

Alliance
Française

af

du
North Shore
- Illinois -

NewsBrief

Alliance Française du North Shore
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"Le contentement se lit dans les yeux, dans le maintien, dans l'accent dans la démarche, et semble se communiquer à celui qui l'aperçoit."

— Jean-Jacques Rousseau

"L'ennui est au bout de tous les plaisirs; le contentement au bout de tous les sacrifices." — Octave Pirmez

President's Corner



M. Graham Paul, Consul général de France à Chicago; Mme Margot Steinhart, Présidente de l'Alliance Française du North Shore; et Mme Elizabeth Tisdahl, Maire d'Evanston, ont fait des discours à l'occasion du 100^e anniversaire du Club Français d'Evanston.
(Photo, Frank Steinhart)

We took a look back in time in 2012 as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the French Club of Evanston, now the Alliance Française du North Shore. The festivities took place in one of Evanston's landmark buildings, the clubhouse of the Woman's Club of Evanston, which has been named to the National Registry of Historic Places. The clubhouse was also one of the French Club's long-time meeting venues until late in the 20th century. The centennial event took place on the same date as the first meeting of the French Club: October 14, 2012. We were able to celebrate the occasion with a tea, which has been part of the French Club's tradition since its founding, and it was catered and served in grand style with the enthusiastic assistance of the AFduNS's board and members. Representatives from the City of Evanston, the French Consulate in Chicago, the Quebec Government in Chicago, the Alliance Française USA, the Union des Français de l'Étranger de Chicago and the American Association of Teachers of French were special guests at the event. Five former presidents of the French Club and Alliance Française and Helen Rubens, an honorary member of the French Club, were also present. Thanks to Mrs. Rubens, many earlier documents relating to the French Club have been saved and are archived in the Evanston History Center. In this issue of *NewsBrief*, Janine Pefley, Melody O'Leary, and Monique Whiting have contributed to an article, which captures this memorable event in our history.

The AFduNS board approved on January 14, 2013, an *ad hoc* committee for *Événements culturels*, which was formalized as a continuing committee at our spring election. The chair, Rosemary Heilemann, organized a trip by motor coach this past May to the Field Museum for 30, which included members and their guests. Roger Hand, docent at the Field Museum and member of the AFduNS, led our tour of the Lascaux III Exhibit about the prehistoric caves in the southwest region of France. This fall, Rosemary Heilemann is organizing for AFduNS members and their guests a *matinée* outing by motor coach on Sunday, December 8 to Symphony Center in Chicago for a performance of Berlioz' *Symphonie fantastique*, with French conductor Stéphane Denève leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The reservation form, sent with the membership mailing in August, can also be downloaded from the AFduNS' website: www.AFnorthshore.org. The deadline for reservations is September 30.

Denise Rano, who has been performing many of the duties of our secretarial team, was elected Secretary of the AFduNS for the 2013-2014 term. We are most appreciative of the many services that she contributes, including formatting the *NewsBrief* and sending electronic messages and mailings to our extensive list of members and others.

Melody O'Leary, our *Webmestre*, has updated the AFduNS website with information about the 2013-2014 season. She obtained a new domain name for our website, which means that we start our year with a new web address: www.AFnorthshore.org.

Wanting to share our many activities with other Francophiles and French-speakers in our area, we have established a committee to recruit members. The committee has announced an Open House with a light luncheon before the October 21 lecture at the Wilmette Public Library. Rosemary Heilemann, Ninfa Redmond, and Mary Paula Baumann are organizing this event. We will send an email to those in our contact list who have expressed an interest in the activities of the Alliance Française du North Shore but have not yet become members.

We look forward to another rich season of monthly lectures, weekly French classes, monthly Café conversation events, book club discussions, Ciné Club meetings, cultural outings, a book exchange, and an annual spring luncheon. The AFduNS has much to offer those wishing to enjoy the opportunities that speaking, listening, and reading French provides. We ask our members to invite a French-speaking friend to attend one of our monthly lectures as our guest. Will you do that?

Cordially,

Margot M. Steinhart

Margot M. Steinhart
President

Six presidents of the French Club of Evanston, the Alliance Française d'Evanston, and the Alliance Française du North Shore, from 1963 through the present, attended the 100-year anniversary festivities on October 14, 2013.

(1st row) Marie-Simone Pavlovich, Paulette Berger, Monique Whiting;
(2nd row) Margot Steinhart, Melody O'Leary, Janet Evans
(Photo, Frank Steinhart)





Madame le Maire Elizabeth B. Tisdahl a proclamé le 14 octobre 2012 «Alliance Française du North Shore Day in the City of Evanston» en présence de la Présidente de l'Alliance Française du North Shore, Mme Margot Steinhart. (Photo, Frank Steinhart)

Réflexions sur *Les Âmes grises*

“Je ne sais pas trop par où commencer.” C'est la première phrase du roman *Les Âmes grises* de Philippe Claudel. J'avais la même pensée en essayant d'expliquer mon expérience du roman. C'est une histoire bourrée de personnages peuplant toute une ville. L'auteur sait bien donner à chacun de ces personnages son caractère particulier qui le fait vivre et prendre sa place dans un milieu. J'ai trouvé le langage, le style et les images de ce roman très à mon goût.

