

# ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE de CHARLESTON



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

**NEWSLETTER Mars 2007**

## **Mot de la Présidente**

I have been very fortunate to be able to assist to the Colloque Annuel des Alliances Françaises in Paris. It is a remarkable feeling to realize what a fantastic "réseau" it is. Alliances from every part of the World: China, Russia, South America, Italy; everyone with the same goal: Promote French and the francophone culture by the use of the French language.

We belong to the most impressive diplomatic association and we have to be very proud to be a Chapter of this association.

This leads to a number of thoughts I would love to share with you during this year. One of them concerns the price of membership and the price of events.

We have always tried to keep our prices down especially on the memberships. I want to attract students and teachers and I know price can be a problem, but with that membership money we try to cover stamps, newsletters, and all our expenses. We need the renewals to be able to function day to day.

We have several kind of events; events open to the public on a large scale such as Bastille Day, Beaujolais Nouveau, Film Festival... events which are French celebrations such Chandeleur, Epiphanie, Fête Alsacienne... events when we invite our members to, for reasons such as the French Consul visit, the welcome to our new members...those last ones are free to members.

The French celebrations usually are at some of our members' home and we want to make them very special and as glamorous as we can. They need to represent the French spirit of "elegance et raffinement" which has been the trade mark of France. We want to use great products and fine food and we usually are our own caterers. This is why we can keep price down. But I want you to remember that we do not sell a "meal", we give you an evening, which you will remember.

We are very proud if our evenings are successful and if we are covering our expenses and even make a profit which is our only way to be able to bring you more.

Just as an example we are presenting a Film Festival in May with a guest speaker. To be able to do so we need to rent movies, pay royalties...we can do this because we have been successful in our events last year.

We give Awards to students at the end of the Year; this money is coming from our success.

We will be glad to have a special price for students or younger children because we want to bring more youth to our organization.

So we CAN be proud of our Alliance, we are working to reach our GOAL and thanks to you we are SUCCESSFULL.



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## 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](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)

## AROUND TOWN:

**A Touch of Reality: an exhibit by Claudette Bell at the Spencer Art Gallery on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8pm. You are cordially invited. Claudette and her husband have been faithful members of the Alliance for many years.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



On Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> the Alliance Française will proudly welcome Christelle Vannier from the Atlanta Chancellery. It is Ms.Vannier's first visit to Charleston. She is coming as a representative of the French government. La tournée consulaire a pour tâche d'aider dans toutes démarches où il faut que les gens apparaissent en personne devant un membre du consulat. As many of you already know, France is having presidential elections with "le premier tour" on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and "le second tour" on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The President will be elected for 5 years. The two top candidates are Nicolas Sarkozy from the UMP (<http://www.u-m-p.org>) and Segolene Royal from the PS (<http://parti-socialiste.fr>)

If any of you wants to know more about the upcoming election you can browse <http://www.presidentielles-2007.info>.



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Ms. Vannier's first priority is to allow the French citizens registered at the Consulate in Atlanta to vote in this election. She will also be able to help anyone who needs to register at the Consulate, as well as in need of a carte d'identité or a passeport. Later this month, we shall let you know where she will be during the day on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

These tournées consulaires are very important. For many years, those of us voting or in need of passports had to travel to Atlanta. This is the Consulate second trip to Charleston in the last 6 months and we are so grateful to them for taking the time to come and help us BUT we need you all to attend to let the Consulate in Atlanta know that we are many and we are active. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to meet the French community from Savannah to Myrtle Beach!

Please, come and meet Ms. Vannier Friday March the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm at Dr. and Mrs Arnaud, 1990 Bel Air Court, Mt Pleasant. The soirée is free, a light buffet will be served .

## CLUB NEWS

**Your Board has been hard at work!** The Board has decided to do a mailing of the newsletter every other month as some of our members have expressed the wish to have a hard copy. It will be mailed in black and white and you will be able to access the colored copy on our website at <http://afusa.org/af/charleston/>. The calendar will continue to be mailed on a monthly basis.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Patricia Hiott for having been so helpful and diligent as she took the duties of mailing the newsletter for many years. Patricia will no longer be able to help us and **we need a volunteer** to fill her shoes! Please, contact [kguerra25@gmail.com](mailto:kguerra25@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

In other news, the board has accepted the resignation of Gigi as secretary. Gigi has done an extraordinary job as your Secretary and has kept us all organized, focused and going forward. Merci du fond du coeur Gigi!

