



News Brief

Alliance Française du North Shore (IL)

P.O. Box 1750, Evanston, IL 60204

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Fall 2007

L'usage le plus digne que l'on puisse faire de son bonheur, c'est de s'en servir à l'avantage des autres...

– Marivaux

President's Message

Welcome to the 2007-2008 season of the Alliance Française du North Shore (IL) Chapter! *C'est la rentrée*, and our members can anticipate the full program of activities to which they have become accustomed, as well as some additions. Our monthly programs will resume on September 17 with a lecture by **Frédéric Robinel**, Education Director of the Alliance Française de Chicago. He will discuss France's first four months under President Nicolas Sarkozy: "la situation socio-économique de la France et les changements en cours depuis la dernière élection présidentielle." The Café Conversation format of friendly monthly chats in French continues in both morning and evening editions.

What is new?

We are launching a **Ciné Club** to facilitate discussions around classic and more recent francophone films. Caroline Erbmman, Janine Pefley, and Eva Shane have agreed to contribute to this new activity, and we are asking members to indicate on the membership form their interest in participating in these lively discussions.

We are also surveying members about their desire to form a second book club since our very popular Cercle de lecture and Cercle des contes, coordinated by Monique Whiting with the assistance of Caroline Erbmman, are filled by continuing members. The format and schedule for a **second book club, Cercle de Lecture II**, with new coordinators, will be set

if sufficient member commitment is indicated on the membership form. The Cercle de lecture and Cercle de Lecture II are book clubs designed for members with advanced and native level proficiency in French. In contrast to the Cercle de Lecture, the Cercle des contes engages those with proficiency in French at the advanced beginning and intermediate levels in discussions of short-stories. Members attracted by the Cercle des contes or Cercle de lecture may add their names to a waiting list on the membership form. Those wishing to start a new book club, Cercle de Lecture II, may note that interest also.

Volunteer opportunities

All members are invited to be a dynamic part of the various activities that we sponsor. Volunteers may identify their interest by checking the topics listed at the bottom of the membership form. In particular, we are seeking volunteers to serve on the **Cercle de Lecture II, Spring Luncheon, Chapter History, Welcome, and Publicity Committees** and as **Assistant to the Treasurer**.

The Spring Luncheon Committee determines the restaurant location and menu for a lunch in May. The Chapter History Committee will collect the available history of our organization in preparation for the celebration of its 100th anniversary in 2012, less than 4-1/2 years from now. The Welcome Committee is seeking greeters for the monthly

lecture programs. The Publicity Committee would appreciate help with sending out the monthly press releases by e-mail. Our treasurer would like assistance collecting visitor fees and membership enrollments at the door before the monthly lecture programs. Will you lend a hand to any of these activities?

I am looking forward to welcoming you to the season's first lecture program on September 17.

Margot M. Steinhart

Margot M. Steinhart, President

Chapter Matters

Dues and membership form

Members are asked to return the membership form and their dues for the year promptly, preferably before September 12, along with the sign-up sheet for providing refreshments for the **après-lecture program teas**. There is no increase in dues, and members who contribute baked goods to the teas may deduct \$5 from their yearly dues. Visitors to the lecture programs may apply their \$10 meeting payment toward a yearly membership.

AFduNS seeks replacement storage cabinet

Our club stores its inventory of francophone books with a few supplies for our tea service in our free-standing, locked metal cabinet located in the cloak room of the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium. The donation of a slightly larger and less-battered, **lockable metal storage cabinet with shelves is sought**. Our current cabinet is 13" x 25" x 60". Our next metal storage locker (with shelves) could be as large as 14" x 32" x 72".

We would welcome a used replacement cabinet or a donation (approximately \$150) to purchase a new lockable metal storage cabinet. Kindly contact **Chantal Shapiro or Monique Whiting** < alliancefn@yahoo.com > if you would like to contribute to this acquisition.

AF Library requests French magazines

Do you have subscriptions to francophone newspapers or magazines such as *Paris MATCH*, or *l'Express*? Once you have finished, please bring your old copies to our 'lending library' before a lecture program so they can be circulated to interested members.

Parking at the Wilmette Public Library

The AF du North Shore rents parking spaces for our members in the parking lot at St. John's Church, south of the Wilmette Public Library, during the lecture programs. **Attendees with a Wilmette car sticker** may park in the library lot north of the library. Street parking is also available.

Web site

Melody O'Leary, Webmaster, has updated the calendar for the 2007-2008 chapter activities. You are encouraged to consult the site periodically for announcements and updates: <http://alliancefn.wlkcommunity.com>

Appreciation

We wish to thank four Board members whose service has contributed significantly to the success of our chapter: **Janet Evans, Melody O'Leary, Joyce Lopas, and Janine Pefley**. Janet Evans and Joyce Lopas have retired from the Board, and Melody O'Leary and Janine Pefley are continuing members on the Board. We are especially appreciative of the significant contributions they have made in these roles:

Janet Evans and Melody O'Leary – co-presidents

Joyce Lopas – co-vice-president for programs
Janine Pefley – Chair of the Welcome Committee (Accueil)

We also acknowledge the important responsibilities that our members assume as officers, committee chairs, and committee members. They are named on page 4.