Le narrateur de l'histoire est troublé par ses souvenirs de quelques mystères survenus aux alentours de sa petite ville pendant les années de la première guerre mondiale. D'abord, il y a un suicide inexplicable et choquant. Ensuite il y a le meurtre d'une fillette belle et inoffensive. Les deux morts sont encadrées et rehaussées par l'effet de l'arrière-plan de la guerre qui fournit tant de morts anonymes en abondance.

Le présent du roman se déroule plusieurs années après les événements et le narrateur cherche à en débrouiller le sens et régler pour lui-même les questions restées sans réponse. Il y a donc des entretiens racontés et des témoignages de tous les temps pendant et après les faits. Le présent et le passé sont mélangés aussi bien que le bon et le mal dans les âmes des mortels

humains. Le vicieux, le cruel, le bon et le doux peuvent tous arriver au même endroit. Comme dit l'un des personnages dans le roman:

<<Les salauds, les saints, j'en ai jamais vu. Rien n'est ni tout noir, ni tout blanc, c'est le gris qui gagne.>>

—Larry Yarbrough

Célébration du centième anniversaire de l'Alliance Française du North Shore

Une grande fête élégante a eu lieu au Woman's Club of Evanston le 14 octobre 2012 pour commémorer le 100^e anniversaire de la création du **Club Français d'Evanston**.

Le maire d'Evanston, Mme Elizabeth Tisdahl, a ouvert les festivités en proclamant cette date «Alliance Française du North Shore Day in the City of Evanston». M. Graham Paul, Consul général de France à Chicago, a félicité les membres d'AFduNS dans ses remarques aux personnes présentes, en anglais, puis en français, soulignant la longue relation entre les États-Unis et la France et acclamant le succès de l'AFduNS qui a fait la promotion de la langue et de la culture françaises dans de nombreux événements au cours du premier siècle de son existence. Parmi les 100 invités on remarquait M. François Pellerin, Consul général adjoint de France; Monsieur Eric Marquis, Délégué du Québec à Chicago; Mme Larissa Rolley, Directrice des opérations de l'Alliance Française, USA; M. Patrick Bourbon d'Ingrande, Président de l'Union des Français de l'Étranger à Chicago; Mme Eileen Walvoord, Déléguée régionale VI de l'American Association of Teachers of French (AATF); et Mme Helen Rubens, membre honoraire et ancienne trésorière du Club Français d'Evanston. D'autres anciennes présidentes assistaient à cette célébration : Mme Paulette Berger (1963-1965), Mme Marie-Simone Pavlovich (1991-1999), Mme Monique Whiting (1999-2003) et les co-présidentes Mme Janet Evans (2006-2007) et Mme Melody O'Leary (2006-2007).

Présidente de l'AFduNS depuis 2007, Madame Margot Steinhart, a relaté plusieurs vignettes historiques du passé du Club. Madame Marie-Simone Pavlovich, a rappelé des souvenirs de sa présidence au cours des années 90. Chaque participant a reçu un souvenir imprimé avec un assortiment de photographies et d'information. Les cent billets permettant les

réservations pour la commémoration avaient tous été vendus avant la date limite. Une pièce montée appelée «*croquembouche*» faisait partie des rafraîchissements. Plusieurs dames portaient des toilettes du style 1912. Différents documents de félicitations de la part de Monsieur Delattre, Ambassadeur de France aux États-Unis, et d'organisations telles que la Fédération des Alliances Françaises USA, le département de français et d'italien de Northwestern University, le Village de Wilmette, et la Ville d'Evanston étaient exposés pendant la cérémonie. Un accordéoniste Mike Basin circulait pendant le thé en jouant des airs de bal musette. La tradition des conférences mensuelles en français a commencé en 1912 et continue de nos jours à la Bibliothèque de Wilmette pendant la 102^e année de l'AFduNS.

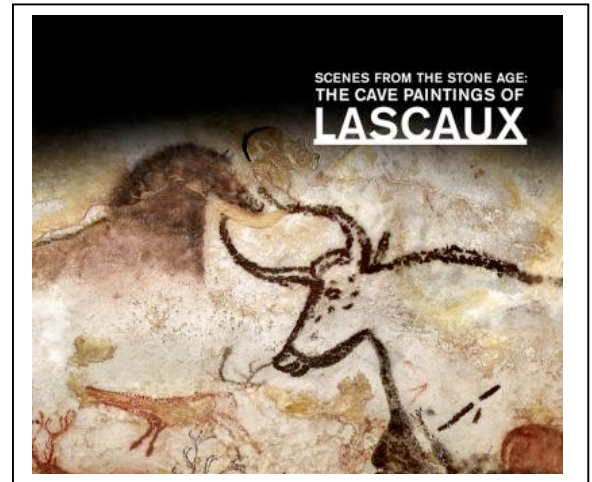


Conseil d'administration de l'AFduNS à la célébration du centenaire. (Photo, Frank Steinhart)



