" by **George Lepauw**, pianist and Franco-American impresario, talking about his life growing up in France and in the U.S. and his career as the founder of the Beethoven Project Trio (pictured with Melody O'Leary)

March 16, 2015



"Moi, j'aime le Marais" by **Patricia Tennison**, founder and director of Paris Café Writing, shared information about trendy places to visit and shop in this Right Bank neighborhood

April 13, 2015



"Faire croire !" or "Menteur ! Menteuse !" by **Eileen Walvoord**, Regional Representative of the American Association of Teachers of French and AF du NS member, who organized a conversation activity when the scheduled presenter belatedly canceled

### Café Conversation

The Alliance Française du North Shore holds three café conversation events each month year-round. The morning and one evening gathering take place around the large table at Panera Bread in Wilmette. The third event, also in the evening, is held at Glenview Grind in Glenview. Attendees reflect all levels of proficiency in French. These events are open to the public, but regular attendees are encouraged to become members of the AF.

#### Café Conversation Matin

Monique Whiting, Chantal Shapiro, and Bob Bonges host the gatherings at Panera Bread in Wilmette on the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Typically, 20 to 25 people attend the morning conversations.

#### Café Conversation Soir

This year, Bill Sand and Eileen Walvoord co-chair the 6:00 p.m. conversations on the third Thursday at Panera Bread. For the past two years, Dana Weiss assisted M. Sand. This group has been growing and has welcomed about a dozen attendees.



Café Conversation Soir : Bill Sand and Dana Weiss

#### Café Conversation Apéro

This conversation group is new in 2015-2016 and offers participants an opportunity to enjoy purchases of wine, beer, coffee, tea, charcuterie and cheese trays, and pastries from Tag's Bakery (Evanston) during the evening. The conversations take place from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at Glenview Grind, 989 Waukegan Road (corner of Waukegan and Glenview Roads). A covered parking area is located behind Glenview Grind. Although not required, attendees are requested to reserve a seat to facilitate the re-arrangement of tables and chairs. RSVP by sending an email with "Apéro" in the subject line to [alliancefn@yahoo.com](mailto:alliancefn@yahoo.com).



#### Ciné Club Encourages Thoughtful Discussion

Since it began meeting at the Glenview Public Library, the AF du North Shore's Ciné Club has been attracting more attendees. The first screening of the 2015- 2016 season, *La Fille sur le pont*, starring Vanessa Paradis, attracted about 20 attendees. Sheldon Rothstein, chair of the Ciné Club, selects the films based on the license that the GPL and other suburban libraries hold from Swank Motion Pictures, Inc., a major non-theatrical film distributor. M. Rothstein has also been generous in supplying refreshments following each showing. Eileen Walvoord leads the post-film discussion group this year and was a discussion leader in 2014-2015, along with Denise Rano and Bill Sand. Attendees have an opportunity to reflect on the themes of the films, to make connections to other films, to consider the film's impact, and to analyze characters, plots, and possible messages being conveyed. Attendees generally find it an enriching experience to see a film more than once.



Participants in the Ciné Club

Films in French with English subtitles are shown September through May on the second Thursday at 1:30 at the GPL, 1930 Glenview Road, in the Multipurpose Room. The film titles for the season are posted on the AF du NS's website and in this article. It is recommended that attendees reserve a seat for the monthly screening by sending a message to [alliancefn@yahoo.com](mailto:alliancefn@yahoo.com) with "Ciné Club" in the subject line. Attendees who wish to volunteer to provide some simple refreshments for a meeting are asked to send a message to the same email account.

The schedule of films for the 2015-2016 season:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 10 | <i>La fille sur le pont</i><br>( <i>The Girl on the Bridge</i> ) |
| October 8    | <i>La Haine</i> ( <i>Hate</i> )                                  |
| November 12  | <i>L'Homme du train</i> ( <i>The Man on the Train</i> )          |

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 10 | <i>Le fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain</i> ( <i>Amélie</i> )                     |
| January 14  | <i>Ridicule</i>  |
| February 11 | <i>La Cage aux Folles II</i>   |
| March 10    | <i>La Vérité</i> ( <i>The Truth</i> )  |
| April 14    | <i>Lucie Aubrac</i>  |
| May 12      | <i>Attention, une femme peut en cacher une autre</i> ( <i>My Other Husband</i> ) |

These films were shown during the 2014-2015 season: *Décalage horaire* (*Jet Lag*), *Nikita* (*La Femme Nikita*), *La Veuve de St. Pierre* (*The Widow of St. Pierre*), *Les Choristes* (*The Choir*), *Le roi de cœur* (*King of Hearts*), *Harry, un ami qui vous veut du bien* (*with a Friend Like Harry*), *Le goût des autres* (*The Taste of Others*), *Les Visiteurs*, and *Un long dimanche de fiançailles* (*A Very Long Engagement*).



