

# ALLIANCE FRANCAISE de CHARLESTON

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

## NEWSLETTER JUIN 2007

### Mot de la Présidente

Spring has been very busy... the French Film Festival, a Spoleto party, the Rodin exhibit at the Gibbes ; many occasions for you to enjoy the French Culture.

As you all know the main goal of the Alliance Française in the World is the Propagation of the French language through the French Culture. Being a member of the Federation of Alliances Françaises in U.S.A., we are lucky to be able to have access to a great number of programs, which will give you a real flavor to the life in France.

We are working to bring you some of those programs and not only to our members but also to the City of Charleston. We want to increase the size our membership to be able to offer better and better events. But before all we need your participation. Each of you has to be involved and make a point to be part of these events. We need your presence, we need your talents.

We have three levels of French classes: we need more students and more teachers.

We need board members

We need volunteers for Bastille Day...

We need to grow not only in membership size but also in intensity.

Send us an E Mail or call to tell us what you like to see or do. Tell us your stories; give us information on your last trip to France...Be part of our association.

It is not an ordinary Alliance Française it is your Alliance Française.

Marie-Laure Arnaud



For the first time ever, the Alliance Française de Charleston will be celebrating the beginning of summer as part of the worldwide

### **Fête de la Musique !**

First launched in France in 1982, la Fête de la Musique takes place on June 21st, the day of the summer solstice, every year.

It began as an informal affair, with bands playing in the streets, in a quasi-spontaneous celebration of music and summer.

Now, it has become a key cultural event in **over 340 cities in 110 countries**, but it hasn't lost touch with its easygoing roots!

And this year, for the first time, Charleston will join this ever-growing list of musical cities.

So, please help us to celebrate and join us at:

**The French Hare**  
418 King Street  
Charleston, 29401

Starting at 6:00pm with wine and cheese

RSVP by June 15<sup>th</sup> to Gigi Sireyjol ([gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com) or 843.276.5797)



## 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)

## 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](mailto:BECKSTROML@aol.com) or call at 843/883-3364.

This from the grapevine!

June the 7th, there will be an opening/closing reception at Coco's Café & Gallery of our exhibition DARE EVERYTHING. Huge works (72", 60" etc...) in the first room, and more normal sizes in the other rooms. there will be a Violin room, a food room...an abstract wall, a nude wall...dare everything....

**FROM THE DESK OF OUR SECRETARY:** Please, think of forwarding your changes of coordinates, address, phone numbers, email etc... When applicable so that we can update our lists! If you are supposed to receive information from the Alliance Française via e-mail and you don't, chances are we do not have your correct e-mail address. Please send all corrections to Katherine at [kguerra25@gmail.com](mailto:kguerra25@gmail.com). Thank you!



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## CURRENT EVENTS

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### 'Old Charleston, New Visions'

This is truly an exhibit like none you've ever seen.

"Old Charleston, New Visions" is a collaboration of "sculptural explorations" between French artist Bea Aaronson and American artist Stephen Eaker.

Using pieces of old Charleston architecture such as balustrades, window sills, old furnaces, etc. (some dating back to the 1800s), they have created an entire installation of wall-mounted and free-standing sculptures ranging from six inches, to eight feet in height.

Each creation has a name and personality, and with a little imagination, seems to come alive.

This exhibit, sponsored by ART Magazine and Monarch Development, will open to the public with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at 121 Alexander St. (on the corner of Alexander and Chapel Streets, behind the Charleston County Library).

The exhibit will be up only through June 10. Hours for the installation will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call Béa Aaronson at 696-985.

