



Alliance Française of Lynchburg Newsletter – May 2009

PROCHAINES ATTRACTIONS

L'assemblée Générale, Thursday, May 21, Randolph College, Smith Memorial Building, Jack Lounge (second floor) 6:00 p.m.

L'assemblée Générale, the annual meeting of the Alliance Française, is an opportunity to get a brief recap of events of the last year, a preview of coming attractions, and to recognize members of our community who have supported French culture, language and literature in the Lynchburg area. The proposed slate of new board members will be elected. In addition, this year will include the award of the Alliance Française Scholarship to a local student, the winner of our first annual essay contest. A reception with refreshments will follow the brief meeting. Please join us.

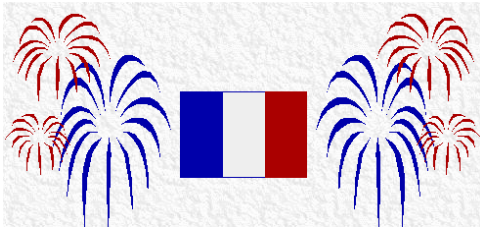
Conversation With Solange, Thursday, May 28, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m

Our conversation classes with Solange Gracey will finish for the semester this month. This is an opportunity for intermediate to advanced speakers to practice their French in a conversational, casual setting. The group meets at Macon Bookstore (back room), 2480 Rivermont Avenue.



La Fête De La Bastille, Sunday, July 19

Celebrate the French national holiday at the Glenbrook Clubhouse. Details to follow, but we will again have a raffle of French items brought to the party. Swimming pool available. Note that this year *le quatorze juillet* is on the 19th.



ATTRACTIONS PASSEE

French Classes

Beginning & Advanced Beginning French classes are finishing for the semester. If interested in future classes, contact Betsy Jones at hjmjiii@aol.com



French Immersion Dinner

A full house enjoyed the Provence-inspired “immersion dinner” in March. We will plan another later this year. Ideas for regional cuisine or themes appreciated. If you would like



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to host a future dinner, please contact Michelle Gabathuler at mmgabathuler@comcast.net.
Enjoy good food, good company, and parlez française.

Mardi Gras / Carnevale

The joint Mardi Gras / Carnevale celebration with the Dante Alighieri Society of Virginia on February 22 was a great success! More than 60 revelers enjoyed a cocktail buffet, traditional crepes and toppings, the King Cake, coronation of the Queen, prizes for best costumes, music and dancing. Thanks to all who helped with the event.



French Films In Lynchburg

Le Fils de l'épicier / The Grocer's Son, sponsored by Alliance Française and Riverviews Artspace, was screened to good reviews in March.

A past French film seen in Lynchburg, *Manon sur le Bitume / Manon on the Asphalt* was nominated this year for an Academy Award in the Best Live Action Short Film category. (Filmmaker Olivier Pont came to Randolph College last October and joined the table française.)



VCU French Film Festival, Richmond

Alliance members traveled to Richmond in March, where Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond presented the 17th Annual French Film Festival. (www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu).

Maghrebi Identity / Novels & Cinema

In April, Professeur Nabih Jerad of the University of Tunis in Carthage, spoke at Randolph College on “Construction of Maghrebi Identity in the Diaspora, based on novels and cinema”. The lecture was followed by dinner en français.

An Evening At Versailles

On April 22, Alan Jones, Paris-based dance historian visiting Randolph College, brought to life the art of fine living in the 18th-century chateau. His presentation touched on the architecture and gardens of Versailles, as well as period clothing, music, dance, and gastronomy. The story was told via lecture, photographs, film, period music and dance notation, and live music and dancing. The event concluded with deserts prepared according to a rare musical cookbook from 1738. All recipes in verse! Here - absent the music - are Crème au chocolat and Meringues:





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Crème au chocolat

*Le chocolat on le fait fondre,
Avec du lait dessus le feu;
De sucre ajoutez quelque peu
Avant de le morfondre.*

*Surtout mettez-y je vous prie,
Six ou huit jaunes d'œufs bien frais,
Ce que vous ferez cuire après
Tout doux au bain-marie.*

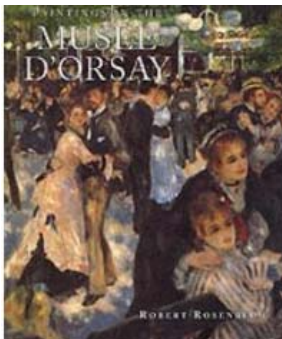
Meringues

*D'œufs sans jaune & sucre en poudre,
Qu'ils soient d'un égal poids tous deux,
D'un bon citron la pelure il faut moudre,
Commencez par fouetter les blancs d'œufs.*

*Quand sur le papier on les dresse,
De les former faites un jeu,
En les cuisant jamais on ne les presse,
Mettant dessus comme dessous du feu.*

Book Club The Alliance Book Club met April 27 at Mme Anny Bennett's home to discuss Grace et Denouement. Planning for future books – two per semester – is underway.

Le Grand Concours De L'Alliance Française, VES Chapel was packed on April 30 for the "Distribution des Prix" of the eighth annual Concours of the Alliance Française. Modeled after the National Concours sponsored by the Fédération des Alliances Françaises, the Coucours is an essay contest with different topics for students in each of five levels of French (beginning through AP). All regional high school and middle school French classes were invited to participate; and nearly 500 essays were submitted. Authors of the top 25 percent of essays in each class were invited to attend. Also in attendance were Dr. Paul McKendrick, Superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools, Mr. Bob Kerns, Principal of Linkhorne Middle School, Mr. Kevin Latham, Principal of E C Glass High School, and Dr. Phil Hadley, Headmaster of VES. Guest speaker was Mme Nicole Yancey, Honorary French Consul for the State of Virginia.



As is traditional, winners were awarded books and dictionaries. This year, in addition, the Alliance was able to add a monetary prize to the awards for the first place winners. Our board member and friend Mr. David Sigle, who passed away in July 2008, had requested contributions to an Alliance Française scholarship fund. These funds were distributed this year. The event concluded with a lively reception for students, parents, teachers and guests.

Spring Picnic

The seemingly endless spring rains lifted and the sky was a bright, sunny blue just in time for the wonderful gathering on Sunday May 17 at the historic home of Sandee and Brian Johnson in Bedford. An array of delicious traditional picnic fare was served on bamboo



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trays in the Johnson's magnificent, lush garden. After enjoying good French conversation and perfectly grilled hamburgers, the Alliance members trooped off for a tour of the Johnson's home, replete with antiques gathered throughout their years of living abroad. A special treat was enjoying Sandee's own works of art, displayed thorough the 100+ year old home. As a thank you, the Johnson's were given the table decorations-- blue-glazed pots filled with bright red New Guinea Impatiens. We appreciate their generous hospitality!



HELP WANTED

Various committees will be working on Alliance events for the coming year. If you'd like to help, or have ideas to contribute, please let us know. Areas include Programs (Cultural, Educational or Social), Scholarships, Finance & Budget, School & Classes. Thanks!