Ciné Club : Eileen Walvoord and Sheldon Rothstein

## Reading Groups

The AF du North Shore has four established reading clubs that meet monthly from September through May. The Cercle des Textes variés continues during the summer months. AF du NS membership is required. The groups accommodate different levels of reading and speaking in French. To respond to an increased interest in reading, followed by discussion, the AF du NS is forming a new reading group in 2015-2016.

### Cercle de Lecture

Monique Whiting leads this book club, now in its 16<sup>th</sup> year. The group meets in members' homes six times



during the season. Books to be discussed this season include

October 12	<i>Mémoires d'une jeune fille rangée I II</i> , Simone de Beauvoir
November 2	<i>Spirales</i> , Tatiana de Rosnay
December 7	<i>La délicatesse</i> , David Foenkinos
January 4	<i>La carte et le territoire, I et II</i> , Michel Houellebecq
February 15	<i>Nymphéas noirs</i> , Michel Bussi
March 14	<i>Le Chapeau de Mitterand</i> , Antoine Laurain

Books read during 2014-2015:

- *La liste de mes envies*, Grégoire Delacourt
- *Dimanches d'août*, Patrick Modiano
- *Le confident*, Hélène Grémillon
- *La petite Chartreuse*, Pierre Péju
- *Bouche cousue*, Mazarine Pinget
- *Journal du dehors*, Annie Ernaux



Cercle de Lecture : Monique Whiting

## Cercle des Contes

Monique Whiting and Caroline Erbmann are co-chairs for this group, which reads short stories. Begun in 2005, the group meets in members' homes six times during the season and concludes each discussion with a tea. The group has read a variety of short stories, ranging from the fabliaux of the Middle Ages to Patrick Modiano, Jacqueline de Romilly, Benoîte Groult and Azouz Begag. Members will meet in 2015-2016 on October 5, November 9, January 18, February 22, March 7, and April 4.

## Café Littéraire

This book club, now in its seventh year, is led by Denise Rano. The group's members meet at Panera Bread in Wilmette for monthly discussions on the third Tuesday. Membership is required. These are the titles for 2015-2016:

September 15	<i>Les écureuils de Central Park sont tristes le lundi</i> , Katherine Pancol
October 20	<i>Dimanches d'août</i> , Patrick Modiano
November 17	<i>La liste de mes envies</i> , Grégoire Delacourt
December 15	<i>Au revoir là-haut</i> , Pierre
January 19	<i>Le collier rouge</i> , Jean-Christophe Rufin
February 16	<i>Peste et Choléra</i> , Patrick Deville
March 15	<i>Le lecteur du 6h27</i> , Jean-Paul Didierlaurent
April 19	<i>La Massai blanche</i> , Corinne Hofmann
May 17	<i>La petite chartreuse</i> , Pierre Péju

These works were read and discussed in 2014-2015:

*Au Bonheur des dames*, Émile Zola  
*Arsène Lupin, gentleman-cambrioleur*, Maurice Leblanc  
*Le bonheur conjugal*, Tahar Ben Jelloun  
*Terre des hommes*, Antoine de St.-Exupéry  
*Le confident*, Hélène Grémillon  
*La calèche*, Jean Diwo  
*Le rapport de Brodeck*, Philippe Claudel  
*Je m'en vais*, Jean Echenoz  
*La Valse lente des tortues*, Katherine Pancol



Café Littéraire, from left to right: Eileen Walvoord, Caroline Erbmann, Bob Bonges, Mary Sproul, Linda Martin, Marilyn Leung, Myra Balesi, and Denise Rano

## Cercle des textes variés



A new reading club was formed in early 2014 and has been led by Mike Johnson. Ninfa Redmond initially served as co-chair. The group gathered monthly at the Evanston Public Library and the Wilmette Public Library before settling on Panera Bread in Wilmette in 2015. The group meets on the second Tuesday from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. The members use a peer-learning model of shared inquiry: members take turns selecting texts and leading a discussion in French. They also work with one another to learn vocabulary and grammar and to practice speaking. According to the group's coordinator Mike Johnson, the secret to *enseignement mutuel* is that members assume both the roles of teacher and student, taking a reciprocal responsibility for keeping the conversation going.

The group has read a variety of texts, including an article by David McCullough in *France-Amérique* magazine, an article from *Le Point*, chapters from *Kiffe kiffe demain*, by Faïza Guène, and chapters from the graphic novel *Quai d'Orsay*, by Abel Lanzac (pseudonym for Antonin Baudry).



Cercle des textes variés: Mike Johnson

### **French Class 2015-2016**

Roland Dubosq, a dynamic and experienced French instructor, has begun a new season as teacher of the French class offered by the AF du North Shore for adult students with intermediate- and advanced-level proficiency. A few students have been members of this

class for the 30+ years that Professor Dubosq has been teaching it!

