



# Le Piaf

Bulletin bimestriel de l'Alliance Française de Toledo  
Bimonthly newsletter of Toledo's French Alliance

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## EDITORIAL

Bonjour à toutes et à tous ! Our fall semester is in session and we are off to a great start. As one of several new AFT activities and events, I am delighted to introduce our bimonthly newsletter-*Le Piaf*-for our Francophone and Francophile community in the Toledo metropolitan area. We will share with you our travel stories, AFT events, news from France, vocabulary, poetry, games, and whatever we discover that might be of interest to you. As always, we would love to hear from YOU so we welcome your comments and contributions to the newsletter. Please contact Rodolphe Jamet at [guylebleux@free.fr](mailto:guylebleux@free.fr) with your submissions. Thank you for your continued support of AFT. À bientôt ! (M.C.F)

## PRESENTATION

The Alliance Française of Toledo is an educational, cultural non-profit organization.

Its objectives are to encourage and develop the study and knowledge of the French language and culture, and to promote friendship between the Francophone and American peoples.

### BOARD

Marci Cannon Fisher	President
Rodolphe Jamet	Vice President
Thomas Reed	Treasurer
Dave Barnes	Secretary

## Calendar of events

Entre Amis	⇒	November 14, 2008 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at noon at the AFT suite)
Soirée au restaurant	⇒	November 19, 2008 : Stella's, Perrysburg (3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm)
Vendredi Cinéma	⇒	October 24, 2008 : 100% Arabica (Zemmouri) (4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 7pm at the museum)
4 Heure	⇒	October 28, 2008 (last Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm at the AFT suite)
November 07, 2008	⇐	Masquerade Party, wine tasting at Maumee Wines, 6:30pm
December 8, 2008	⇐	Christmas Holiday Party (2pm, AFT suite)
December 10, 2008	⇐	Board Meeting at 7pm at the AFT suite
Early December 08	⇐	Christmas Dinner

### BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION 2008

Toledo's French Alliance celebrated Bastille Day with - of course - a gourmet "picnic". Saturday, July 12, 44 members and friends of the Alliance gathered at *Un Coup de Main*, near Dundee, Michigan, where Georgeann Brown maintains a cooking school. Several folks arrived early to help Ms Brown put together a great menu, complemented with wines from Maumee Wines. Fortified with good food, good drinks and fine conversation, the group belted out the French National Anthem, *La Marseillaise*, with more enthusiasm than finesse.

There is a little video of the event, along with the menu, on the Alliance website at <http://www.aftoledo.com/BastilleDay08.htm>. Events like this one nourish the social life of our little Francophile community. (D.B)

### Les Nouvelles de la Fédération

L'Assemblée Générale Annuelle de la Fédération aura lieu à Naples, Floride, du 22 au 26 octobre 2008. Les sujets de discussion porteront surtout sur les changements apportés par le gouvernement de Nicolas Sarkozy.

Le réseau des Alliances Françaises de Chine connaît un développement très rapide. Depuis la première ouverture à Canton en 1989, il y a maintenant 10 Alliances dont Pékin et Shanghai. Quatre autres Alliances vont ouvrir afin de satisfaire la curiosité croissante des Chinois pour la culture Française.

La Chorale de l'AF de Providence, vient de fêter ses 2 ans. Menés par Mme Duvillers, les 25 choristes chantent des morceaux de la Renaissance ainsi que des chansons plus populaires. En Juillet, ils sont allés chanter à Québec pour le 400<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de la ville.

## ACTUALITÉS FRANCOPHONES

\* La rentrée des classes (=back to school) 2008 a eu lieu en France début septembre. A part (=except for) une courte grève (=strike) de certains enseignants à Paris, tous les écoliers, collégiens et lycéens ont repris les cours.

\* Selon un sondage (=survey) de la SOFRES réalisé début septembre 2008, 80% des Français interrogés préfèrent Barack Obama comme futur président des États-Unis. La plupart des sondés (=surveyed persons) ont d'ailleurs une bonne opinion des Américains.