Honorary Member Helen Rubens is surrounded by other members of the French Club of Evanston.
 (1st row) Paulette Berger, Monique Whiting, Mina Rousos, Birgit Werth, Linda Martin, Helen Rubens, Janine Pefley, Eva Shane, Sylvia Kerpel
 (2nd row) Melody O'Leary, Roland Dubosq
 (Photo, Frank Steinhart)

Excursion to the Lascaux III Exhibit



On May 7, thirty members and guests of the Alliance Française du North Shore rode by chartered motor coach to see the Lascaux III Exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago. There, we were given a personalized tour by museum docent and AFduNS member Roger Hand.

Discovered by chance in 1940, the 18,000 year-old paintings on the subterranean walls of the caves of Lascaux in southern France have inspired and awed anthropologists, pre-historians, scientists, and artists ever since. To preserve their fragile existence, the caves were closed to visitors in 1963. Lascaux and the caves of the Vézère Valley were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. A facsimile built nearby, Lascaux II, was opened in 1983 and became a major tourist destination.

From March until September the Field Museum has been privileged to host an exhibit of new, full-size replicas of several of the cave paintings, some never before seen by the public. This exhibition was created by the General Council of Dordogne, with support provided by the Regional Council of Aquitaine, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and the European Union. The informational signs and placards are written in English and French and tell the story of the boys who discovered the caves and those who brought their discovery to world attention. The exhibit remained at the Field Museum until September 8, 2013, and many AFduNS members visited the exhibit during the summer. The exhibit's next stop is in Houston before heading to Montreal.

The feedback from the group that participated in this first cultural outing of the AFduNS was very positive. Much of the credit goes to our tour guide, Roger Hand.

In addition, the fun of going together and the ease of riding the motor coach downtown were also positive aspects of the group excursion.

—Rosemary Heilemann



AFduNS members and their guests at the Field Museum for the Lascaux III exhibit and tour. (Photo, Frank Steinhart)

Two Cultural Outings to Chicago 2013-2014

AFduNS members and their guests are invited to participate in two *sorties* to Chicago this year: a December outing to a performance of Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique* by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a spring outing to a French ballet production of *Blanche Neige*.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra will perform in a multimedia BEYOND THE SCORE[®] production of **Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*** on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013, at 3:00 p.m. The production will provide a historical narrative with live actors and musicians, visual illustrations about the symphonic adventure, which sounded shocking to 1820's Paris. The conductor for this matinee performance is Stéphane Denève.

The group will travel by chartered motorcoach at 1:00 from Wilmette. Attendees will have the choice of discounted CSO tickets in the upper gallery for \$35 or on the main floor for \$55. AFduNS will subsidize \$12 of the \$24 transportation cost for members. Non-members pay the full \$24 transportation cost. This trip requires a minimum of 25 participants.

Checks should be made payable to the Alliance Française du North Shore and sent by September 30 to the AFduNS Cultural Events Chair: Rosemary Heilemann, 1110 Windbrooke Dr., Apt. 101 Buffalo

Grove, IL 60089. For additional information: (847) 478-1308 or rosemaryheilemann@gmail.com A reservation form appears on the AFduNS website: www.AFnorthshore.org.

The spring excursion will be a matinee performance of the ballet *Blanche Neige*, presented by the French company Ballet Preljocai, from Provence, on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at the Harris Theater. Details of this outing will be available later.

Chapter Matters

Helpers needed

Seeking: Someone who attends our lectures regularly to set up our AFduNS bulletin board on the AFduNS easel at the front of the auditorium before the program, then store it again at the Wilmette Public Library after the tea time socializing ends, also keeping the postings timely and tidy. To assist, contact Margot Steinhart m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net or Melody O'Leary olearymel@yahoo.com.

Seeking: One or more helpers to dispatch small AFduNS posters destined for local public library bulletin boards. Tasks: Confirm recipient's name by phone; reproduce poster art; stuff, address and mail about 25 envelopes being sent to nearby libraries and senior centers. A calling list and the poster art are provided. If you can assist with one or more tasks, please contact Melody O'Leary 847-864-2957.

October 21 Open House for Prospective Members

The AFduNS will welcome those who are interested in our activities but who are not yet members to an Open House on Monday, October 21, in the small conference room, outside the auditorium of the Wilmette Public Library. A light lunch will be available at 12:00 and end before the lecture begins at 1:00. Members are asked to invite their French-speaking friends to attend the Open House, including the lecture, and to reserve a place for the prospective member at the Open House with Rosemary Heilemann by October 15:

rosemaryheilemann@gmail.com or 847.478.1308.