The course is for those who wish to expand their vocabulary, brush up on their grammar, and improve their conversational skills. Students discuss current events, read articles of general interest to Francophiles, and review some grammar exercises, which are completed at home.

The class schedule includes three sessions of 11 weeks. The cost is \$164 per session, and students must be members of the AF du NS. The 2015-2016 sessions are: Session I (September 10–December 3); Session II (December 10–March 3, with no classes on December 24 or December 31); and Session III (March 10–May 19). Class size is limited to 12 students. The class meets on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette. Mary Sproul administers the registration for and responds to inquiries related to the French class: [marysproul@gmail.com](mailto:marysproul@gmail.com).



French class teacher Roland Dubosq

### **French Class 2013-2015**

During the first session of the 2013-2014 French class, Susan Boldrey, former colleague of Roland Dubosq, taught most of the Thursday evening classes while Professor Dubosq was recuperating from an injury sustained abroad. Professor Boldrey received her doctoral degree in French from Northwestern University, has taught French and ESL at various levels

for many years, and served as vice-president of the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF).



Susan Boldrey substitutes for Roland Dubosq in fall 2013.

Because of scheduling conflicts at the Wilmette Public Library in fall 2011, the class changed its meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday. When the Wilmette Public Library began reconstruction, the French class moved across the street to rent space at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## Cultural Events with French Connections

An adhoc committee for cultural activities was formed in 2013 when the AF du North Shore organized an excursion in May to the Field Museum for a guided tour of the Lascaux III exhibit, led by our member Roger Hand, a docent at the museum. Rosemary Heilemann arranged for the tickets and for transportation by motor coach to the museum. In 2013-2014, the *événements culturels* committee was formally created with Mme Heilemann as chair. In spring 2015, one of our members, Diana Wendt, proposed attending a ballet performance and agreed to make the arrangements and to prepare announcements. This season, the AF du NS is in search of a chair or co-chairs to organize cultural outings.

Diana Wendt took the initiative to organize a cultural outing on May 5, 2015, for AF members who enjoy ballet. She handled reservations for a screening at the Century 12 Evanston/CineArts 6 and XD theater of the French-inspired ballet, *La Fille mal gardée* (*The Wayward Daughter*), performed by London's Royal Ballet. This is a lighthearted comedy based on the 1828 French ballet of the same name, with John Lanchbery's score adapted from French operatic composer Ferdinand Hérold's original one. A charming, simple tale of boy meets girl, the ballet includes dancing chickens, grouchy guardians, and half-witted suitors, and incorporates folk-dancing elements from a clog dance to a traditional maypole dance. The event also featured 15 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, including interviews with the artists, rehearsal footage, and a look at the Royal Opera House. Some of the attendees enjoyed a pre-performance dinner together at a nearby restaurant. Because of Diana's connections, all 13 attendees had their checks refunded and a free ticket!

In 2014, Rosemary Heilemann organized trips to two theater performances in Chicago, purchasing tickets and arranging private group transportation by small motor coach or by van, which was partially subsidized by the AF du NS.

On January 25, 2014, 22 members and friends attended a performance of *The Little Prince* at the Lookingglass Theatre. In this theatrical interpretation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's book, director David Catlin (creator of *Lookingglass Alice*) "illustrates the story with fantastic characters and gravity-defying, awe-inspiring physical feats. *The Little Prince* speaks – in breathtaking splendor – to the castaway in all of us: challenging our perspective, opening our eyes and bringing us back to the heart of what truly matters."<sup>1</sup>

*Chicago Reader's* Jack Helbig wrote, "Like the best Lookingglass productions, this one is a dazzling spectacle, with elements borrowed from an array of sources: fashion photography, steampunk design, the circus arts. The show is packed with delightful dance numbers and carefully choreographed acrobatics (by Sylvia Hernandez-DeStasi), ear-pleasing sound design (Rick Sims), and glorious, constantly surprising set pieces (Courtney O'Neill). The principal set looks at once like the sand dunes of the Sahara and an unrolled piece of paper (on which the navigator re-creates the drawings he made to please the demanding Little

<sup>1</sup> [http://lookingglasstheatre.org/event\\_page/the-little-prince/](http://lookingglasstheatre.org/event_page/the-little-prince/)

Prince).<sup>2</sup>

Fourteen attended the May 4, 2014, production at the Harris Theatre of the ballet *Blanche Neige (Snow White)*. It was performed by Angelin Preljocaj's French dance company from Provence. The ballet, based on the fairy tale by the Brothers Grimm, was choreographed by Preljocaj, presenting dancers in devilishly seductive costumes designed by Jean Paul Gaultier. Thierry Leproust created the magical, towering sets, requiring acrobatic climbing talents by the dwarfs. A selection of Gustav Mahler's symphonies provided the music to create a fantasy world where the wicked queen once again got her due in a contemporary version of a familiar tale.