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. The Federation supports and encourages member chapters in their promotion of the language and culture of French-speaking countries. It also aims to promote continued exchange, mutual understanding and a growing friendship between American and francophone peoples.

During this past year, the permanent national offices of the Federation of the Alliances Françaises, Inc., relocated from Milwaukee to Chicago with a new office manager, *Directrice des bureaux*, **Larissa Rolley**. Her job is to provide assistance to the member chapters and to the Federation's Board of Directors. The new address is
Federation of Alliances Françaises, USA
One North LaSalle Street, Suite 1350
Chicago, IL 60602
Tel: 1-800-6-FRANCE
Fax: 1-800-491-6980
E-mail: federation@afusa.org

In many of its activities, the Federation works in cooperation with the Alliance Française de Paris and with the latter's representatives in Washington at the Délégation générale de l'Alliance Française. **Thierry Lagnau**, formerly Délégué général adjoint, will replace Pierre Hudelot as Délégué général, beginning September 1, 2007. The delegation, which has its offices in the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., coordinates pedagogical and cultural activities, assuring a liaison of the Federation of the Alliances Françaises with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, the French Ambassador, and the French Cultural Services.

Federation holds conference in Milwaukee
Carole Crosby, President of the AF USA, will preside at the **annual conference of the Federation, in Milwaukee, October 24 – 28.**

Jean-Baptiste Main de Boissière, Consul Général de France in Chicago, and **Laurent Maillaud**, Attaché Culturel in Chicago, are the honored guests. Given the proximity of this meeting, our members might wish to attend the sessions and other events. Those planning to attend the conference should contact Margot Steinhart to coordinate the activities of the delegation from AF du North Shore. Information and a registration form can be found at <http://www.afusa.org/>. Early bird registration ends September 25.

Victoire: les saveurs et les mots by **Maryse Condé** has been announced as the **One Book - One Federation** Committee selection for 2007. More information about the author, born in Guadeloupe, and this book written about the author's grandmother is provided at http://www.afusa.org/fren_cult/read_grou.html



AF du NS Calendar 2007-2008

Lecture Programs in French (Generally, first Monday in the month at 1:00 at the Wilmette Public Library Auditorium, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette)
September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17, January 14, February 11, March 17, April 21

Classe de conversation (Wilmette Public Library. 7:00- 8:45 p.m. on Wednesdays, pre-registration required): Begins September 12

Ciné Club : Fall, winter, and spring films, Dates TBA on AF du North Shore web site

Cercle de lecture: Begins September 24 (Waiting list for participation)

Cercle de lecture II: TBA

Cercle des contes : Begins October 1 (Waiting list for participation)

AF du North Shore Calendar (continued)

Café Conversation: Matin in French (Generally, first Monday in the month, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., Panera, 1199 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette – just east of Green Bay Road) All fluency levels are welcome. AF membership is not required.

September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

Café Conversation: Soir in French (Generally, second Monday in the month, Panera, 6059 Lincoln Avenue, Chicago – Intersection of Lincoln and Jersey, 1 block SE of McCormick and Lincoln, next door to Borders Books) All fluency levels are welcome. AF membership is not required.

September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 21, February 18, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9

Déjeuner de printemps: May 19



Conseil d'administration et Comités 2007-2008

Présidente	Mme Margot Steinhart
Vice-présidente (Programme)	Mme Caroline Erbmann
Secrétaire et Adhésion	Mme Wanda Sauerman
Trésorier	M. Robert Bonges avec assistant ---*
Publicité et Site web	Mme Melody O'Leary avec Mme Mary Sproul et ---*
Accueil	Mme Eliza Wangerin avec Janine Pefley, Barbara Agdern, Melody O'Leary, Janet Evans et ---*
Bibliothèque	Mme Chantal Shapiro et Mme Monique Whiting
Café Conversation : Matin	Mme Janine Pefley
Café Conversation : Soir	Mme Wanda Sauerman avec Mme Melody O'Leary
Classe de conversation	Mme Mary Sproul
Cercle de lecture	Mme Monique Whiting
Cercle des contes	Mme Monique Whiting et Mme Caroline Erbmann
Cercle de lecture II	--- *
Déjeuner de printemps	--- *
Thé	Mme Joan Lindsey avec Mme Marie White
Ciné Club	Mme Margot Steinhart. Mme Caroline Erbmann, Mme Eva Shane et Mme Janine Pefley
Liaison avec la Wilmette Public Library	Mme Barbara Agdern
Histoire du chapitre	--- *

* **Volontaire(s) recherché(s)**