New Web Address for AFduNS

Internet users should note that the Alliance Française du North Shore has a new domain name and web address: www.AFnorthshore.org. The Wilmette Public Library generously continues to donate the hosting service for our content on their servers, support which is much appreciated. This is our fourth web address since making our web debut in October 2000.

Programs

Caroline Erbmann organizes the guest speakers for our monthly programs, which are held on Mondays at 1:00 at the Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette. Light refreshments with socializing in French follow each program.

AFduNS members and first-time attendees are admitted at no charge. Returning non-members pay \$10 cash at the door. For further information and updates on programs, visit our website, www.AFnorthshore.org, or contact us at alliancefn@yahoo.com.

These programs are planned for the 2013-2014 season:

Sept. 16 — **Fabrice Rozié**, French Cultural Attaché in Chicago, *Les quatre années qui viennent* and **Jack McCord**, Director of the AF de Chicago

Oct. 21 — **Maris Harrington**, Culture and Communications Consultant, *Les Américains à Paris: D'hier à aujourd'hui*

Nov. 18 — **Claudia Hommel**, *chanteuse*, *Le Beaujolais Nouveau et Les Vendanges* (through music)

Dec. 16 — **Eric Marquis**, Head of Post for Québec Government in Chicago, *Le Québec, L'hiver et Le Carnaval*

Jan. 13 — *Causeries* (small group discussions on varied topics, led by AFduNS members)

Feb. 10 — **Jeanine Teodorescu**, World Language teacher and author, *Louis XIV et son siècle*

Mar. 17 — **Gaël Crépieux**, Director of the Learning Center at the Alliance Française de Chicago, *Comment le français enrichit notre vie*

Apr. 21 — **Marc Crépon**, Director of Research at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS)

and director of the Philosophy Department at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS), Paris and Lyon, *L'Ethicosmopolitique*

Parking tip: For afternoons when there is a program organized by the AFduNS, the AFduNS has rented the center parking spaces on the east side of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, across the street from the Wilmette Public Library, to accommodate members who are not Wilmette residents.

Cours de conversation

Professor Roland Dubosq teaches three sequential 11-week sessions of the French Conversation Course, running from September 12 through May 22, in the conference room at the Wilmette Public Library. This class attracts students at the intermediate to advanced levels, who wish to increase their vocabulary, improve their speaking and listening skills, and study some grammar in an immersion setting. No textbook is required, for Professor Dubosq provides articles, poems or grammar worksheets with which students work in class. The maximum number of students is 14. Membership in the Alliance Française du North Shore is required. The tuition is \$164, which includes a \$10 materials fee, for a series of 11 classes. There is no refund for missed classes. Questions about registration and the course should be addressed to Mary Sproul: marysproul@gmail.com.

The schedule for the three sessions will be:

Sept. 12 — Dec. 5 (no class Oct. 10, Oct. 17, Nov. 28)

Dec. 12 — Feb. 27 (no class Dec. 26)

Mar. 6 — May 22

Café Conversation

The morning gathering of French-speakers continues year-around at Panera Bread and Café, 1199 Wilmette Avenue, just east of Green Bay Road, Wilmette, from 10:00 – 11:00 on the first Monday of each month. This activity is open to the public, and all fluency levels are welcome. Neither membership in AFduNS nor advance reservation is required. Janine Pefley, with the assistance of Robert Bonges, hosts this event.

The evening edition of the conversation group meets on the second Monday of the month, but is currently on hiatus until co-anchors are re-established. Check our website, www.AFnorthshore.org, for the latest available dates and times.

Cercle de Lecture

This book club, led by Monique Whiting, now in its 14th year, meets in members' homes. Membership is required. Books to be discussed this season include:

- Oct. 14 — Eric Holder, *Mademoiselle Chambon*
 Nov. 11 — Michel Quint, *Effroyables jardins*
 Dec. 9 — Eric Emmanuel Schmitt, *La dame en rose*
 Jan. 20 — François Bégaudeau, *Entre les murs*
 Feb. 24 — Faiza Guène, *Kiffe Kiffe demain*
 Mar. 24 — Amélie Nothomb, *Métaphysique des tubes*

Cercle des Contes

This group reads short stories and is led by Monique Whiting and Caroline Erbmman. It will meet on October 7, November 4, January 6, February 3, March 3, and April 7. Membership is required.

Café Littéraire

This book club, now in its fifth year, is led by Denise Rano. The group's members meet at a local café for monthly discussions on the third Tuesday. Membership is required. These are the titles for this year's readings:

- Sept. 17 — Frédéric Beigbeder, *Un Roman français*
 Oct. 15 — Philippe Claudel, *La petite fille de Monsieur Linh*
 Nov. 19 — Pierre Michon, *Les onze*
 Dec. 17 — Georges Simenon, *La neige était sale*
 Jan. 21 — Mahi Binebine, *Les étoiles de Sidi Moumen*
 Feb. 18 — Laurence Cossé, *Les amandes amères*
 Mar. 18 — Gilbert Sinoué, *Erevan*
 Apr. 15 — Tonino Benacquista, *Quelqu'un d'autre*
 May 20 — Tahar Ben Jelloun, *L'enfant de sable*

Ciné Club

Sheldon Rothstein facilitates the Ciné Club. He would welcome your ideas for venues to show French films to our members. shr624@aol.com

Bibliothèque de l'AFduNS

Our librarians Chantal Shapiro and Monique Whiting encourage members to borrow books from our private French library. We have new books, and the librarians are happy to help members select a book after our monthly programs. Donations of your magazines in French, which can be shared with other members, are always appreciated.