Événements culturels: Rosemary Heilemann and Diana Wendt

## World War II Memories of AF Members Retold

The AF du North Shore engaged in an intense ten-month project to tell the World War II stories of 18 of its members in both video and print formats. In fall 2013, member Mary Paula Baumann expressed to the president her interest in hearing in more depth the stories of AF members from that period. Upon learning of this idea, Caroline Erbmann, program chair, invited five members to share their personal stories in French at the January 13, 2014, program: Janine Oberrotman, Bill Sand, Eva Shane, Janine Pefley, and Claire Stern.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/the-little-prince-at-lookingglass-david-catlin/Content?oid=>

To archive this event and stories, Margot Steinhart proposed video recording the program and then having the video transcribed and translated to generate subtitles in English. Videographer Khosro Beik was suggested by the Federation, and he and a colleague were asked to video the program and to provide footage for transcriptions. The five speakers were given a series of prompts to prepare for a 10-minute narrative about their WW II experiences and for follow-up questions.



Panelists from left to right: Janine Oberrotman, Bill Sand, Eva Shane, Janine Pefley, and Claire Stern



Khosro Beik, videographer of *Souvenirs de guerre 1939-1945: World War II Remembered*, and Margot Steinhart

Margot introduced the program and directed the question-and-answer segments. Several members made comments during the program, and remarks about France in WWII made by Chantal Shapiro and Monique Whiting were retained for the video.





AF du NS members listen attentively to panelists. In forefront, Monique Whiting and Marie White

Once the video footage was provided in DVD format, the project coordinator, Margot Steinhart, had copies made and distributed them to members who volunteered to join her to transcribe portions of the video: Denise Rano, Melody O'Leary, Martine Benoit, Janine Oberrotman, Caroline Erbmman, and Myra Balesi. Translations were completed by Denise Rano, Margot Steinhart, and Caroline Erbmman, and Denise and Margot refined the translations for subtitles. Editing, sequencing speech and subtitles, selecting music, and collecting photos of the speakers to add to the video followed. Monique Whiting assisted as a French-language consultant for the introduction and credits in the video. The end product is a 75-minute video in French with subtitles in English.



Denise Rano works on transcriptions and translations.

Entitled *Souvenirs de guerre 1939-1945: World War II Remembered*, the project is composed of two parts: a DVD, narrated in French and subtitled in English, and a collection of stories, which is linked to the DVD. At the heart of these stories in print form are the narrations of the five panelists, which were significantly revised after the video recording by the speakers. In addition, the panelists responded to follow-up questions, which

supplement their narratives. Subsequently, other members of the AF du North Shore were invited to add their own personal stories from this period. The result: 40 texts, of which 17 are in French and 23 in English, make up this set of stories. The texts written in French have all been translated into English.

These life stories are spread over five continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. The 14 countries where they take place include France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Morocco, the Netherlands, Austria, England, Switzerland, Denmark, the Philippines, Peru, the United States, and Canada. Holocaust survivors Janine Oberrotman, Bill Sand, and Eva Shane provide three of the five narrations in the video, and four Holocaust survivors, the mentioned trio and Ernst Schnabl, who was sent from Austria to England by *Kindertransport*, tell their stories in the print publication. Roland Dubosq describes life and death in Normandy amidst the interminable bombings. Monique Whiting tells the stories of three brave French resistants and a Jewish classmate. Chantal Shapiro shares her childhood memories of occupied and non-occupied France, and her husband Bill Shapiro recalls the war games American children played. Jo-Ann Jahant shares the memories of her late husband, Lt. James Jahant, about Utah Beach on D-Day. The contributions to the war effort by Canadian teenagers are told by Marie White. Birgit Werth remembers Denmark during the Occupation, and Mary Sproul, the effects of the war on neutral Switzerland. Antje Draganski describes the influx of immigrants into Germany during and after the war. The boyhood excitement of seeing fighter planes in the Netherlands is recalled by Jan Achenbach. Ninfa Redmond pays tribute to the education she received in an Italian school created in Peru after the war. In addition, the last story told is by Marcia Achenbach who, along with her American family, was a Japanese prisoner of war in the Philippines. The stories are poignant and provide a picture of life during a momentous time.

Completion of the print publication benefitted from the work undertaken on the video transcriptions and translations. Denise Rano and Margot Steinhart provided additional translations and editing of the collection of stories. Monique Whiting, Eileen Walvoord, and Janine Spencer also assisted in editing and proofing the texts. Sylvia Kerpel provided photos for the booklet, and Frank Steinhart contributed other photos and digitized the photos used in the video and the booklet, as well as the cover of the DVD and booklet.





