

Fall 2009

L'imagination dispose de tout ; elle fait la beauté, la justice et le bonheur, qui est le tout de tout le monde.

--- Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

## President's Message

Welcome to the 2009-2010 season of the Alliance Française du North Shore (IL) Chapter. Our monthly lecture series will resume on **September 21** with a program presented by Hamid Ghezali of the Alliance Française de Chicago: "L'Algerie de ma famille."

Due to construction at the Wilmette Public Library, our lectures scheduled for the fall will take place at another Wilmette location: **Mallinckrodt/Meskill Community Center at 1041A Ridge Road, Wilmette**. Thank you to Barbara Agdern for her research on securing an interim venue.

**Café Conversation à thèmes** is a new discussion group led by Denise Rano, which begins Tuesday, September 15, and meets on the third Tuesday morning of the month. There are still openings for those with a good working knowledge of French and an interest in discussing books, short stories, and articles, which are selected in advance. For further information, see the announcement in this newsletter.

Our AF chapter depends on the volunteers who make our various activities happen. We are actively recruiting volunteers to contribute to on-going projects and to launch new ones. A space is provided at the bottom of the membership form to indicate interest in participating in or contributing to a variety of activities.

At this time we are **seeking a secretary** to fill a vacancy through May 31, 2010.

In addition, we are forming a committee to plan the **centenary celebration of our AF chapter**, which will

commemorate its founding as the French Club of Evanston in 1912. In addition, we would like to create a booklet to document the history of our chapter, starting with its founding in the home of Mrs. Caro Dawes, wife of the 30<sup>th</sup> vice-president of the United States.

We also are forming committees to plan our **2010** participation in French-in-Chicago's **Bastille Day Festival**, an event in Chicago in which we had a presence this year, and in an outing of **pétanque and barbecue** sponsored jointly by the AFs of North Shore, Chicago and of DuPage and the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French in August 2010.

Please contact me to contribute to or to have more information about any of these chapter initiatives.

As you read this newsletter, please note all the events that our chapter sponsors and appreciate that, with the exception of the two Monday Cafés Conversation, they are offered just to **members** of the Alliance Française du North Shore.

I look forward to welcoming you soon to a new year of stimulating programs.

*Margot M. Steinhart*

Margot M. Steinhart, President

## Chapter Matters

### **Lecture Series 2009-2010**

**Fall lectures (September – December) will be presented at 1:00 at a temporary Wilmette location** during reconstruction at the Wilmette Public Library: *Meeting Room No. 1 at Mallinckrodt/Meskill Community Center*. The center is located at 1041A Ridge Road, Wilmette (1-1/4 blocks north of Lake Avenue and Treasure Island Foods. Park and enter the Community Center only at ground level at the south end. Note that Ridge Road in Wilmette is not an extension of Ridge Road in Evanston. For directions, call 847.256.9623.

**September 21** - *L'Algérie de ma famille* (Hamid Ghezali, Alliance Française de Chicago)

**October 19** - *Comment la communauté française et francophile renouève actuellement la culture française à Chicago* (Gigi Olmstead, founder of French Focus)

**November 16** - *Musique française pour alto et piano dans l'œuvre de Marais et Milhaud* (Nelson Cleary, alto, and Gregory Shifrin, piano)

**December 14** - *Québec en Amérique: De Champlain au Cirque du Soleil* (Marc T. Boucher, Head, Quebec Government Office in Chicago)

Dates for winter-spring lectures in 2010: **January 11, February 8, March 15, and April 19.**

The 2010 meetings will take place at 1:00 p.m. at the Wilmette Public Library, assuming that the auditorium is again accessible to us. Members can consult the AF du NS web site for the latest information.

### **Fall Membership Renewal**

Members are asked to return the membership form and their dues for the year promptly, preferably before **September 10**, along with the **tea sign-up form** for providing refreshments for the *après-conférence* tea service. There is no increase in dues, and members who sign up to contribute baked goods to the tea may deduct \$5 from their yearly dues. As in the past, lecture visitors may apply their \$10 guest fee for lectures toward a yearly membership.

### **Publicity at Farmers' Markets on two Saturdays**

Bonnie Larson is organizing an AF du NS information table on September 26, 8:30 – 12:00, at the Northfield Farmers' Market, 6 Happ Road (across from NewTrier Northfield campus) Bonnie requests volunteers to help for a couple of hours on the Saturday morning. Please contact her at [BONNIE.LARSON@cbexchange.com] or 847-441-6591.

Eliza Wangerin also organized a second annual AF du NS information table at the Wilmette French Market on August 29.