Membership

The AFduNS ended the 2012-2013 season with 91 members. We welcomed the following to our membership rolls:

- Ewing, Mme Audrey
 Falk, Mme Janis
 Heilemann, Mme Rosemary
 Jahant, Mme Jo Ann
 Johnson, M. Maurice
 Johnson, M. Michael
 McPhee, Mme Mary
 Michael, Mme Alison
 Schlachter, Mme Anne
 Sherman, M. Kevin
 Solomonides, M. Tony
 Stapleton, Mme Leslie
 Storey, Mme Barbara
 Wendt, Mme Diana
 Viniegra, Mme Griselda

Next Board Meeting

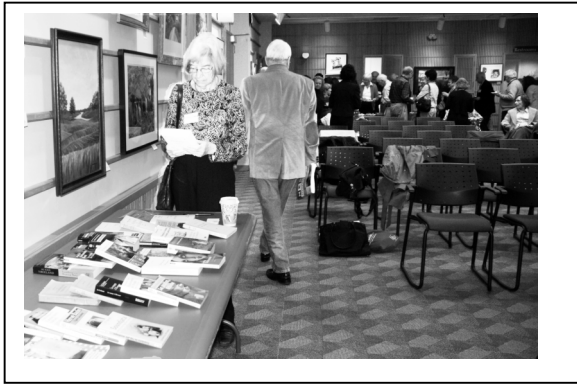
The board (officers and committee chairs) will meet again on Monday, January 27, at 1:00 at the Wilmette Public Library.

Annual Book Exchange Launched

On April 15, AFduNS members were invited to contribute and exchange books at a *Bibliothèque tournante*, following Jean-François Rochard's lecture at the Wilmette Public Library. This event was a new initiative.

Lambrini (Pénélope) Papangelis and Mary Sproul organized the books and facilitated this exchange. Members were invited to bring their books in French, French books in English translation, or books in English on a Francophone theme. Several attendees donated books and picked up different books for their summer reading. Books remaining after the exchange were donated to the Wilmette Public Library.

Our second annual *Bibliothèque tournante* will be held after the lecture on April 21, 2014. Members are encouraged to put aside hardcovers and paperbacks with which they are willing to part in preparation for this transfer of books to new homes in the spring.



Mary Sproul considers a book for her summer reading at the Book Exchange. (Photo, Sylvia Kerpel)



Lambrini (Pénélope) Papangelis and Bob Bonges share a moment during the Book Exchange. (Photo, Melody O'Leary)

ATTACHÉ CULTUREL ADJOINT

Jean-François Rochard, attaché culturel adjoint de France, a terminé en août son mandat de quatre ans à Chicago. Pour le remercier de ses conférences chez nous et lui souhaiter bonne continuation, la Présidente Margot Steinhart lui a offert de la part de l'AFduNS un stylo à bille Cross gravé à son nom. Il est retourné en France pour travailler en tant que Responsable de l'Unité Ressources et Séminaires au Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP) à Paris.



(Photo, Frank Steinhart)

AF USA Meets in Chicago

The annual conference of the Alliance Française USA will be held in Chicago at the Palmer House from October 24 – 26, 2013. Members of chapters are encouraged to attend, and our proximity to the venue should make it convenient for AFduNS members to participate. Advantageous early-bird registration (\$75) runs through September 13. Regular registration (\$125) ends on October 11, with no walk-in registration at the conference. Registration forms for the hotel, if desired, and for the conference may be found at http://www.afusa.org/annual_meeting.php.

There will be a variety of sessions at the conference scheduled on Friday and Saturday. Special guests at the Prix Charbonnier Luncheon on Friday include Ambassador François Delattre and Patricia Wells, cookbook author and chef, who will receive an award. All attendees are invited to a reception at the Alliance Française de Chicago at the end of the conference on Saturday afternoon. The AFduNS president plans to attend the conference and would be delighted to have additional chapter representation.