(Chicago), Janine Pefley (Wilmette), Claire Stern (Deerfield), Monique Whiting (Evanston), and Chantal Shapiro (Wilmette). In their accounts, they remember hardships, fear, and flight, but also miracles and the aid of the Righteous during the Holocaust.



The AF du NS honors the participants in the video featuring their WWII memories. Left to right: Eva Shane, Claire Stern, Janine Pefley, Janine Oberrotman, and Bill Sand



Conversation after presentations with Eva Shane, Janine Pefley, and Claire Stern

AF du NS President Margot Steinhart (Glenview), who coordinated the video project and the June 1 program, spoke about the significance of the undertaking, along with video participant Bill Sand (Glenview) and videographer and editor Khosro Beik (Chicago). One hundred guests attended the bilingual program and reception.

Comments from guests:

*The American public has never truly grasped what happened to ordinary people in Europe between 1939 and 1945, and even afterwards. This video conveys that perspective.*

*I found the video very moving and impressive. Congratulations to everyone involved in doing a first class job! It is so important to preserve these stories so that it "never again" happens.*

*These personal stories merit a wide dissemination, especially among the youth. The program was excellent and conveyed the atmosphere and the sentiments of that time.*

*Every survivor story is different and this was certainly the case with these interviewees. I thought the length of each "témoignage" was perfect. Particularly interesting to me was the Q and A at the end.*

*It was good to hear from those who lived through some of the worst times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and they were survivors of the human spirit.*

## Alliance Française du North Shore Commemorates D-Day 2014

The AF du North Shore commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day on June 1, 2014, at the Glenview Public Library with speeches by Deputy Glenview Village Manager Donald K. Owen, French Consul General Graham Paul, Honorary Belgian Consul Paul M. Van Halteren, and Head of Post for the Québec Government Éric Marquis.

The event coincided with the screening of a 75-minute video, *Souvenirs de guerre 1939-1945: World War II Remembered*, produced by the AF du North Shore, of the personal stories of seven members who experienced World War II in Poland, Belgium, Germany, France, and Morocco, and settled in Chicago afterwards. They include narratives by Janine Oberrotman (Lincolnwood), Bill Sand (Glenview), Eva Shane

Comments from the speakers:

*This is one of those times that I regret being born too early before clones are available! I thoroughly enjoyed meeting you and others involved in the program, listening to Graham's moving comments, and seeing such a great turnout. I hated to miss the rest of the program but am looking forward to watching the video with my wife and children in the weeks ahead. Thank you again for including the Village.* —Donald K. Owen, Deputy Village Manager of Glenview



Deputy Village Manager Donald K. Owen

*Ce fut un plaisir et un honneur de participer à cette belle manifestation. Bravo pour votre magnifique initiative!* —Graham Paul, Consul général de France à Chicago



Honorary Belgian Consul Paul M. Van Halteren, French Consul General Graham Paul, AF du NS President Margot M. Steinhart, Head of Post of the Québec Government Éric Marquis, video participant Bill Sand and videographer and director Khosro Beik speak at the June 1, 2014, commemoration of D-Day in Glenview.

*J'ai été réellement honoré et ému d'être associé à cette commémoration/visionnement du documentaire ce dimanche 1<sup>er</sup> juin 2014.* —Paul Van Halteren, Consul honoraire du Royaume de Belgique

*J'ai beaucoup apprécié mon après-midi et le documentaire était particulièrement émouvant.* —Éric Marquis, Délégué du Gouvernement du Québec à Chicago

## Alliance Française de DuPage Invites Screening of AF du North Shore's Video

The AF de DuPage invited the AF du NS to organize a screening for its members and students at the College of DuPage on November 6, 2014, at the Glen Ellyn campus. About 50 people attended the screening of the 75-minute video, which was introduced by Margot Steinhart. Afterwards, Bill Sand engaged in a question-and-answer session about his experiences as a hidden child in Belgium during the war.



Bill Sand speaking at the AF de DuPage

## Alliance Française du North Shore's WWII Project Featured on Glenview TV and YouTube

On April 6, 2015, Bill Sand and Margot Steinhart were interviewed by Yvonne Wolf for the broadcast of *Off the Shelf*, a program on Glenview TV featuring local authors. The two discussed the World War II project undertaken by the AF du NS in 2014 and described the work involved in producing a video and a booklet with personal stories of its members, who were either children or adolescents during the war. The 25-minute interview was broadcast on Comcast Channel 17 three times daily from May 14 through May 19 and now appears on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2N6JaFIaCjY>



Margot Steinhart and Bill Sand appear on Glenview TV's *Off the Shelf* with moderator Yvonne Wolf (right).