### FAREWELL

**By now you may know that our French Ambassador to Washington has been appointed diplomatic adviser to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.**

**During his four and a half years in Washington, Jean-David Levitte strengthened cooperation between France and the United States on every front: cultural, with the creation of several foundations supporting artistic and university exchanges; economic especially in Louisiana after Katrina; and political, working closely with the Administration and the Congress on Iran, Lebanon and the fight against terrorism. During his tenure, a first in more than 200 years of friendship between our two nations, a French Caucus was created. Thank you Ambassador Levitte for your dedication to making Franco-American relations stronger than ever!**

### FEATURE OF THE MONTH: La PÉTANQUE

This is how the story goes:

La Ciotat, spring of 1907

Some 20 miles east of Marseille, this town was famous for its shipyards and for the fact that the brothers Lumière had recently shot their 50 sec. pioneer movie there, «[L'arrivée d'un Train en Gare de La Ciotat](#)».



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Brothers Ernest & Joseph Pitiot owned the Bar de l'Horloge, the scene of daily games of «la boule Provençale» a.k.a «la longue». Played over a distance of up to 60 ft, participants have to take a 3-step run-up. Not as athletic as, say javelin or shot put but still, one had to be in good shape.

Jules le Noir, champion in his haydays but now septuagenarian and suffering from severe arthritis, would follow the games from a chair behind the players, and toss boules some 10 ft from his chair. Ernest Pitiot – out of respect for his older friend - proposed to play a short distance game with him, standing still «aux pieds tanqués» next to Jules' chair. Without run-up they would literally be on equal footing.

Others joined in, curious to try it out, liked it and weekly tournaments of this new «boules» variety followed. Tourists discovered the game, took boules home and pétanque spread like wildfire.

### **WE NEED YOU:**

The Alliance Francaise is organizing the Bastille day celebration Friday July 13 from 4:00PM to 9:00 PM at the same place as last year i.e. Freshfields Village. Freshfields Village is located on John's Island at the Kiawah/Seabrook traffic circle. Open the link below

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=freshfield+village,+kiawah+island,+sc&ie=UTF8&cd=1&t=k&om=1&ll=32.606564,-80.148869&spn=0.003285,0.004233&z=18>

**We are looking for volunteers to help between 3:30 PM to**

**8:00 PM, the volunteer shift should be 1:30 Hour.**

The Alliance will provide Alliance t-shirts and ribbons to identify the volunteers.

The basic volunteer job will to be an Ambassador of France and of the Alliance Francaise de Charleston. He/She will also direct, welcome and inform visitors about the activities of the day. Some volunteers will be in charge of a stand selling regional French products. Others will help form the teams, explain the game and help the players by playing with them if necessary. Also please let me know how many pétanque boules you have available for the event. Of course, members of the Bastille Day'07 committee as well as board members will be around all the time to provide any support if needed.

If you need any other information before committing to help with Bastille Day, please let us know by contacting Gigi ([gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com) or 843.276.5797). Thank you!

The Bastille Day 07 committee

I am very pleased to invite you to Bastille Day 07.

Like last year, we will celebrate it on the Green at Freshfields Village. To make the afternoon and the evening even more fun, this year we're going to take you to four regions of France:

*Bretagne,*

*Aquitaine,*

*Paris/Isle de France,*

*Provence*



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Each of these regions will offer you a taste of their specialties. Regional products will be for sale and you will have the chance to see their regional costumes.

As a special attraction, Fred Astaire Studio will give a demonstration of French Can-Can dancing this year for the first time.

Of course, we'll still have the attractions that everyone loved last year:

- Our accordion player who was so popular last year will be on hand to entertain you with traditional French chansons,
- The Pétanqueurs will be bickering among themselves as always,
- Waiters from all Freshfields Village restaurants will race on the Green,
- Java/Java will offer steaming crepes with sugar or Nutella,
- Seacoast Sport invites you to watch the Tour de France on their deck a glass of wine in hands,
- Hege's Restaurant will offer a special French menu and
- The band, Congdom Company will play some beach music for you, so be ready to shag!!!!

We may even have yet more surprises in store by the time the event unfolds.