PROGRAM NOTES 2012-2013 LECTURES

Septembre 2012

Nicolas Ségaud a présenté «**Histoire et évolution de la langue française**» le 10 septembre 2012. Il a développé l'évolution de la langue française de ses racines indo-européennes et latines, puis dans la langue gauloise et les langues d'oc et d'oïl. Il a décrit que le français moderne a hérité de mots gaulois comme *balai*, *caillou*, *chêne*, et *arbre* et a aussi hérité de mots germaniques comme *blanc*, *bleu*, *gâteau*, *riche* et *tomber*. En l'an 842, Nithard, petit-fils de Charlemagne, a écrit un texte qui représente le début de l'ancien français. À l'époque, la France n'avait pas d'unité linguistique mais plusieurs langues, comme la langue d'oc (dans le sud) et la langue d'oïl (dans le nord). Le vocabulaire s'est enrichi grâce aux Vikings avec des termes techniques et maritimes et grâce aux Arabes (dans le sud) avec quelques termes commerciaux et de mathématiques, par exemple *zéro*, *magasin* et *orange*. La grammaire était toujours si différente de celle d'aujourd'hui. Il a détaillé plusieurs autres évolutions qui ont eu lieu du 16ème au 20ème siècles. Les quatre pages qu'il a distribuées à l'assistance soulignent chaque point comprenant des exemples. Avec le «verlan», il a fourni l'exemple «zarbi» qui se trouve dans le Larousse, signifiant

bizarre. Nicolas est professeur de français comme seconde langue à l'École Française de Chicago. Il est possible d'obtenir plus de renseignements par www.lef-learn-french.com.



Nicolas Ségaud of l'École française with AFduNS members Margarita and Ninfa Redmond
[Photo, Sylvia Kerpel]

October, 2012

Rachel and Hailey Beaudry presented, in French, «*Régalez-vous de pain de qualité et votre vie sera délicieuse*» on October 22, 2012. Rachel is proprietor of Winnetka's new **Café Fleurette**. This *boulangerie* and coffee counter had recently opened inside the METRA train station at Elm in Winnetka. Rachel explained her eagerness to *apporter le plaisir aux clients* with her wide variety of traditional baked goods and the self-serve carry-out coffees. She also reminded us of Julia Child's asking, "How can a nation be called great if its bread tastes like Kleenex?" Rachel picks up each day's supply of fresh delicacies with her *camionette* at five a.m. from Chicago's **La Fournette**, in Old Town, a bakery which is owned by her friends Pierre and Michelle Zimmerman. Pierre is a fourth generation *boulangier alsacien* and friend of 30 years to Rachel's husband, Chef Jacquy Pfeiffer (also a native *Alsacien*, and founder of the French Pastry School of Kennedy-King College in Chicago). Pierre recently brought his traditional methods to Chicagoland, including an oven imported from France, and has painstakingly adapted his traditional recipes to the style of flour we have available in America. Rachel's daughter, Hailey, narrated some projected digital photos showing typical baked products found at **Café Fleurette**, such as *baguettes, beignets, feuilletés aux abricots, croissants, croissants aux amandes, pains au chocolat, brioches, macarons, fougasses provençales aux olives, viennoiseries et crêpes à la farine de sarrasin*, an assortment which varies daily and seasonally. Metra has reported that ridership at the Elm station has already risen with the opening of the

café, while neighboring stations' ridership has declined. The counter opens for morning hours (M-F and Saturday), but it is wise to call daily for hours, 847-501- 5700, as the shop sometimes re-opens mid-afternoon as long as stock remains. Shoppers who drive may park along Lincoln, east of the tracks, then use the handy pedestrian bridge over the tracks or they may briefly park at the curb along the west side of their building if they leave their 'flashers' on when running into the station to make a carry-out purchase. Visit the website at www.cafefleurette.com



Hailey and Rachel Beaudry [Photo, Sylvia Kerpel]

November, 2012

Joanne Telser-Frere presented, in French, «*Comment communiquer à travers les frontières*» on November 19, 2012. She is a Distinguished Toastmaster, native Chicagoan, and until recently, a longtime resident of Orléans and Paris. She described several subjects that one must never broach with a newly met Frenchman to avoid being considered indiscreet or rude. For example, while Americans do not hesitate to chit chat with a new, casual acquaintance about their families, political opinions, or lines of work, these are just not polite subjects to probe with the French. Books or films would be more neutral topics. If the new acquaintance is sharing a meal or *apéro* with you, it might soon be acceptable to begin *tutoyage*, but it is still best to not bring up questions about family unless they have 'opened the door themselves' by bringing it up first. Joanne also described Toastmasters International. It was founded in 1924 to allow participants to learn (and practice) several kinds of public speaking with fellow members. Longtime members act as guides to newcomers in this pursuit, which is also known to improve self-confidence and critical thinking. There are currently over 280,000 active members of T.I. in over 13,500 chapters in 116 countries. Joanne played a short video of her skit when competing in a recent regional Toastmasters International comedy challenge. She has recently founded a new local chapter,

bilingual, which meets twice a month in the Edgewater Beach neighborhood of Chicago (\$10 includes admission, indoor parking and a dinner at The Breakers, at 6:45pm, on first and third Tuesdays. Check the website for updates, www.francophonebilingualtoastmasters.com.) Newcomers are encouraged to give them a try when deciding whether to purchase a Toastmasters International membership.