## Janine C. Pefley Remembered

Janine C. Pefley, who passed away on June 7, 2015, was a long-time active member of the AF du North Shore. She was easily recognized at chapter programs by her béret, usually black, and her choice of a front-row seat. She served as an anchor for the Café Conversation Matin the first Monday of each month until the end of the 2014-2015 season, and was a member of the board.



Janine Pefley (1921–2015)

Mme Pefley was born and raised in Paris and immigrated to the U.S. in 1949. She became a teacher of French and taught French for over 50 years, retiring a couple of years before her death from New Trier Extension. She had a loyal following of students, some of whom are members of the AF du NS today because of her influence. She conducted many tours to France for her adult students. She was legendary for her insistence on correct grammar, a trait that was valued

by those who studied with her and who interacted with her at our *café conversation* events.

She was active in the American Association of Teachers of French, serving on the team that developed the annual student exam, *le Grand Concours*, and on the Executive Council for the local chapter. Mme Pefley was twice recognized by the French government for her contributions to the French language and culture and was awarded the ranks of Chevalier and Officier in the Ordre des Palmes académiques.

Mme Pefley's family designated the AF du North Shore as a recipient of memorials in Janine Pefley's name.



Tribute to Mme Pefley

## Déjeuners de printemps

Guildhall Restaurant in Glencoe was the venue for the 2014 and 2015 spring luncheons, organized by Bonnie Larson. Forty-two members and their guests attended the luncheon on May 19, 2014, and 52 attended the May 11, 2015, luncheon. The cost of the spring luncheon was \$45 per person, with the AF du NS covering \$5 for each member's meal. Guests were greeted with a glass of Kir Royal upon arrival. Janine Pefley provided the translations for the menus.

The 2014 menu: truite fumé accompagné de salade lyonnaise or asperges veloutées de printemps; saumon des Îles Féroé, bifteck et frites, or poulet chasseur; and a dessert trio of crème brûlée au chocolat, madeleine à la noix de coco et sorbet au chocolat.



The 2015 menu: velouté de champignons sauvages avec herbes fines fraîches et parmesan or salade gourmande (artichauts, haricots verts, truffes, sauce vinaigrette); saumon des Îles Féroé avec asperges grillées, champignons, sauce béarnaise, côtes de bœuf bourguignon avec purée de pommes de terre, carottes de printemps, or poulet rôti bonne femme avec petits pois nouveaux à l'estragon; and crème brûlée or chocolat crémeux à la noisette.

Barbara Agdern offered a surprise tribute to President Margot Steinhart for her contributions as president since 2007. Mme Steinhart was most appreciative of this expression of appreciation and the presentation of a lovely pearl necklace.

### Déjeuner de printemps 2014



Margy Levenberg, Karen Halper, Irene Terrero, Roger Hand, Linda Siegel, and Diana Wendt



Mary Paula Baumann, Bob Bonges, Mina Rousos, and Jack Martin



Bonnie Larson, Carol Sand, Bill Sand, and Frank Steinhart

### Déjeuner de printemps 2015



Chantal Shapiro, Bill Shapiro, Eva Bernstein, Monique Whiting, and Ernst Schnabl



Eva Shane, Claire Price, and Janine Oberrotman





Sylvia Kerpel, Konrad Miczko, and Marcia Rosenbaum

Rosemary Heilemann, assisted by Ninfa Redmond and Mary Paula Baumann in 2013 and 2014, and by Margy Levenberg and Eileen Walvoord in 2015, provided a light luncheon.

Mike Johnson and Eileen Walvoord have followed up with new members to encourage their participation in our activities and to answer questions. To help attendees identify and welcome new members at our monthly programs, a red dot is affixed to the badges of new members.



Barbara Agdern expresses chapter appreciation for the continuing service of Margot Steinhart as president.



Open House, September 2014

## Open Houses Attract New Members

For the past three years, members have invited friends and acquaintances to attend fall open houses in September and October to convey information about the various activities that the AF offers to prospective and new members. Members have also been encouraged to accompany their guests to the open house. This initiative, proposed by Rosemary Heilemann, increased the chapter's membership from 105 in 2013-2014 to 111 in 2014-2015.

At the open houses, the president invited attendees to talk about their experiences using French, and she shared details about ongoing and recent programs, as well as initiatives that were being planned for the year.



Open House, October 2014



Open House, September 2015



Open House October, 2015

## Member Recognition

**Joan Lindsey**, who served as chair of the *thé* committee between 2005 and 2014, was recognized at the December 15, 2014, program for her excellent organization of the refreshments that followed each program during the social time. She was a one-woman committee, reminding members to provide refreshments, decorating the serving tables, hiring someone to wash dishes, and cleaning up after the events. Each December, she would order *bûches de Noël* from Tag's Bakery in Evanston. While meetings were held in the auditorium of the Wilmette Public Library, the AF du NS used its porcelain teacups and plates and a samovar to serve tea. At the Wilmette Public Library, the president presented Joan with a letter extolling her contributions and a burgundy ballpoint pen with "AF du North Shore" embossed in gold on the barrel clip.