\* Dans le cadre (=framework) de la lutte (=fight) contre les pandémies, les ministres européens de la santé, présidés par la Française Roselyne Bachelot, et le secrétaire d'État américain à la santé Michael Leavitt se sont réunis (=to get together) à Angers début septembre 2008. Le but (=goal) était d'élargir (=to expand) la coopération internationale en partageant (=sharing) les connaissances (=knowledge) sur les virus.

## MARC MAILLOUX, SPEAKER OF 2007

In October 2007, the Alliance Française hosted reverend Marc Mailloux, and his wife Aline, for the presentation of his book "God still loves the French".

About 25 people attended the presentation.

With an enthusiastic and humorous tone, he described his life experiences, related in the book, from his youth on the North East coast of the US to his actual teaching in the Antilles.

Marc read some passages and gave more details about them, like the anecdote about the Indian who gave him the bible when Marc went in India to find the Nirvana. Without being preachy, the speaker was thoughtful and teasing. The anecdote about the French road employees who took two hours for lunch and decided not to go back to work because the rain was starting to fall was the most hilarious and in the same time very respectful toward the employees who offered him to share the food without questions. Through the insightful observations of the French people, Marc gave the audience some flavor of France, a land where the religious practice is not very significant but where God feels at home.

The evening was a success and everybody went back home delighted. (R.J)

## ANNUAL MEETING 2008

On June 11, 2008, 43 members of the Alliance Française of Toledo gathered at Georgio's Café International in downtown Toledo for its annual meeting. Following a brief social period, Alliance members, Bruce Hammond and Cherie Williams, entertained the gathering by singing several French songs, in French of course.

A delightful dinner, exquisitely prepared by Georgio's followed. Marci Cannon Fisher, President of the Alliance, introduced the officers for the upcoming year. Tom Reed, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report, and Popi Grecos reported on the school activities. Everyone found the evening to be most pleasant and enjoyable. We hope to see you at the next annual meeting June 2009. (T.R)

Feel free to contribute any kind of article to Le Piaf

## THE PALATE

## French Baguette

2 ½ tsp yeast

3 cups bread flour (or unbleached all-purpose flour)

1 ¾ tsp salt (or fine sea salt)

13 oz. water (microwave med-high for 1 min)

Place ingredients in order provided into bread machine (dough setting). Takes 3 ½ hours with French bread setting on our machine (Panasonic SDYD250). We also use a yeast dispenser on our machine but this also works if you place yeast first on the bottom.

Prepare a perforated baguette pan (spray with oil then sprinkle lightly with flour).

When dough is ready, dump onto floured surface (~1 cup all purpose flour) and cut into 3 even portions.

Gently squeeze and shape each portion into a baguette shape and lay it onto the baguette pan.

Cover with a cotton cloth or kitchen towel and place in cold oven or draft-free area and let rise for another 1 hr and 15mins.

Heat oven to 450°F (440°F convection bake).

When temperature reaches 410°F take a flat pan (broiling pan works well) into which you've added 1 cup water and place this in the lower level of your oven. When oven reaches 440°F water should be steaming at this point.

Remove cloth from baguettes and make 3 diagonal slashes across each baguette using razor blade or sharp knife. Add the baguettes to the top level of your oven very carefully to avoid getting burned by steam.

Set timer for 17 minutes (ideal time in our oven to get it crisp and lightly browned) and remove baguettes from oven. Wait at least 15 minutes for bread to cool and enjoy.

If not using bread the same day, freeze any unused portions or bread will harden.

Frozen baguettes can be warmed back up in microwave by heating on high for 1-2 minutes. (B.O)

## LA LANGUE

Quelle est l'*anagramme* (mot obtenu par transposition des lettres d'un autre mot) de mare ?

Éclisse (fém.): plaque servant à maintenir ensemble les fragments d'un membre brisé ; synonyme d'attelle.

ex : couché dans un lit de l'hôpital militaire, le soldat Jean avait la jambe droite immobilisée par les éclisses.

Quelles lettres faut-il ajouter à carpe pour obtenir un *petit tapis* ?

Réponses au prochain numéro

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