

Newsletter
Alliance Française de Lynchburg
Fall 2007

A new AF season has started...

The welcome back party on Sunday, September 9, at the home of Kelly Mattox was great fun and brought together many new and old friends. Several members played croquet on the front lawn under Kelly's guidance, while others tried their luck with pétanque in the back yard. Regardless of where people were standing or sitting, they were surrounded by the picture perfect "Home and Gardens" style garden of our member and friend Kelly Mattox.

We would like to thank Kelly for her hospitality. By the way, Kelly invited us all to join her in the opening of her gallery on October 5, 2007, from 6-8:30 p.m. Avenue Arts Gallery is located at 1206 Rivermont Ave in Lynchburg. See you there!

French Bookclub

It is time to read and discuss - in French - once again!! Prof. Françoise Watts is back from her sabbatical, and she will host our book club meetings once again.

The selections are:

Fall: Abdelkader Djemai, Gare du Nord and Maissa Bey, Sous le Jasmin de la Nuit

Meetings: at Randolph College Barnes & Noble, Thursdays, Oct. 25 and Nov. 29,
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$24.00 for the two books and shipping.

Spring: Erik Orsenna, Les Chevaliers du Subjonctif and Abdelkader Djemai, Le Nez sur la vitre

Meetings: to be decided by the group

Cost: \$24.00 for the two books and shipping

Please let Michelle or Betsy know by September 23 if you are planning to participate so the first two books can be ordered. Once you have e-mailed Michelle or Betsy or have signed up that you will participate, you will be responsible for payment of the books even if you later choose not to attend the discussions. Checks for the first two books (\$24) should be sent to

Mrs. Hugh J. M. Jones III,

1563 Lexington Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24503, e-mail: Hjmjiii@aol.com

Late comers are always welcome, but you would need to buy your book on your own.

Conversation with Solange

First meeting:

Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.

At the Randolph College Barnes and Nobels on Rivermont

Fee: \$10.00 per session

This small and informal French conversation group wants to continue with their meetings on Wednesday afternoons. New members are welcome. This group is designed for the intermediate and advanced French speaker/student who wants to practice conversational French. We will talk about various topics in an informal and casual atmosphere while sipping Barnes and Nobels coffee. No reservation is required. Pay as you go.

Schedule as follows:

October 3rd, 17th, and 31st

November 14th

December 4th and 19th

French classes - Have started in the week of September 24.

Ota Benga Conference

October 25 – 27, 2007

Ann van de Graaf talked to us during the welcome back party last Sunday about the upcoming Ota Benga Conference in Lynchburg. The Alliance Française of Lynchburg has decided to sponsor a reception for the Congolese guests. Possible dates will be discussed with the organizers of the conference.. The results will be communicated to all the members. Below find Mrs. Van de Graaf's letter:

“The Virginia University of Lynchburg together with Lynchburg College, Randolph College, Sweet Briar College, the African Congress of the Pygmies, and Amazement Square Children's Museum, plan a major international conference on *Ota Benga, Lynchburg and the Empowerment of the Pygmies* for October 25th through October 27th, 2007. The Conference theme focuses on the story of Ota Benga, the Pygmy who was brought to the U.S. in 1904, exhibited at the St. Louis Worlds Fair, and subsequently in the Bronx Zoo, rescued and brought to live at the Virginia Baptist Seminary (now the Virginia University of Lynchburg). He died in 1916 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Lynchburg. Through the Ota Benga's compelling life story the Conference will provide an open environment for discussion on issues of past exploitation of vulnerable human populations and the resulting present day effects. Speakers will also review the impact of American Missionaries on Africa and examine the current situation of the Pygmies in the Congo. By bringing together humanities scholars from throughout the U.S., indigenous people from the Congo, foreign embassy personnel, students and the general public the Conference will examine different perspectives of cross cultural associations without advocating any political agenda.

More information can be found on the Internet at vul.edu or on Lynchburg College's web site.

Dr. Peggy Pittas, Lynchburg College, is coordinating the translators for the program. She will be contacting you. Her email address is: pittas@lynchburg.edu

Thank you again for your offer of support. This will be a real community-wide event demonstrating cooperation with the academic, business, creative and international fields of endeavor.
In appreciation, Ann van de Graaf'

French Films in Lynchburg

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

French filmmakers Lucien Lecat and Sylvain Pioutaz

7:30 p.m. (Place TBA)

Several years in a row now, Randolph College and the AF of Lynchburg have co-sponsored the visit of young French filmmakers to Lynchburg who present their short films and then discuss the films and the art of film making with the audience. This year, we will see the short film "Demain la veille". More information will be sent to you per e-mail when it is available.