Joan Lindsey with *une bûche de Noël*

**Janine Pefley**, who served as hostess of Café Conversation Matin between 2005 and 2015, received a certificate of appreciation from the president in Mme Pefley's home on May 2015. She was an anchor who consistently attracted members and non-members to Panera in Wilmette on the first Mondays at 10:00 a.m. Attendees could anticipate that she would facilitate correct grammatical constructions and supply needed vocabulary, always with an encouraging smile and a chuckle. Mme Pefley also received an AF du NS burgundy ballpoint pen.



Janine Pefley receives certificate of appreciation from Margot Steinhart.

**Bonnie Larson**, who organized the annual *déjeuner de printemps* between 2008 and 2015, was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the president at the spring luncheon at Guildhall Restaurant on May 11, 2015. Through Mme Larson's efforts, the members and their guests were offered a French menu with a Kir Royal *apéritif* at Capriccio's in Northfield, Bistro Bordeaux in Evanston, Restaurant Michael in Winnetka, Froggy's French Restaurant in Highwood, and Guildhall Restaurant in Glencoe. Mme Larson also received an AF du NS burgundy ballpoint pen.



Bonnie Larson receives certificate of appreciation from Margot Steinhart at the *déjeuner de printemps*.



## Volunteer Opportunities

As a volunteer organization, the AF du North Shore depends on the contributions of its members to welcome new members and guests, to communicate with members and the community, and to provide programs and other activities. For more information or to volunteer, please send a message to [alliancefn@yahoo.com](mailto:alliancefn@yahoo.com). Here are some ways for members to be engaged this year:

- Welcome guests at a monthly program.
- Suggest a French-speaking presenter for a monthly program.
- Serve as chair or co-chair of the *Événements culturels* Committee to organize one or more outings in the Chicago area during the year.
- Serve as chair or co-chair of a new reading group.
- Assist with the Soirée Trivia (April 8, 2016) before or at the event (Eileen Walvoord, chair).
- Send publicity announcements prepared monthly by Melody O'Leary, chair, to additional news outlets electronically.
- Create 20 posters for local bulletin boards (libraries and senior centers) to be mailed twice a year (artwork for 8 1/2" x 11" posters provided by Melody O'Leary, chair).
- Host a Facebook page of AF du North Shore announcements.
- Write a feature or short article in French or English for the *NewsBrief*, e.g., on a book, a film, an exhibit, a performance, an interview, travel, or interesting websites.
- Proofread editions of the *NewsBrief*.

## Chapter Members Present at 2014 Conference of the Federation of the AF

Eileen Walvoord and Margot Steinhart gave presentations at the annual conference of the Federation

of Alliances Françaises USA, in Washington, DC, on October 25.

Jointly, they presented "From Where Will Your Future AF Members and Students Come? Engage Now!" This session was a wake-up call to AF sections to be attentive to what has been happening to French programs (K–12 and higher education) in their communities, for the consequences have a direct impact on AF membership and its viability. They described the disturbing loss of French programs in K–12 and the termination of French majors and minors, as well as French courses in higher education, across the country, particularly since 2003. The presenters urged AF sections and their members to be proactive and to engage with other francophone groups in their vicinity to promote French and to be a resource for advocates trying to save their French programs. This is important as AF chapters recruit new Francophiles to become members, to take classes, and to attend their cultural programs.

Margot Steinhart, along with Aimée Laberge and Renée Saito of the AF de Chicago, presented "The Role of the AF in History—Témoignages." The session described initiatives taken to record the lives of its members during two turbulent times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mme Steinhart discussed the WWII project that the chapter undertook in 2014 to tell the personal stories of its members who experienced WWII in 14 countries, through video and print media. The Chicago Chapter described its work to create an exhibit from an unexpected donation of materials from the late 1910s and early 1920s, relative to the life of one of its early presidents. In addition, a second president contributed letters from her father, a *poilu*, to his fiancée, her mother, to add to the exhibit at the AF de Chicago.



