Message du mois

Dear Members,

The results of our survey are still incomplete but, thanks to your response rate, trends are already emerging. The purpose of the survey was to assess the relevance of our activities to the members' needs and the quality of these activities.

So far, we have received close to 60 responses, representing approximately 15% of our membership. For those who have not responded by email; enclosed please find a hard copy of the survey. We encourage you to fill it out and send it back to the Alliance. If you have already responded by email, please disregard the hard copy.

Although this is not the right venue for going over the detailed results of the survey, we could not wait to share with you some of the more salient facts. Your feedback is candid, positive and encouraging. For this, we are grateful. You were able to feed us comments, suggestions and ideas on how to serve you better.

Regarding the level of interest in our activities, 88% of the responses indicate a "great" or "somewhat" level of interest. The strongest positive response is for the newsletter but all our activities are strongly rated, even the ciné-club. The ciné-club is emblematic of the importance of your feedback; poor attendance led us to thinking of abandoning this activity; of 33 responses on this activity, 29 are very or somewhat interested. We are re-thinking the format, periodicity and venue for this activity and will re-introduce it shortly. The written comments generally indicate that our members, like most people, are scrambling for time and, as a result, are not able to enjoy or choose to forgo a lot of our activities such as causeries or cocktail-conferences. Looking forward, we will focus some of our efforts to make sure that our members are aware of the forthcoming events and have enough advance notice to be able to plan to attend and participate more fully to the life at l’Alliance.

Regarding the quality of our activities, 83% of the responses indicate an "excellent" or "good" quality rating. This is very rewarding for Upi, Hervé, Anne, Nina, Ned and all other volunteers who have dedicated so much time and efforts in making it all happen. The school is extremely well received, including the quality of the teachers, the curriculum and the value for the money. While Anne and her team are constantly working to improve the school, some changes are already paying off: 6-week sessions offer more flexibility; regular classes are maintained and specialized workshops have been introduced and very well received; more is to come. As attendance grows, the opportunities to improve also grow.

Un grand merci a Lew Baer for his excellent work that you will find in this newsletter: “Le centennaire du grand tremblement de terre et de l’incendie de San Francisco.” We really appreciate his generosity and willingness to share this great article with the members of the Alliance. We are very proud to be the beneficiaries of the obvious hard work and dedication he put into it - Merci, Lew.

Thank you to all our members for their continued interest and support for l’Alliance and to all our volunteers for giving a hand in making it happen.

Jerome C. Nathan
Board Member

P.S: Please never be shy about becoming more involved, we always need volunteers for a few hours per month or per week. If you are interested, please call or email Upi or Hervé at info@afsantarosa.org

“Je travaille pour l’Alliance et j’aime ça”
Our newsletter *Ici L’Alliance* appears monthly along with our calendar of events. This newsletter is mailed to over 400 local addresses, and is given out to anyone who might be interested in the activities of the Alliance and in the classes offered by our French Language School.

*Get in touch! Merci.*

*Ici l’Alliance* is published monthly by Alliance Française de Santa Rosa

Editor: Upi Struzak

Send all correspondence regarding the newsletter, advertising and the website to:

Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 Fourth Street, Suite 200
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
newsletter@afsantarosa.org
Coming Soon...

**General Elections 2006-2007**

**Become an Alliance Board Member!**

To grow and to meet our future goals, administrative organization and developmental programs will need to be addressed by a Board of Directors composed of dedicated and responsible members. Board members are needed, who will have the skills to do all of the things that must be done, take on individual responsibilities as well as be leaders and members of working committees. Members of the Board will work together to raise our visibility in Sonoma County, improving links between the Alliance and various industries in the region and the community at large. Our members deserve an enthusiastic and dynamic leadership.

The next General Election for Board members will take place in June, 2006. We are asking you to begin considering your candidacy to fill positions as a Board Member for a one-year term starting June 1, 2006. This includes all of the positions for Officers of the Board: President, Treasurer, Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Become part of our 'Vision'!

All members of the Alliance are welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings.

Please mail us your candidacy to:
Nominating Committee, Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 Fourth Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

Tell us about yourself: Name, Address, Contact information, Professional activities, Interests, Candidate for which position. --Merci!