This is the synopsis of the film:

Bob, la trentaine, est un jeune homme « comme tous les autres » : il parle à l'envers, marche à reculons, boit en remplissant son verre... Comme tous les autres habitants, il fait face à son passé, rajeunissant, vidant sa mémoire, oubliant toute connaissance, machinalement, à petit feu.

Un soir pourtant, il se rendra compte, comme échappé accidentellement d'une longue hypnose, que l'univers dans lequel il évolue n'est pas si « normal » qu'on le laisse entendre. A peine sorti de la ronde, Bob se lancera dans une échappée folle et irraisonnée, sur les routes d'un monde absurde qu'il arpentera à contre-courant, poursuivi par des mercenaires venus d'un futur incertain, pour le remettre dans leur « droit chemin ».

Il tentera ainsi de lutter contre cette force abstraite qui endort les hommes malgré eux, qui les emmène là où ils n'ont pas décidé d'aller...

There will be a reception immediately following the film . This is a free event for members of the AF and the Lynchburg community.

Beaujolais Nouveau Party

Thursday, November 15, 2007

At the home of Bob and Elaine Clarke

201 Ivy Drive

6:00 p.m until 8:30 p.m.

This is always one of the most popular events of the fall season. Be an expert and join the experts and taste and critique the new wine of the season. As always, the members are encouraged to bring their favorite hors d'oeuvre to the party. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by the Alliance.

This is a free event for all paid members of the AF of Lynchburg. If you are a guest or want to bring a guest, please pay \$5.00 guest fee at the door.

Directions: Turn off Link Road onto Ivy Drive – it is the second house on the left. There are a 2 or 3 parking spaces at the bottom of the driveway. From Boonsboro Road go down on Link Road, down hill until you come almost to the bridge, then take a right, and follow the narrow road up the hill. We will send out recommendations for parking since the street is fairly narrow.

Fête de Noël

Christmas Dinner and Dance Party

December 16, 2007, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

At the Parlor Ballroom on Main Street

(Separate invitation will follow)

This year, we encourage all our members and friends to dress up and join us for a Christmas dinner dance in grand style. We have reserved the beautiful downtown ballroom for the event, and we will have a competent disk jockey playing all our favorite dance tunes.

Members are encouraged to provide heavy hors d'oeuvres and holiday desserts. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by the Alliance.

We will also ask all the members to donate a gift for the **Children's Christmas party** for our young members which will take place during the week following the adults' party. (More details will follow). Bring a wrapped toy or gift item, and mark on the out side the age and gender for which the gift is appropriate.

FINALLY – LE DERNIER MOT....

On voudrait bien encourager les membres de l'Alliance Française de parler français aux événements sociaux. Nos réunions vous offrent l'occasion de pratiquer la langue française. Donc, ne soyez pas timides, et même encouragez les autres membres!

In order to renew your membership, please print out the form below and send it with your check to our address:

**P.O. Box 3482
Lynchburg, VA 24503**

Membership Alliance Française de Lynchburg

Our fiscal year lasts from September 1 through August 31.
Membership fees are as follows:

Single	35.00
Family	50.00
French teacher, single	30.00
French teacher, family	45.00
Sustaining member	100.00

You must be a dues-paying member in order to attend our free social events.
Members are welcome to bring a guest for a fee of \$5.00.

For information on membership, please contact Mme Michaela Gabathuler (“Michelle”) at mmgabathuler@comcast.net.

To pay your membership, please print out the application form below and mail it to:

Alliance Française of Lynchburg
P.O. Box 3482, Lynchburg, VA 24503

AF Membership Form 2007 / 2008 (please print)

Name (Last, first) _____

Street address _____

City, zip code _____

Telephone number _____

E-mail address _____

Type of membership (select from above) _____ Rate _____

Paid by cash / check (please circle)

Would you like to host one of our social events ? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to become a future board member? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to receive our newsletter (please circle) by U.S. Mail or e-mail?

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