Not to worry!!! Gigi is not leaving. We would never let her go!!!

In order to free Gigi's hands so she can concentrate on organizing these wonderful events such as Bastille Day and Beaujolais nouveau, the board has created a new position warranted by our growth in membership and activities. Please, welcome Gigi as our **Alliance Director**. She will work in coordination with Marie-Laure and the different committees to bring you better and bigger events! Madame la Directrice, soyez la bienvenue!



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We will appoint a new board in April as per the by-laws. The nominating committee proposes the following slate of officers:


**President:** Marie-Laure Arnaud  
**Vice-President:** Corinne Mills  
**Secretary:** Katherine Guerra  
**Treasurer:** John Green

Tony Bassett, Laura Moses, Lisette Luton, Josette Young and Alma Brown as member at large will continue to offer their wisdom.

Of course, we welcome nominations from the floor. If you are interested in being a board member, please, e-mail Katherine Guerra at [Kguerra25@gmail.com](mailto:Kguerra25@gmail.com) and let her know in what capacity you would like to serve as well as what you are willing and able to do for the Alliance.

**All members, please, send us your acceptance or refusal for the slate of board members for 2007-2009 at [kguerra25@gmail.com](mailto:kguerra25@gmail.com) by the end of March.**

 **Knitting Club** March 14<sup>th</sup> at Gigi's : Call Gigi at (843)276-5797 or email [gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)

 **Pétanque** March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm at the Hampton Park Gazebo (the small one).



The **cooking class** will be at Marie-Laure on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Marie-Laure will have a spring menu: Tarte à la tomate, navarin d'agneau printanier, gateau de crêpes.

Members \$25 per person, non members \$35

Please, call Marie-Laure by Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 884-5228 to make your reservation.



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## French classes

**Advanced class:** at the Library Society. Contact Gigi at 768-7368 or [gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)

**Intermediate:** at the Library Society at 4pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, and at Beaner's Café (Publix Shopping Center-17 N) 6:30pm, on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Marie-Laure 884-5228 or Corinne 856-2787.

**Beginners:** Thursday evenings. Nicole can also start a new beginners class for those of you who need to start from the very beginning. It would meet at 6pm on Thursdays at the West Ashley Barnes and Nobles. Please, contact Nicole directly at 843.797.7242

Classes are for members only. The fees are: \$20 for 1 person, \$10 for 2, \$7 for 3 and \$5 for 4 or more. **Private** lesson: \$25 Call Marie-Laure at 884-5228 or [Marie\\_arnaud@S5A.com](mailto:Marie_arnaud@S5A.com)

We are planning an after school program for small children. Call Marie-Laure at 884-5228 if you are interested.



**Le Français par les Films:** class will meet Friday March 9, 2007 at 7:00pm at the Auditorium of the Psychiatry Institute of MUSC. Since March is the month of *Francophonie* the film will be a Canadian (Quebec) movie "**C.R.A.Z.Y.**" (2005), which was the Canadian selection for the Oscars last year (2006).

Director Jean-Marc Vallee, who wrote the script based on his friend Francois Boulay's life, injected some of his own life in it also, such as his fervent admiration for classic rock. A huge hit in Canada, C.R.A.Z.Y. basically swept the Genie Awards (Canadian Oscars) winning almost a dozen awards including Best Motion Picture. It also won Best Canadian Film at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The movie is seen through the eyes of narrator Zachary Beaulieu from 1965 to the 1980s. Zach was born on Christmas Day 1960 and has hated sharing that Holy Day with his birthday ever since. Zach is raised in a blue collar family along side three older brothers he can't stand, a younger brother, an affectionate mother who irons toast for breakfast and a warm and traditional father who lip-synchs to Charles Aznavour and Patsy Cline records at family functions. (Patsy Cline's signature tune supplies the film's title and is the acronym of the five brothers' names, Christian, Raymond, Antoine, Zachary, Yvan). Like his dad, Zach expresses himself through music and the film is bursting with songs by the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, David Bowie, etc...