Margot Steinhart (left) and Eileen Walvoord (right) with Carole Crosby, 2014 President of the Federation of the AF, USA





**Alliance Française du North Shore**  
**Conseil d'administration**  
**Mandat : le 1 juin 2015 au 31 mai 2016**

**OFFICIERS**

Présidente	Mme Margot Steinhart
Vice-présidente	Mme Caroline Erbmann
Vice-présidente	Mme Melody O'Leary
Secrétaire	Mme Denise Rano
Trésorier	M. Robert Bonges

**Comités**

Accueil

Bibliothèque en suspension

Café Conversation: Matin

Café Conversation: Soir

Café Conversation Apéro

Café Littéraire

Cours de Conversation (Directrice)

Cercle de Lecture

Cercle des Contes

Ciné Club

Déjeuner de Printemps

Événements culturels

Histoire du chapitre

Liaison pour locaux

Photographie

Programme

Publicité

Thé

Webmestre

**Responsable et Membres**

Mme Birgit Werth avec Mmes Barbara Agdern, Janet Evans, Margy Levenberg, Mme Eileen Walvoord et M. Roger Hand

Mmes Chantal Shapiro et Monique Whiting

Mmes Monique Whiting, Chantal Shapiro et M. Bob Bonges

M. Bill Sand et Mme Eileen Walvoord

Conseil d'administration

Mme Denise Rano

Mme Mary Sproul

Mme Monique Whiting

Mmes Monique Whiting et Caroline Erbmann

M. Sheldon Rothstein avec Mme Eileen Walvoord

Mme Linda Martin

Volontaire recherché

Mmes Margot Steinhart et Monique Whiting

Mme Barbara Agdern

Mme Sylvia Kerpel avec Mmes Melody O'Leary, Margot Steinhart et M. Frank Steinhart

Mmes Caroline Erbmann et Margarita Redmond

Mme Melody O'Leary avec Mmes Mary Sproul et Eileen Walvoord

Mme Rosemary Heilemann avec, Mmes Carol Liner, Diana Wendt, Mary Paula Baumann, Linda Martin, Ninfa Redmond, Antje Draganski, Linda Martin, MM. Tim Rogus et Bill Sand

Mme Melody O'Leary

**Comités de circonstance**

Portes ouvertes

Soirée Trivia

Ressources Techno

Mme Rosemary Heilemann avec Mmes Eileen Walvoord et Margy Levenberg

Mme Eileen Walvoord avec Mmes Denise Rano, Caroline Erbmann, Susanna Epp, MM. Tim Rogus et Bill Sand

M. Mike Johnson avec Mmes Eileen Walvoord et Constance Porteous

**Professeur du cours de conversation**

M. Roland Dubosq

## Alliance Française du North Shore Board

The AF du North Shore Board meets formally twice a year to organize the work of the chapter. The board is composed of five officers and chairs of its various committees.

### Conseil d'Administration de l'AF du North Shore 2015-2016



1<sup>st</sup> Row: Birgit Werth, Linda Martin, Denise Rano, Margot Steinhart, Rosemary Heilemann, Melody O'Leary, Bob Bonges  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Sheldon Rothstein, Monique Whiting, Bill Sand, Chantal Shapiro, Sylvia Kerpel, Barbara Agdern, Mike Johnson  
(Not present: Caroline Erbmman, Margarita Redmond, Mary Sproul)

## Conseil d'Administration de l'AF du North Shore 2014-2015



1<sup>st</sup> Row: Margot Steinhart, Bob Bonges, Ninfa Redmond, Rosemary Heilemann, Bill Sand  
2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Sheldon Rothstein, Bonnie Larson, Denise Rano, Caroline Erbmann, Mike Johnson  
(Not present: Mary Sproul, Janine Pefley, Birgit Werth, Chantal Shapiro, Monique Whiting, Barbara Agdern)

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With special thanks to committee chairs for their content contributions





Alliance Française  
du North Shore

## Café Conversation Apéro\*



**4<sup>e</sup> lundi du mois**

Où ?

**Glenview Grind**

989 Glenview Road, Glenview  
(coin de Waukegan Road ; parking couvert derrière le café)

À quelle heure ?

**19h à 20h15**

Quoi commander ?

Vin, bière, café, thé, charcuterie, fromage, pâtisserie

\* En plus du Café Conversation Matin (le 1<sup>er</sup> lundi du mois à Panera, Wilmette, à 10h) et du Café Conversation Soir (le 3<sup>e</sup> jeudi du mois à Panera, Wilmette, à 18h)

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### **One Book, One Federation**

The Federation of the Alliances Françaises, USA, encourages the reading of one book by all chapters during a single year. That book is *Le collier rouge* by Jean-Christophe Rufin, Paris: Gallimard, 2014.

In a small town in the Berry in 1919, a judge investigates a World War I war “crime” perpetrated by a farmer from the region, while a dog constantly howls outside his jail cell. Little by little the story of the crime unfolds. What is seemingly a simple story of a man and his dog becomes a study of the absurdity of war and the role of fidelity on many levels. Named among the top ten books on the best-seller lists, *Le collier rouge* is a “coup de cœur” of booksellers and readers alike and has received much favorable attention in the press.

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### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Friday, April 8, 2016

Soirée Trivia

**Alliance Française du North Shore (IL)**

P.O. Box 1750, Evanston, IL 60204

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