Joanne Telser-Frere with AFduNS members Eva Bornstein and Barbara Agdern (Photo, Melody O'Leary)

December, 2012

Jean-Louis Boury presented «*Lisons la poésie de maintenant*» on December 17, 2012. He is a poet and an International Account Manager. He read aloud some of his own poetry, including *Cette main, ta main; La fontaine tarie sur la place brûlée du soleil; Dans les tourbillons des flocons* and *Brassée de cheveux fous*. He also played an audio recording of *Vu de ma fenêtre* performed by Grand Corps Malade (GCM), a tall, French slam poet. GCM is the stage name of Fabien Marsaud. Jean-Louis also played the audio portion of a duet by GCM and Charles Aznavour in *J'étais assis sur un banc*, which is also available on YouTube video. Each attendee followed the words of these poems in the booklet he provided. At Jean-Louis' invitation, an audience member stepped up to the microphone and recited a poem for the group. As is customary for December, the refreshments after the program included the traditional cake of the season, shaped and decorated as a *Bûche de Noël*.



Bûche de Noël 2012 (Photo, Melody O'Leary)



Jean-Louis Boury with Margot Steinhart (Photo, Sylvia Kerpel)

January, 2013

The annual «*Causerie*» provides an opportunity for members to participate, in French, in small conversation circles. On January 14, 2013, Caroline Erbmann introduced the topics that had been chosen. As usual, each group's conversation was led and moderated by one of our most fluent members. This year the *Causerie* leaders included Janine Pefley, Janet Evans, Monique Whiting, Eva Shane and Caroline Erbmann.



Caroline Erbmann announces the *Causerie* topics to members. (Photo Melody O'Leary)

February, 2013

Matthew S. Witkovsky, PhD, presented «*Pascal Kern, photographe français* », on February 11, 2013. He is the Richard and Ellen Sandor Chair of the Department of Photography at the Art Institute of Chicago. He projected numerous digital photos of Kern's 1970s and 1980s works while providing insights. Some of the works incorporated antique photos of street scenes in France. He explained that Kern's works "...use photography to produce 'sculptures' which explore the question of volume in all its aspects: the relationships between volume and surface, fullness and emptiness, mass and color, depth and contour..." More

information about Pascal Kern's innovative work is available at Art Institute of Chicago's www.artic.edu. Local Francophone Merrilee Redmond had contact with Pascal Kern some years ago and was able to contribute some of her postcards from him to an Art Institute exhibit.



Matthew S. Witkovsky with Merrilee Redmond
(Photo, Sylvia Kerpel)

March, 2013

Sara Drower presented «*Un coup d'oeil sur la culture française*» on March 18, 2013, providing some of her travel photography and a light-hearted look at French culture. Sara shared some abbreviations for SMS (texting phone-to-phone), which have emerged in France. In the United States, we encounter such shorthand as LOL 'Laughing Out Loud.' Here are a few examples of these French shortcuts:

mdr 'mort de rire'
bjr 'bonjour'
a+ 'à plus tard'
cv? 'ça va?'
cc 'coucou'
OQP 'occupé'
jtm 'je t'aime'



Rosemary Heilemann, Sara Drower and Janet Evans
(Photo, Margot Steinhart)

April, 2013

Jean-François Rochard was welcomed as a returning guest speaker, this time with his presentation, «*Ah, Ah! Monsieur est français? C'est une chose bien extraordinaire! Comment peut-on être français?*» given on April 15, 2013. We learned he would soon be ending his stint as Deputy French Cultural Attaché with the French Consulate in Chicago and moving on to a different role in a different city. In his thorough and revealing exploration of sentiments, attitudes, habits, politics, values, loyalties, obligations, principles, beliefs and pride of "the French," Jean-François also identified several aspects that are in the process of evolving. He also gave examples of changes that seem paradoxical. An idea, conjectured recently by writers Doward and Brody, that 'many French are just happy to be unhappy' was also explored in depth. He introduced many of us to the expressions *la crispation*, and *fait d'être crispé*, in the sense that 'something irritating concerns me and needs to be fixed.'



Margot Steinhart, Jean-François Rochard, and Janine Spencer
(Photo, Sylvia Kerpel)

Déjeuner de printemps 2013

Froggy's French Restaurant, 306 Green Bay Road, Highwood, was the venue for our annual spring luncheon on May 13. As guests arrived, they were offered a flute of kir royal. Thirty-six members and their guests enjoyed the three-course menu, which had been arranged by Bonnie Larson. The entrée selections consisted of *veloutée d'asperges*, *salade maison avec carottes et betteraves*, or *vinaigrette à la moutarde de Meaux*. For their plat principal, guests chose *coq au vin*, *saumon beurre blanc aux poivrons jaunes* or *boeuf bourguignon*. For the final course, the chef presented a trio of small dessert creations.