### **Appreciation**

We wish to thank past and present Board members whose service has contributed significantly to the success of our chapter. In particular, **Wanda Sauerman**, retiring secretary, was recognized at the spring luncheon for 16 years of service as secretary. We also acknowledge the important contributions of our officers, committee chairs, and committee members whose names are included in this newsletter.

### **In remembrance of William Roberts**

We are saddened to inform you that **Professor William Roberts**, an honorary member of AF du NS, died on July 26. He had been an active member and will be missed.

### **Classe de conversation, mercredi soir**

The first session begins on September 9 with Professor Roland Dubosq. (Wilmette Public Library Classroom. 7:00-8:45 p.m., on Wednesdays) Pre-registration and membership in AF du NS are required. Contact Mary Sproul to register: (847) 869-0237. The dates of the three class terms are September 9 – November 18; December 2 – February 24 (no class December 23 and 30), and March 3 – May 12.

### **Ciné Club**

Wanda Sauerman is organizing a fall and a spring showing of French films in the Coronet Theater at Three Crowns Park, Evanston, which can accommodate about 15 viewers. Janine Pefley will lead a discussion in French of the 1984 film by Bernard Tavernier, *Un Dimanche à la campagne*, in October. The date will be announced at the September lecture. Pre-registration with Mme Sauerman is required: [wksauer28@gmail.com](mailto:wksauer28@gmail.com)

### **Cercle de Lecture**

Monique Whiting will lead a discussion of Tatiana de Rosnay's *Elle s'appelait Sarah* on October 12 at 1:30 at her home. The other dates and book selections include November 9 (Philippe Grimbert, *Un secret*), January 18, (Sébastien Japrisot, *L'été meurtrier*), March 1 (Philippe Besson, *L'arrière-saison*), and April 12 (Philippe Claudel, *Les âmes grises*). There is a waiting list for this group.

### **Café Conversation à thèmes (new - for members only)**

Denise Rano leads this group whose first meeting will be September 15, from 10:00 – 12:00 a.m., at Border's Café in Eden's Plaza, Wilmette. This group, composed of members with a good working knowledge of French, will meet on the third Tuesday of the month. At the first meeting, participants will introduce themselves and talk about a topic of their own choosing, such as a French novel they have recently read, a French-language film they have seen, or perhaps a recent trip they have taken, in French. **Attendees should take a checkbook to the first meeting to pre-pay books for the fall.** Books selected for the fall are *Héroïnes Françaises, 1940-1945, courage, force et ingéniosité* by Monique Saigal, (the One Book - One Federation selection of the Federation of the Alliances Françaises USA), and *Je Voudrais que quelqu'un m'attende quelque part* by Anna Galvalda. **Those planning to join this group should contact Denise Rano at [denise.rano@yahoo.com] or (847) 749-3386.**

### **Cercle des contes**

Monique Whiting leads this group for advanced beginners and those with intermediate-level skills in French. She will lead a discussion of *Un Cœur simple*, beginning October 5 at 1:30 at her home. Additional dates include November 2, January 4, February 15, March 22, and April 26. There is a waiting list for this group.

### **Café Conversation: Matin (Wilmette)**

This conversation group, hosted by Janine Pefley and Bob Bonges, meets generally on the first Monday of the month at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Panera - Wilmette, 1199 Wilmette Avenue – just east of Green Bay Road. All fluency levels in French are welcome, and AF membership is not required. Planned dates in 2009-2010 are September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7.

### **Café Conversation: Soir (Lincoln Village)**

This conversation group, hosted by Wanda Sauerman, meets on the second or third Monday of the month at 7:30 – 8:30 p.m., at Panera - Lincoln Village, 6059 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago at the intersection of Lincoln and Jersey, one block east of McCormick and east of Border's Books. All fluency levels are welcome. AF membership is not required. Planned dates are September 14, October 12, November 9, December 21, January 18, February 15, March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14.

### **Déjeuner de printemps**

Bonnie Larson is organizing the annual luncheon, which will be held at a fine-dining restaurant on May 17, 2010, for members and their guests.

### **AF du NS Library requests French magazines**

Members who have recent francophone newspapers or magazines, such as *Paris Match* or *L'Express*, are asked to contribute them to the AF du NS lending library so that they may be circulated to other members at the lecture meetings.

### **LinkedIn.com presence**

As part of publicity, AF du NS has an account online at **LinkedIn** to increase our visibility. We need to identify someone to manage the account. If interested, please contact

Bonnie Larson: at [BONNIE.LARSON@cbexchange.com] or 847-441-6591.

