



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE de CHARLESTON

<http://www.afusa.org/af/charleston>

NEWSLETTER Mai 2007

Mot de la Présidente

Being on the National Board of the Federation of Alliances Françaises of U.S.A. I have been invited to visit the Alliance Française de Chicago and I have been very impressed by their standard and their activities. But I have always been very proud of our own programs. We are far from being as large as Chicago but we are still offering a lot of similar activities: classes, book club, movies, film festival, Beaujolais nouveau, Bastille Day celebration...

Organizing such activities is not an easy task and I want to thank the people who have put in hours and hours of work. I also would like to underline a thought, which came to me after someone's criticism.

Our mission statement is to promote French and the Francophone culture in the United States. We are able to do this through the activities we are offering within the Alliance Française or by being partners with Schools, Universities, and Museums... At this occasion I want to thank all who have been such a great help for so many years. Our goal is to give more opportunities to Charleston to be in contact with the French culture. We are not duplicating the works of Museums or Universities bringing lectures, exhibitions or film festivals. We are educating more people, giving them more chances to be in contact with French plays, books, art or movies.

WE are a non profit organization and we are investing our overflow by trying to bring to Charleston a more extensive display of French Culture following the same track than Atlanta, Chicago, Miami...We are in constant contact with those Alliances who have succeeded and we hope in the future to be able to be on the same level.

May is going to be a great month for us. I hope to see all of you at the **Alliance Française Film Festival**.

Marie Arnaud



From the desk of our executive director

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

At 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 5th Patrick Agnès Mussmann will speak about the art of filmmaking. She will present her own documentary exploring the life of the heiress to the Singer sewing machine business entitled Winaretta Singer, Muse and Patron, Princess de Polignac. Ms Mussmann will then field questions from the audience.

Patrick-Agnès Mussmann started her carrier in the film industry in 1979 with the School Department of German TV. She served in a variety of capacities including interpreter, producer 1st assistant and acting coach. In 2002, she decided to switch from the Production of movies to Direction. In this capacity, she was able to develop her creativity, her sense of organization and her ability to make quick decisions. When she established her own company, "Orson," she built a reputation in the film/documentary world for creating unique and profitable cooperation between Direction and Production.

The list of her film credits is long and fascinating: adventure documentaries (e.g., American Indian tribes in the United States), fiction movies ("La secrétaire du Père Noël," with Marianne Sagebrecht and Roland Giraud), reality films (e.g., the crash of the Concorde at its departure from Roissy), and factual films (e.g., International Film Festival in Cannes; the Soccer World Cup). She also created superb documentaries and cultural films about personalities of the Art World: musicians, sculptors, or patrons. Her film about the Princess de Polignac with the support of the actual Prince de Polignac is one of the best examples.

Join us at the reception following the Guest Speakers

On May 5th at 7:00pm

In the beautiful gardens of Ashley Hall School

And find your way in order to have a glass of wine with them.

Tickets will be sold at the door: 20\$ for members, 30\$ non members Cash bar

La BOUTIQUE

Alliance française SILK SCARF	\$120
French café CDs; Gainsbourg, Barbara, Enzo, Brassens, Birkin, Boogaerts, Bardot	\$17
French playgrounds CD (for small children)	\$17
Book of 12 Monet bookmarks	\$1, 50
French notes book	\$5

Contact Gigi at gsirey@hotmail.com



PETITES ANNONCES

This from Laura Beckstrom:

When I go to France again this year I would like to rent my beach house for a month from the middle of July until the middle of August. I only rent to friends, or their friends, and would appreciate your spreading the word if you know of anyone who would be interested. My home has 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, a living room, dining room, kitchen, den, recreation room, big front screened in porch, back deck with a hot tub and a big back yard. It is between the marsh and the ocean on Station 28 1/2 on Sullivan's Island, S C. Anyone interested can e-mail Laura at BECKSTROML@aol.com or call at 843/883-3364.

This from the grapevine:

There are two young French students coming for an internship at the Post and Courier in July and August. They are looking for a place to stay. Anyone interested in housing them or knowing of a place where they could stay? Please, contact Gigi at gsirey@hotmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be a Soirée recap of the French Presidential Elections at Jacques Lemoine on Kiawah at 6pm on Sunday, May 6th. If you are interested, RSVP Gigi at gsirey@hotmail.com. Seating limited.

Bienvenue

Susannah et Jeff Elliott
Kate and Michael Lindsay
Eliza Hutto Cantwell

Martine et Frederick Dulles
Ginna Gauss
Lis Adams

Anne Schaffer
Troy Howell



CLUB ACTIVITIES



Knitting Club

May 9th 2pm to 4pm in the back room of the Library Society at 164 King Street:
Call Gigi at (843)276-5797 or email gsirey@hotmail.com



Pétanque

May 20 at 4:00pm at the Hampton Park Gazebo located off Rutledge. Coming from downtown, turn left on Cleveland Street and then right. Follow up to the parking lot on your left: you will see the gazebo a few steps away. Contact Louis Herodote at louis.a.herodote@comcast.net



Cooking class

The class will be at Marie-Laure at 6:30 pm on Sunday, June 3rd!

Menu: Soupe de Poissons
Gratin de crevettes sauce Nantua

Members \$25 per person, non-members \$35. **Please, call Marie-Laure by Mai 30th at 843-884-5228 to make your reservation.**



BOOK CLUB

Will be on May 18th at 7:30pm at Pascale Mardikian's house, mardikip@musc.edu
Contact Philippe Arnaud arnaudp@musc.edu or at 884-5228 if you are interested in joining.



Bridge Club

Afternoon Club: 2pm, on Tuesday may 29th at Nancy Pinckney's.