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C.R.A.Z.Y is a funny infectious, energetic ride about growing up a little differently and finding your place in a mad world. Director Vallee calls it two love stories: the love of a father for his sons and the love of a son for his father.

**STAY TUNED FOR THE UPCOMING ALLIANCE FRANCAISE  
FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL IN MAY. JOSETTE YOUNG IS  
PROMISING US NEW, NEVER SEEN IN CHARLESTON MOVIES!**



### **Bridge Club**

**Afternoon Club:** 2pm, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Philippe Arnaud, 1990 Bel Air drive, The Enclave, Long Point Subdivision- 884-5228

For all information please contact Vicky Oakley at [vmgoakley@yahoo.com](mailto:vmgoakley@yahoo.com)

**Evening Club :** 6:30 pm, on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at Marie-Laure and Philippe Arnaud, 1990 Bel Air Court, Mt Pleasant .

Please, contact [anthonybassett@bellsouth.net](mailto:anthonybassett@bellsouth.net) for all information.

We plan to have 3 tables. Contact Tony if you want your name to be added to our list. Some homes can accommodate 4 tables!



**BOOK CLUB** Contact Philippe Arnaud at

[arnaudp@musc.edu](mailto:arnaudp@musc.edu) if you are interested in joining. We furnish the books and review them at each meeting which usually takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. On March 16th, the book club will take place at Chantal Rousselin, 1986 Treebark drive, West Ashley- 763-8737.



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for three separate events:

- The Film Festival in May
- Southeast Meeting of the Alliances Françaises: end of May
- Bastille Day

If you wish to participate in the success of those events, contact Gigi at [gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)  
Merci, merci, merci!

## CALLING FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We have a Guest speaker, Patrick-Agnès Mussman for the Film Festival in May willing to come to Charleston right before the Cannes Festival. This is so exciting! She is not asking for a fee but her trip is at our expense.

Do you happen to have free miles and are you willing to donate them to the Alliance to pay for her voyage? If so, contact Gigi at [gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)

## A LAST WORD

A grateful thank you to Maria and Nicolas Prouvost and their two adorable sons for hosting La Chandeleur on Seabrook. It was a huge success and we had 60 members in attendance coming as far as Pawley's Island! It was good to see so many of you. A big thank you to Monique Macary for her "crêpes au sarrazin", to Christine Waggoner for a delicious mousse au



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**chocolat, to Marie-Laure for all the wonderful fillings and crêpes and to Corinne for the many crêpes and desserts.**

**LA REVUE LITTÉRAIRE**

We have a guest critique this month. Merci Marie-Laure!

**Le Dictionnaire amoureux du vin et Bernard Pivot**

De passage à Paris pour le Colloque des Alliances Françaises j'ai eu l'immense chance de rencontrer Bernard Pivot et de l'entendre parler de son nouveau livre: Le Dictionnaire amoureux du vin. Ce fut un enchantement que j'ai eu envie de vous faire partager.

Bernard Pivot naît le 5 mai 1935 à Lyon de parents épiciers. Durant la Seconde guerre mondiale son père est fait prisonnier et sa mère se replie dans la maison familiale, à Quincie en Beaujolais où Bernard Pivot va à l'école. Proximité du Beaujolais qui peut-être l'inspirera dans son nouveau livre...

En 1945, Charles Pivot rentre et la famille retourne à Lyon. A 10 ans, Bernard est mis en pension dans une école religieuse. Il y découvre le sport, le français et l'histoire. Lycée, puis Fac de Droit à Lyon, Bernard s'inscrit ensuite à Paris au Centre de formation des Journalistes, fait un stage au Progrès de Lyon et intègre le Figaro Littéraire en 1958.