### French in Chicago

Chicagoland has a new non-profit website, [www.frenchinchicago.com], which strives to list all francophone events and organizations in our region. The organizers were also responsible for the first “**Chicago French Bastille Day Festival**,” an outdoor event that was held in Oz Park on July 11, the Saturday prior to Bastille Day. Over 400 photos collected from a number of photographers at the 2009 event can be seen at [www.facebook.com/photo\_search.php?oid=67776931744&view=all]. Good weather and events, such as a fashion show, French singers, pétanque tournaments, French crêpes, and French cheeses, a boutique; the participation of the French Consul General M. Main de Boissière, and the performances by local celebrities, such as Bakary Soumare, Claudia Hommel, and Linden Christ, brought out 2,500 attendees, according to the event organizers. To the raffle held at the event, AF du NS contributed 10 certificates for complimentary lecture admissions, and AF du NS was acknowledged in the program distributed to those attending the fair and on the website.

### News from the Federation of the Alliances Françaises, USA

The AF du North Shore, as a member of the Federation of the Alliances Françaises USA, Inc, (the Federation), belongs to a network of individual Alliance Française chapters in the US.

“*Héroïnes Françaises, 1940-1945: Courage, Force et Ingéniosité*” by Professor Monique Saigal has been

announced as the **One Book - One Federation** selection for 2009-2010 by the AFUSA. For more information about the book and author, consult [www.afusa.org/fren\_cult/read\_grou.html].

The Federation holds its **2009 conference** in Chicago at the Palmer House, from October 22 – 25. Members of AF du NS may register [http://www.afusa.org/] to attend events, such as a luncheon with **Ambassador Pierre Vimont** on Friday, a Saturday evening dinner at Cyrano’s Bistrot, excursions to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home in Oak Park and the Art Institute of Chicago on Sunday, and a variety of sessions and meetings on Friday and Saturday. Of special interest to our members would be the inaugural John Shedd Reed lecture on French current events, to be given by the ambassador, followed by a “Cocktail Dinatoire,” on Thursday evening.

Given the proximity of this meeting, our members are encouraged to register to attend the sessions and other events. Those wishing to attend the conference should contact Margot Steinhart to coordinate “the delegation from AF du North Shore.” The registration form and conference program may be viewed at [www.afusa.org]. The registration form may be downloaded from [www.afusa.org/meet\_trip/2009/RegistrationForm2009Logo.doc]. Early bird registration ends **September 20**.

### Web site information

The latest announcements about events for AF du NS members are available on the chapter website: [http://alliancefn.wlkcommunity.com] .

### Alliance Française du North Shore - Conseil d’administration et Comités jusqu’au 1 juin 2010

Présidente	Margot Steinhart
Vice-présidente (Programme)	Caroline Erbmann avec ---*
Secrétaire et Adhésion	---* avec Pete Bott, Janet Evans, Birgit Werth, et Denise Rano
Trésorier	Robert Bonges
Publicité	Melody O’Leary avec Mme Mary Sproul, Bonnie Larson, Shel Rothstein, Eliza Wangerin, ---*
Accueil	Eliza Wangerin avec Wanda Sauerman, Janet Evans, et Barbara Agdern
Bibliothèque	Chantal Shapiro et Monique Whiting
Thé	Joan Lindsey avec Marie White
Café Conversation : Matin	Janine Pefley avec Robert Bonges
Café Conversation : Soir	Wanda Sauerman avec ---*
Café Conversation à thèmes	Denise Rano
Classe de conversation	Mary Sproul
Cercle de lecture	Monique Whiting
Cercle des contes	Monique Whiting et Caroline Erbmann
Déjeuner de printemps	Bonnie Larson
Ciné Club	Wanda Sauerman avec Janine Pefley et ---*
Liaison avec la Wilmette Public Library et Park District	Barbara Agdern
Webmestre	Melody O’Leary
Photographe	Sylvia Kerpel
Histoire du chapitre	--- * avec Margot Steinhart, ---*
<b>Comités de circonstance</b>	
Fête de 100 ans en 2012	--- * avec Margot Steinhart, ---*
Chicago French Bastille Day 2010	--- * avec Margot Steinhart, ---*
Pétanque et Barbecue 2010 (projet AF et AATF)	Margot Steinhart avec ---*

\* **Volontaire(s) recherché(s) -- Veuillez prendre contact avec Margot Steinhart [m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net].**

Alliance Française du North Shore (IL)  
P.O. Box 1750, Evanston, IL 60204  
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**Note venue change for fall lectures at  
Mallinckrodt/Meskill Community Center**