



# 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.  
Even though the summer is still in progress, we have been already busy participating in events such as the Annual Meeting 2009 at the Galerie Saint Clair, the Bastille Day Celebration near Dundee, and, for some of us, watching the entertaining Tour de France. Moreover Back to school is also on its way ! We will have the Open House early September and start the regular activities and classes right after. Should you like to contribute your comments and articles, please contact Rodolphe Jamet at [guylebleux@free.fr](mailto:guylebleux@free.fr). Thank you for your continued support of AFT.  
À bientôt. !

## 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

August 12, 2009	↔	Board Meeting at 7pm at the AFT suite
September 12, 2009	↔	Open House, AFT suite, 11am to 2pm
Soirée au restaurant	↔	september 16, 2009, 6:30pm (contact <a href="mailto:kdstein@accesstoledo.com">kdstein@accesstoledo.com</a> for more information)

## Annual Meeting 2009

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Alliance Française de Toledo gathered in the evening at the Galerie Saint Clair downtown Toledo for the Annual Meeting 2009.

The interior of this old warehouse was very charming with its old style brick walls, high ceiling, wood beams, steel rails and metal poles. Around 6pm, guests were welcomed with typical French apéritifs: Ricard, Pernod (both a licorice based alcohol to mix with water), Kir (white wine mixed with Crème de Cassis), Noilly Prat (a dry vermouth), and Pineau des Charentes (a mix of grape juice with Cognac). A selection of cheese accompanied the aperitifs.

Before dinner, a few old French songs were performed by Bruce Hammond, Cherie Williams, and Colette, but unfortunately the audio system was not really giving credit to their performance.

The first dish was a refreshing and flavorful cold soup, followed by a green salad and a surprising key lime sorbet that was acting like a "Trou Normand" (a little shot of Calvados of Normandy that helps the digestion). It opened my palate for the main dish that was on its way: a delicious plate filled with beef medallions, sautéed prawns, and a vegetable side. This combination of ingredients was a perfect match. For dessert we had a piece of a wonderful chocolate cake, but way too small ! Of course a selection of white and red wines was offered to complete this perfect dinner.

At the end of the meal our President, Marci Cannon Fisher, gave the report of all activities and accomplishments of the alliance for the last twelve months; a very impressive curriculum that demonstrates the dynamism of the organization. The School Director, Popi Grecos, added the school report and it showed again that the Alliance is a great asset to the metro Toledo area. It is a wonderful place to learn the French language and culture with talented teachers in a friendly atmosphere.

I really enjoyed the evening. The meal was very nice but more importantly it was an opportunity for me to meet members that I didn't know yet and share some quality time with them in a mixed discussion of French and English! I was one of the last to leave this place and it was past 10pm. So this just tells you how successful this evening was. I am already looking forward to the next annual meeting. (Jean-Marie Deschamps)

## Tour de France 2009

Never mind economic misery or the shaky state of world affairs, the big excitement in France last month was Le Tour de France. French television has been doing a wonderful job covering the Tour in recent years, but this year the coverage was superb. Helicopters brought us gorgeous views of the cycling race's spectacular scenery, broadcast in High Definition during the three week event. The penultimate stage began at Montélimar in the Drome, ending on top of the *géant de Provence*, Mont Ventoux in Vaucluse. 600,000 screaming spectators lined the road up the mountain under a scorching sun, while in nearby Avignon the July festival played out to a capacity crowd.

One might consider taking time out from other concerns to watch the 2010 Tour – on a mountain top in France or on US cable, while seeing the best of French countryside. (Dave Barnes)

## ACTUALITÉS FRANCOPHONES

\* Le premier ministre français, François Fillon, a déclaré le 24 juillet que la diffusion (spreading) de la grippe A en France était « inévitable » mais que le pays était « prêt » à l'affronter (to face).

\* Lors de la visite en France du président camerounais Paul Biya, du 21 au 25 juillet, le président Nicolas Sarkozy en a profité (to take advantage of) pour demander à son homologue de « poursuivre » (to continue) et « approfondir » (to reinforce and improve) ses « efforts » pour la démocratie et les droits de l'Homme. Il a également affirmé que la France maintenait (to maintain) son aide financière au désendettement (debt clearing) et développement du Cameroun.

\* L'édition 2009 du Tour de France a été remporté (to win) par le détenteur (holder) du Maillot jaune Alberto Contador de l'équipe Astana le dimanche 26 juillet à l'arrivée de l'étape finale (final stage) à Paris. Lance Armstrong, coéquipier (team member) de Contador et septuple vainqueur du Tour, a obtenu la troisième place au classement général.

**Bastille Day Celebration (July 12, 2009)**

With Carottes Provençales in hand, Harold and I set out for the Alliance Française Bastille Day Celebration at the Dundee, MI home of Georgeann Brown and her husband, Mark. Our niece, Jo Anna, joined us for the evening.

The French country-style home was the perfect place for this celebration. The wine and appetizers such as shrimp, salmon spread, sun dried tomato pesto, and salmon rolls drew members and friends to the screened-in porch. Meanwhile, several of the food items were judged and the winners included a vegetable terrine, ratatouille, and homemade sourdough bread made in the French style.

Georgeann and Mark grilled boneless leg of lamb and salmon for our main dishes. French specialties carried in by other guests included carrots, quiche, goat cheese spread, and cassoulet. Tasty desserts followed, including palmiers, cheesecake, and pound cake.

After dinner, attendees gathered on the porch to sing a rousing rendition of "La Marseillaise," led by Marci Cannon Fisher, President of the Alliance Française de Toledo, and Cherie Jo Williams. Conversations in French, as well as in English, continued throughout the evening, allowing us to become better acquainted with area proponents of the French language and culture. Many rolled the boules de pétanque in the backyard before they bid each other "à bientôt". (Eileen Hoffman).

Feel free to contribute any kind of article to Le Piaf

## THE PALATE

**Cherry clafoutis/Clafoutis aux cerises**

serves 6 to 8

1 cup milk, 1/2 cup light brown sugar, 3 eggs, 2 tbsp vanilla, 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 cup wheat flour, 2 cups or a handful of cherries.

Mix together eggs, milk, sugar, vanilla, and flours.

Pour enough batter into the prepared 2 quart baking dish to cover the bottom. Top with cherries, then pour the remaining batter on top of the fruit.

Bake uncovered in center of oven 50 minutes-1 hour at 350°F, until surface is puffy and golden, and toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Cool slightly before serving.

(Cassandra Jamet)

## LA LANGUE

Réponses (des questions dans Le Piaf #5) :

Le signal de détresse **Mayday** provient de la phrase "Venez m'aider" (=come to my help).

Un bon jardinier a la main verte.

Qu'est-ce qu'une **croquignole** : une chiquenaude sur la joue, un petit biscuit frit et salé, ou une très jolie jeune fille ?

Une **paronymie** est un jeu de mots qui consiste à utiliser un terme à la place d'un autre. Ex : un conflit de canards.

De quel verbe vient le participe passé **issu** : isseoir, issir, issoire ?

Réponses au prochain numéro

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