Please respond by April 30 2006

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**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SSU**

**A COURSE ON REGIONAL AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN FRANCE**

April 3-May 25

will be taught (in English) by Dr. Jacqueline Lindenfeld, anthropologist, in the Spring session of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Sonoma State University.

The class will meet on Wednesday 9:45-11:30 starting April 3. For more details, call 707-664-2394 or go to www.sonoma.edu/exed/lifelong

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**Home Cleaning & More...**

Custom home cleaning      Cutlery sharpening
Silver polishing
Residential cleaning with a European touch

707. 843-1956
Locally owned and operated

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**Je tricote, tu tricotes, nous tricotons**

April 21 from 9:00 to 12:00
3 hours - $45 + supplies

2 skills in one: Come and join Anne and learn how to knitting while speaking French at the same time in this relaxed atmosphere.

Minimum of 4 students for this atelier

Sign up by April 15 by contacting the Alliance s voicemail 707-543-8151or talk to the director at anne@afsantarosa.org if you have a question.

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**Mots croisés**

BAGUENAUDANT
OLAND.UNES.O
MALIEN.ISKAR
BIO.NOIRCI.I
ANNATES.EARL
R.STETSON.OS
DA.TRIANDRE.
EPIA.Q.K.UNR
RABROUA.ARTE
AIS.RETAPAGE
ISERE.POILER
TENUES.FAENA
Dans la Cuisine avec Christine Piccin

This salad is simple and quick to make. Using canned beans speeds things up, though you can usually find a greater variety of beans available dried. The vinaigrette is full of Provençal herbs.

Warm Provençal Salad of Baby Spinach, White Beans, and Red Peppers

makes 6-8 servings

- 12 oz. white beans such as cannellini or Great Northern
- 3 15 oz. cans white beans
- 1/2 lb. baby spinach, washed
- 1 cup roasted red bell peppers, rinsed, sliced
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onions

Provençal Dressing

- 3/4 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup wine vinegar
- 1 Tbl. each, minced fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 1-1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

If using dry beans, cook in boiling salted water until done, about 1 1/4 hours, and drain; if using canned beans, drain well.

Combine dressing ingredients.

When ready to serve, heat beans and dressing in a large saucepan or in the microwave, just until warm. Sprinkle over spinach, red peppers and onions, and gently mix to combine. Add salt and pepper as needed and serve warm.

- Upcoming Classes -

♦ Spring Menu Class
at the Finley Center, Monday, April 10

♦ A Chicken in Every Pot!
at the Finley Center on Tuesday, April 25

♦ Date Night Dinner!
at Sur La Table on Friday, April 28

Please email me for more info: christine@piccin.com, or check these websites:
www.SantaRosaRec.com  www.SurLaTable.com

!! NEW !!

Private Tennis Lessons
in French

Take tennis lesson and practice your French at the same time!

- Junior & Adult
- Beginner to Competitive Levels
- Year Round
- Membership not required

Call Tennis Director
Laurent Lecellier, Head Tennis Pro
707.544.2330
Wikiup Tennis & Swim Club
500 Wikiup Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95403

IN THE LAND OF THE DEAF
Thursday, April 27 and Friday, April 28 at 7:00 in Stevenson 1002
(1992, 99 min., in French and sign language w/English subtitles)

BEAU TRAVAIL
Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 in Stevenson 1002
Friday, May 5 at 7:00 in Warren Auditorium, Ives Hall
(1999, 93 min., in French w/English subtitles)

UNDER THE SAND
Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 in Stevenson 1002
Friday, May 12 at 7:00 and Sunday, May 14 at 4:00 in Warren Auditorium, Ives Hall
(2000, 95 min., in French and English w/English subtitles)

NOTRE MUSIQUE
Thursday, May 18 at 7:00 in Stevenson 1002
Friday, May 19 at 7:00 in Warren Auditorium, Ives Hall
Jean-Luc Godard (2004, 80 min., in French and Spanish w/English subtitles)

For more information: http://www.sonoma.edu/sfi/
Would you like to win a free trip to Paris, France? The smooth jazz station KJZY FM 93.7 will be giving away a fabulous trip once a month and is starting with April in Paris as they debut “Club 93”, the easiest way to win great prizes in Sonoma County.