The preparation of this event has been possible thanks to a very special group: Jeri Blair, Alma Brown, Pat Caldwell and Louis & Claudine Herodote. Capable and gifted members, they have all put in their energy and a lot of their free time to make this event even more successful than last year. My sincere thanks go to them for offering their help. I also want to thank each one of you who offered to volunteer on July 13<sup>th</sup>. At today, 20 of you accepted to help one way or another! Such support is vital to our organization and is **GREATLY** appreciated.

I look forward to seeing all of you on July 13<sup>th</sup>. An invitation will follow, but please save the date on your calendar



**Your Bastille Day Committee hard at work!**



## TRIBULATIONS

We thought we would introduce a new rubric to be updated when you, our members, are kind enough to forward to us, [corinnemills@yahoo.com](mailto:corinnemills@yahoo.com), your favorite hang out places in the francophone world. This month, we are featuring Harriett's favorite Paris' hangouts. We hope you will find this helpful on your voyage.

- Bistro du Septieme 7e Arrondissement Mo: LaTour-Maubourg  
01 45 51 93 08? 20 euros menu (3 courses)

[Recommend the confit de canard](#)

Reservation recommended (dans la terrasse de l'interieure; there are also a few tables outside)

- Restaurant Les Fetes Galantes 5e Arrondissement Mo: Maubert-Mutualite  
17 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique (near rue des Carmes and rue des Ecoles)  
01 43 26 10 40 16-18 euros menu and 24 euros menu (3 courses)

[Highly recommend the onion soup!](#)

Reservation recommended - very small restaurant  
(\*\*\*\*This one is [my new favorite Paris restaurant!\\*\\*\\*\\*](#))

- La Creperie des Canettes 6e Arrondissement (near St. Sulpice)  
10 rue des Canettes  
01 43 26 27 65

[Very reasonably priced!](#)

- Ristorante Pizzeria 5e Arrondissement Mo: Maubert-Mutualite  
at the intersection of rue des Ecole and rue des Carmes  
Informal pizzeria with [tasty pizzas](#).

## CLUB ACTIVITIES



### Knitting Club

May 6th 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](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)



### Pétanque

June 24th 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](mailto:louis.a.herodote@comcast.net)



### Cooking class

The class will be at Marie-Laure at 6:30 pm on Sunday, June 17th!

Menu: Soupe de Poissons  
Gratin de crevettes sauce Nantua

Members \$25 per person, non-members \$35. **Please, call Marie-Laure by June 15th at 843-884-5228 to make your reservation.**



### BOOK CLUB

Will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Michelle de Susini: 7 1/2 Gibbs Street, en ville. Son numero de telephone est le 722-9173. Contact Philippe Arnaud [arnaudp@muscd.edu](mailto:arnaudp@muscd.edu) or at 884-5228 if you are interested in joining.



### Bridge Club

**Afternoon Club:** 2pm, on Tuesday June 19th at Susan Fasola.

For all information contact [Jean Thompson](mailto:Jean.Thompson@bellsouth.net) at 881 0676

**Evening Club:** Wednesday, June 20th at Joy's. 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.



### 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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> and 30th. Contact Gigi at 768-7368 or [gsirey@hotmail.com](mailto:gsirey@hotmail.com)

**Private lesson:** \$25 Call Marie-Laure at 884-5228 or [Marie\\_arnaud@S5A.com](mailto:Marie_arnaud@S5A.com)

Classes are limited to members only.

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

Merci, merci, merci!

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member, please contact Katherine - [kguerra25@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:corinnemlls@yahoo.com)

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



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# LEBANESE CUISINE

**During Spoleto Festival**

For the duration of the Spoleto Festival, visit Dolly's booth and get some of her Lebanese Food!!!

They will be on Marion Square from May 25<sup>th</sup> until June the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**AND**

**In Hampton Park on June 9<sup>th</sup>**

Get your palate ready for a wonderful experience!!!





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**Return address :**

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1990 Bel Air Court  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464