For all information contact Vicky Oakley at vmgoakley@yahoo.com

Evening Club: Thursday, May 17th at Tony's. Please, contact anthonybassett@bellsouth.net for all information.

We plan to have 5 tables. Contact Tony if you want your name to be added to our list.



Le Français par les Films

Class will not meet this month due to our French Film Festival coming to you the first weekend of May. It will resume in September.



French classes

Beginners: Thursday evenings at 7pm at the West Ashley Barnes and Nobles. Please, contact Nicole directly at 843.797.7242

Marie-Laure will gladly start a beginners' class every other Tuesday at 3pm at the Library Society. Please contact Marie if you are interested at Marie_Arnaud@S5A.com

Intermediate: at the Library Society at 4pm on the 8th and 22nd, at Beaner's Café (Publix Shopping Center-17N) 6:30pm, on May 14th and 28th. Contact Marie-Laure 884-5228 for Tuesdays or Corinne for Mondays at Beaners at 856-2787.

Advanced class: at the Library Society on May 16th and 30th. Contact Gigi at 768-7368 or gsirey@hotmail.com

Private lesson: \$25 Call Marie-Laure at 884-5228 or Marie_arnaud@S5A.com

Volunteers needed

We need volunteers to work on the committee organizing Bastille Day:

If you wish to participate in the success of this event, contact Gigi at gsirey@hotmail.com

Merci, merci, merci!

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please contact Katherine - kguerra25@gmail.com. We have room for one more person.

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter or share information of interest to our members, please contact Corinne at corinnemlls@yahoo.com

All information must be forwarded at least ONE week before the first of each month.

A LAST WORD

Un grand MERCI to The ALLIANCE FRANCAISE de Columbia who came and gave us so much joy as we watched the wonderful presentation of Dr Knock. Indeed, the acting was superb and we delighted at the supreme luxury of having a French play in town.

I know it can be intimidating to go to a FRENCH play as we are thinking we will not understand a thing and feel out of place. I say, give it a try next time. It has to start somewhere and you would have enjoyed the ambiance and the camaraderie anyway!

Thank you also so very much to our own members who so generously offered to host the cast members overnight. It is deeply appreciated. Thank you Marie-Laure, Gigi, Monique, Josette and Corinne for helping with the success of the evening.



LA REVUE LITTERAIRE

Voici, enfin, une critique qui vous est due depuis quelques temps.

Beaucoup de nouveaux livres, parmi lesquels je recommanderai

- le Goncourt 2006, de Jonathan Littell, intitulé "Les Bienveillantes", un pavé de plus de 900 pages, qui raconte la vie d'un Allemand, engagé dans les SS et participant à l'Holocauste. Insoutenable par moments, ce livre nous replonge dans les atrocités des camps de la seconde guerre mondiale. Il rappelle, en plus détaillé, "La mort est mon métier" de Robert Merle. A ne pas manquer si on a le coeur bien accroché.

- Pierre Combescot, dont nous avons parlé récemment, vient de publier un livre historique sur Leonora Galigai, épouse célèbre du maréchal d'Ancre, dont la carrière commence en Italie pour se continuer à la cour de France, où elle a subjugué Marie de Medicis qui lui accorde tout ce qu'elle desire. Usant de trafic d'influence et de tout ce qui peut lui rapporter, elle édifie une fortune colossale, mais son besoin frénétique d'honneurs et de biens va causer sa perte. Elle ne sait pas s'arrêter à temps et sera brulée comme sorcière en place de Grève. Ce livre, écrit un peu à la va-vite, regorge de citations, décrit des personnages hors du commun et nous replonge dans la vie et les intrigues du 16e siècle, avec les complots, les assassinats, directs ou causés par des sicaires, tueurs à gages que chaque seigneur se devait d'avoir. Fascinant!

- Tout le monde se demande qui est en fait Ségolène Royal. Marc Lambron, dont nous avons parlé récemment, apporte sa culture et son style de Normalien (il fait bien sentir sa différence avec les Enarques, assimilés à des épiciers en gros) à l'étude de ce phénomène politique, disséqué dans ses moindres détails. Donc, si vous voulez savoir s'il est possible que Segolene soit la fille de François Mitterrand, si vraiment elle est aussi nunuche qu'on le dit, comment elle a fait pour décimer deux des Elephants, qui pourtant apparaissaient comme de rudes joueurs, quelles sont ses relations avec le Premier Secrétaire, etc... prenez ce livre remarquablement écrit, et qui se lit en un clin d'oeil.

Pour terminer, un policier, mais "culte", "le Dahlia noir" de James Ellroy. Histoire étrange d'un faits divers jamais résolu, Ellroy nous entraîne au sein de l'enquête de deux policiers qui ont été chargés du cas. Etrange destinée que celle de l'auteur, commençant comme un voyou spécialiste du vol à la tire, alcoolique et drogué, et qui trouve sa rédemption dans l'écriture, au point de devenir un des auteurs les plus lus aux Etats Unis. Dans un genre différent, voici un livre passionnant, dont le sujet est en train d'être porté à l'écran.

Philippe Arnaud

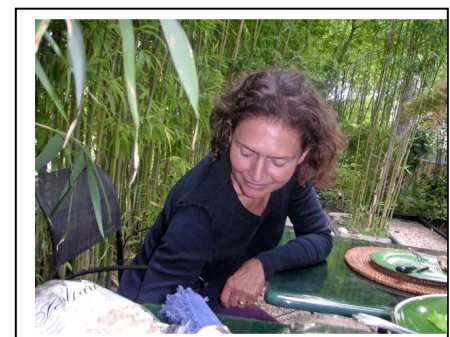


Beaujolais Nouveau 2006 at Mistral...

A summer gathering in Isabelle's garden



Dinner at the Arnaud after Dr Knock play



Film Festival: P-A. Mussmann