En 1970 il anime une chronique à la radio et à la disparition du Figaro Littéraire en 1971 devient Chef de Service au Figaro. Après un désaccord avec Jean d'Ormesson il démissionne, rencontre Jean Louis Servan Schreiber qui lui propose de fonder un magazine qu'il créera un an plus tard : Lire.

Entre temps, il anime plusieurs émissions qui le rendront célèbre: "Ouvrez les Guillemets", "Apostrophes" qui a passionné les auditeurs d'Antenne 2 jusqu'en 1990. Il crée à ce moment-là "Bouillon de Culture" qui s'intéresse à un horizon assez large comprenant littérature, cinéma, art...La dernière émission en Juin 2001 sera un événement dans le monde de l'édition et des médias.

Pendant 3 ans il partira à la rencontre d'étrangers qui ont choisi d'ajouter le français à leur langue maternelle et les produira dans une émission appelée "Double Je".

Il est actuellement chroniqueur littéraire au "Journal du Dimanche".

Il a été élu en 2004 à l'Académie Goncourt et est le seul non écrivain à faire partie de cette fameuse institution. Qui en France ne connaît la fameuse Dictée de Bernard Pivot et combien se sont essayés à la faire sans faute... et combien peu ont réussi.

Né près des vignes, Bernard Pivot nous guide dans son nouveau livre de Presque 500 pages, avec eclectisme et humour, dans l'univers des vins.



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On y découvre comment le vin n'a cessé d'accompagner la vie de Bernard Pivot. Il raconte qu'il doit son destin de critique littéraire à la qualité des bouteilles familiales. Il fut engagé au Figaro par Maurice Noël plus pour la qualité du Beaujolais familial que pour ses connaissances littéraires. Dans une interview il dit même "J'ai fait un détour par la cave pour parler de mon enfance, de mes parents, et j'ai découvert cette étrange vérité: c'est dans l'enfance que le vin joue un rôle"

Ce dictionnaire constitue une apologie du vin, et Bernard Pivot n'hésite pas à affirmer que le vin "est indissociable de la civilisation". Ne consacre-t-il pas une entrée à Abu Nuwas, poète libertin arabe, persécuté parce qu'il préférait les délices du vin au pèlerinage de la Mecque.

Bernard Pivot fait une tournée des vignobles et des cépages de France et salue les meilleurs crus étrangers. Son tour des vins est optimiste, à la recherche du plaisir de chaque cru. Il s'excuse auprès du Vin Jaune qui ne trouve pas grâce à ses yeux : "Le moment est venu d'avouer une infirmité, une disgrâce; je n'aime pas le vin jaune..." par contre le "Romanée Conti est le meilleur vin du monde"... Il avoue en posséder une bouteille "me voici donc avec en cave une romanée conti 1961, introuvable sauf au domaine et chez les collectionneurs"

Il raconte aussi des histoires, fait de bons mots. parle de ses souvenirs. et il parle aussi des hommes, de l'Histoire. Il parle de Rabelais, de Mauriac, de Lamartine, d'Alphonse Allais.

Il note toutes les façons de s'exprimer sur un sujet.... Combien de mots sont-ils synonymes d'ivresse? Combien de Gueule de Bois? ....c'est un festival d'inventions langagières et d'anecdotes viticoles.

Bernard Pivot n'est jamais agressif, il a un sens subtil de l'humour et un infini talent de la répartie.

Je vous laisserai sur cette Présentation de son livre qui le définit de façon parfaite" Je n'évoque dans ce Dictionnaire amoureux du vin que ce que je connais, j'aime et qui me passionne. Il ya de l'autobiographie, des lectures, des souvenirs de cuvage, de cave, de table... Voici cependant l'essentiel : le vin c'est de la culture. La culture de la vigne, mais aussi de la culture pour l'esprit... Il existe une expression qui traduit bien le rôle social du vin dans notre pays: "vin d'honneur". Ce Dictionnaire amoureux voudrait être un joyeux vin d'honneur".

C'est un livre à lire et à aimer.

**If you wish to contribute to the newsletter or share information of interest to our members, please contact Corinne at [corinnemlls@yahoo.com](mailto:corinnemlls@yahoo.com)**

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