Soak up all the sights and bask in continental luxury as you plan your itinerary. KJZY would like to suggest you take in a few of the local attractions including cycling through the French countryside, combing the beaches of France or golfing in Provence. Film-buffs can enjoy an insider's view of Deauville's American Film Festival in Normandy, and wine lovers will revel in the glory that is the best wine regions of France. If you ask a native on the list of "not to be missed" are the Louvre Museum, the Seine and its bridges, the palace of Versailles, the château of Fontainebleau, Notre Dame Cathedral, the château of Malmaison, residence of Napoleon and Josephine, Monet's house in Giverny and of course one of the most striking pieces of architecture worldwide, the Eiffel Tower. Paris itself also offers a wide variety of nighttime entertainment including a visit to the Moulin Rouge, the Lido, the Paradis Latin and the Crazy Horse Saloon.

And to help you get ready for your trip we're sending you over to the Alliance Française downtown Santa Rosa for a few French language classes, some tour books and regional maps. We're also setting you up with an annual membership so you can relive your experience when you get back home.

Sounds interesting?
Club Z officially launches March 30. Check it out at KJZY.com!

Légendes et traditions d'avril
Ne jamais oublier, le 1er avril...
- de faire des farces
- de suspendre un poisson dans le dos des amis, des profs, des passants, etc...

Et pourquoi ?
Parce que jadis l'année débutait le premier jour d'avril; on s'échangeait donc cadeaux et éternelles ce jour-là. Mais en 1564, le roi Charles IX décréta que l'année devrait commencer le 1er janvier; plus personne ne reçut plus de cadeaux le 1er avril. Des plaisantins s'excusèrent alors en promettant la lune mais ne tinrent pas leur promesse (d'où l'expression) ou envoyèrent des boîtes vides en guise d'attrape.

Pour d'autres, il s'agirait du départ du soleil du signe zodiacal des Poissons. Pour d'autres encore, il s'agit d'une
Au revoir Karine, et bonne continuation ! As you know, Karine had to leave Santa Rosa at the beginning of the year, and I wanted to share with you these two comments I heard from two members:

“Karine was a superb prof. I miss her dearly” and “Karine’s curriculum was excellent – language, culture, song, even cooking chez elle”.

There are many more of these comments, and that fills my heart with joy. Karine, we wish you and your family luck and happiness on this new chapter of your life. You are greatly missed, and we hope you will be able to come back and visit us soon.

We thank you for the great return on the recent poll. There were many responses and it looks like people are really happy with the school. Since February, we have 3 language classes and one conversation class. The 3 Language classes are all taught by native speakers.

There is one more regular session to go, before the end of the school year, from Monday, April 24 to Friday, June 2. However, we are introducing new “ateliers” (workshops) which we hope will bring new opportunities for you to learn and have fun.

These ateliers are:

FRENCH LITERATURE: April 10 through April 14, 2006 - 5 afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. - 7.5 hours - $115 - Intermediate to Advanced level - Minimum of 4 students for this Atelier

This class is designed for students who would like to explore French literature throughout the ages. In this atelier, you will learn about poetry, a bit of history, a touch of philosophy.

Sign up by April 5.

DESSERT FOR THE SOUL AND THE BELLY - French Food/Dessert and Literature: April 17 through April 20, 2006 - 4 mornings from 9:00 am. to 12:00 pm. - 12 hours - $180 + food supplies

Advanced level – Minimum of 4 students for this Atelier

This class is designed for students who love food and who want to learn a bit about literature. In this atelier, you will study an excerpt of their work focusing on desserts. After this first part of the class, fun will start when Chef Christine Piccin demonstrates the recipe studied with Anne.

Sign up by April 12.

FRENCH FOR TRAVELING: April 24, 26, May 1, 3, 8, 10, 2006 - 3 Mondays from 6 to 8 pm. and 3 Wednesdays from 6 to 8 pm. - 12 hours - $180

Beginning level – Minimum of 4 students for this Atelier

Come and join Anne in this class designed for those who know nothing or very little of the language. Maximize your time in France, and make sure you don’t miss anything. In this atelier, you will learn about what to say, how to say it, and also what not to say during your trip to France. You will learn how to pronounce words, greet people, how to get around, how to order food, get on a train, how to buy items, and so on.

Sign up by April 19.