Déjeuner de printemps shared with members Larry Yarbrough, Mina Rousos et Mary Paula Baumann. (Photo, Frank Steinhart)



Members Antje Draganski, Birgit Werth and Cathy Pratt.
Bon Appétit! (Photo, Frank Steinhart)

Thank you to our volunteers

The vitality of the Alliance Française du North Shore reflects the dedicated service, talents and passion for French of our members and those who serve as officers, committee chairs, and committee members. We also appreciate our members' contributions of food to our tea service after each program, for we can share a convivial moment, which continues as a tradition from our founding in 1912. A tremendous expression of appreciation is due our board and other members who devoted much time and effort to make our centennial festivities in 2012 a success. In particular, Barbara Agdern with Sylvia Kerpel and Melody O'Leary were responsible for the exceptional catering and decorations for the afternoon.

We particularly thank two of our members who completed their service to our teas and to the Café Conversation Evening Edition. Marie White served

many years as assistant to Joan Lindsay in preparing the monthly teas after our lectures. Sheldon Rothstein hosted the Café Conversation Evening Edition at Lincolnwood and Evanston locations for three years.

Contributors to this issue of *NewsBrief* include Melody O'Leary, Denise Rano, Rosemary Heilemann, Larry Yarbrough, Monique Whiting, Janine Pefley, Sylvia Kerpel, Frank Steinhart, and Margot Steinhart.

Did you know that ... ?

- The AFduNS has a new web address : www.AFnorthshore.org.
- Alliances Françaises USA celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2012. AFduNS is one of 100 American chapters.
- McDonald's in France has replaced its red and yellow color scheme with a dark green and yellow scheme. This trend was underway in Germany in 2009 to promote the Golden Arches' efforts to be more environmentally friendly, and it has spread across Europe. The company's green initiatives include environmentally friendly refrigeration and the conversion of used oil into biodiesel fuel.
- At the Musée d'Orsay the Galerie des Impressionnistes has been restructured and the post-impressionists' rooms have been entirely renovated. These spaces were reopened to the public at the end of 2011 after their closure during an 18-month reconstruction project costing \$28 million.
- More and more businesses in France accept American credit cards, but travelers should expect to use euros at automatic pay booths along the toll roads. Only credit cards, like Carte Bleu, with a special chip can be used to debit bank cards along the tollways.
- Free newspapers are distributed at Paris metro stations during rush hours. As in the US, the daily newspapers in France have experienced a reduction in readership since 2000 due to free daily papers, the economic downturn, and news available through Internet.



Alliance Française du North Shore
Conseil d'administration
Mandat: le 1 juin 2013 au 31 mai 2014

OFFICIERS

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Vice-Présidente (Programme)	Mme Caroline Erbmman
Secrétaire	Mme Denise Rano
Trésorier	M. Robert Bonges
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 Paula Baumann

Comité de circonstance

Recrutement des membres

Professeur du cours de conversation

M. Roland Dubosq

Conseil d'Administration de l'AF du North Shore 2013-2014



(1^e rang) Rosemary Heilemann, Joan Lindsey, Caroline Erbmman, Monique Whiting, Ninfa Redmond; (2^e rang) Sylvia Kerpel, Denise Rano, Margot Steinhart, Bonnie Larson, Robert Bonges, Melody O'Leary; (not shown) Barbara Agdern, Janine Pefley, Sheldon Rothstein, Chantal Shapiro, Mary Sproul, Birgit Werth (Photo, Frank Steinhart)



Alliance Française du North Shore outing

BEYOND THE SCORE® Multi-media show with the
CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA featuring
BERLIOZ' *SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE*
Stéphane Denève, conductor



Sunday, December 8, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Bus leaves 1 p.m. from Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette



Young composer Hector Berlioz imagined a phantasmagorical symphonic adventure, complete with witches, guillotines and colorful, opium-induced hallucinations. Even in the stirring and Romantic atmosphere of Paris in the 1820s, this music sounded shocking and outrageous.

Bringing the composer's voice to life, each *Beyond the Score* production weaves together historical narrative with live actors, visual illustrations, and music to immerse the audience in a single work. With the incomparable Chicago Symphony Orchestra, your eyes, ears, and imagination will engage with the composer's unique perspective as you discover the enthralling emotional power of music.



Please fill out the form below and send it, with your check made out to Alliance Française du North Shore, to Rosemary Heilemann, Cultural Events Chair.

1110 Windbrooke Dr., Apt 101, Buffalo Grove, IL. 60089, **by Sept. 30, 2013.**

Minimum 25 people or will cancel and return checks. Questions? Call me at (847) 478-1308 or e-mail rosemaryheilemann@gmail.com

Name _____

Write add'l names of members and guests on back.

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Return to : Rosemary Heilemann
1110 Windbrooke Dr., Apt. 101
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
(847) 478-1308
rosemaryheilemann@gmail.com
Deadline: Sept. 30, 2013

number of tickets _____	upper gallery @ \$35	cost _____
number of tickets _____	main floor @ \$55	cost _____
member bus* fee no. _____	\$12 (remaining \$12 subsidized by AF)	cost _____
guest bus* fee no. _____	\$24 (one guest per member)	cost _____

*All participants will be traveling together on the motor coach.

Total _____

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