JUST AND ONLY GRAMMAR (The Verbs Series): April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 2006 - 4 Mondays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

- 4 hours - $60 Intermediate to Advanced level

Information for the required book upon registration - Minimum of 4 students for this Atelier.

This class is especially designed for the students who crave grammar drills. Yes, there are a few of us like that out there! In this short atelier, we will take a journey through these tenses that are so often left off. We will go over Compound Tenses (I had eaten breakfast before I got up), the Subjunctive (I wanted the train to wait, but it left without me), the Conditional (If only I had more time). The last class will be a wrap-up of what we have learned. Anne promises it won’t hurt!

Sign up by April 19.

LES INFOS: April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 2006 - 4

Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. - 4 hours - $60

Advanced level - Minimum of 4 students for this Atelier.

Come and join Anne in this class designed for those who speak the language pretty well already. Watch and discuss current events around France and the Francophone world. In this short atelier, we will watch an excerpt of the current news from French TV, and then casually discuss the events presented during the remainder of the hour.

Sign up by April 19.

For all these Ateliers, you can sign up by contacting the Alliance’s voicemail 707-543-8151 or talk to the director at anne@afsantarosa.org if you have a question. We are also working on offering more classes, workshops, or clubs such as Knitting in French, movies, and much more. Besides all of this, we would like to know if you are interested in a “jeux de cartes” (card games), or “jeux de société” (board games) in French. Please let us know if you are.

A bientôt de vos nouvelles,

Anne Guével
Directrice
French Language Classes
Schedule for Spring Session 2006
6 weeks: April 24 - June 2

BEGINNERS – Complete beginners, no diagnostic interview required. 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition: $144

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<tr>
<td>4 MONDAY</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>5 MONDAY</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.</td>
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INTERMEDIATE – 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $144

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<td>7 THURSDAY</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</td>
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ADVANCED – 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $144

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<td>3 TUESDAY</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.</td>
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ADVANCED Theme Class – 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $144

The class is a discussion of various aspects of life in France such as France and the European Union, Immigration in France, Work and Leisure in France.

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<td>1 MONDAY</td>
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<td>2 MONDAY</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.</td>
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CONVERSATION Class - 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $144

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<td>6 WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
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Classes Location:
Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, Fourth St., Kress Building (2nd Floor), Santa Rosa. Public Parking available on 5th St. and at 3rd St. & D Street.

Registration & Placement:
All former students may send their registration at anytime. New students must come in for a diagnostic interview. Complete beginners do not have to take an interview.

Student Info

Name
Address
City State Zip
Home Phone Work Phone E-mail

Please clip and mail this form, along with check payable to "Alliance Française de SR" to:
Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 4th Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

I wish to enroll in: ______________________________
I have read and understood - Signature: ______________________________

Fees

Please include membership fee for non-members (Individual $40, Student $25, Family $45)

Tuition: $
Membership: $
Total: $

Class schedule can be subject to modifications.
Please volunteer to keep the Alliance open to its members!

www.afsantarosa.org
info@afsantarosa.org
newsletter@afsantarosa.org
school@afsantarosa.org

Is your Membership Renewal Due?

IS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS CIRCLED IN RED? TIME TO RENEW!
If you do not renew within 2 months, we will regretfully stop sending you our newsletter and your membership benefits will expire. Call the Alliance 707.543.8151 for address changes. Please note: Bulk mail is not forwarded.

Please Check One:  New member □  Renewal □
Name_________________________ Date__________________________
Adress________________________
City_________________________ State________ Zip________________________
Phone____________________ Email________________________
Level of Proficiency: □ None  □ Beginner  □ Intermediate □ Advanced □ Native
How did you find about the Alliance? □ Relative □ Friend □ School □ Phone Book
Other____________________________________________________
I would like to volunteer: □ Yes □ No
Areas of interest □ Conversation Group □ Literary Group □ Classes □ Children’s Activities
Amount of enclosed check: ____________________________

Mail to: Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 4th Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Gifts are tax deductible

Annual Fee
(12 month period)
Please circle your membership level

Student                   $25
French Teacher          $28
Individual Member           $40
Family                              $45
Friend of AFSR          $75
Sponsor            $100
Life Membership        $500

Additional Donations:
School Program $______
Cultural Program $______

Merci!