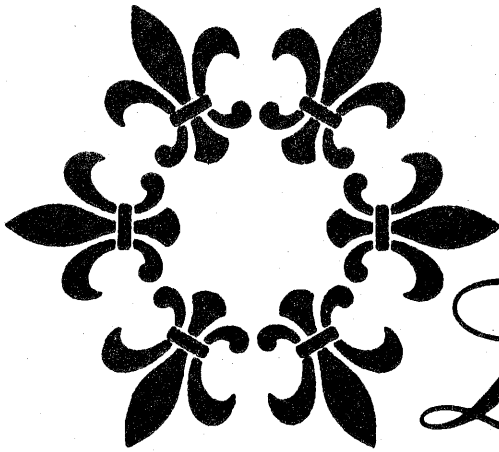


Vol. 13, No. 1 (December 1984)



L'Élan

Bulletin de la Société Honoraire de Français

Message du Président

Chers collègues,

J'espère que vous avez passé de bonnes vacances et que l'année scolaire a très bien commencé pour tout le monde.

Après mon année d'échange en France je suis toujours en train de m'habituer à la vie américaine et aussi à un nouveau poste qu'on m'a offert juste après mon retour à la fin de juillet. La France et les amis que je me suis faits me manquent mais la vie dans la proche banlieue de Washington se présente bien. Lors de mon retour j'ai appris que notre secrétaire général, Stephen Foster, s'était décidé à me rejoindre sur la côte est et s'était installé en Virginie aussi.

J'espère que vous allez encourager vos membres à contribuer aux activités du programme scolaire de votre propre école. Un des buts les plus importants de la Société Honoraire de Français est d'encourager et de mettre en valeur l'étude du français dans les écoles secondaires. Je vous prie aussi de partager vos idées et vos succès pour que nous puissions tous en profiter.

Pendant notre réunion à Chicago, plusieurs d'entre vous ont exprimé le désir de recevoir les informations au sujet des

Message du Président

des bourses plus tôt pendant l'année scolaire. On fera tout notre possible pour vous transmettre ces renseignements aussitôt que possible. Je vous suggère de choisir vos candidats à l'avance et ils seront prêts à remplir les formulaires et à écrire la composition à propos de leur intérêt à un séjour en France ou au Québec. Dans ma prochaine lettre je discuterai les qualités souhaitables d'un candidat et ce que je chercherai dans le dossier des élèves pour m'aider à choisir les gagnants.

Aussi, les résultats du sondage d'opinion fait parmi vous l'année passée paraîtront dans un article de M. Foster dans la French Review du mois de mars. Vous les trouverez bien intéressants.

Bonne continuation!

Robert V. Smawley

Robert V. Smawley, President
Société Honoraire de Français
T.C. Williams Sr. HS
3330 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22302

Lettre de Dana Johnson

Dana Johnson, last year a student of Mrs. Margaret Munns at Doherty Memorial HS in Worcester, MA, and now attending Grinnell College, accepted a scholarship from the French Cultural Services.

"My two-week trip to France was the adventure of a lifetime. From start to finish I experienced exciting sights, several different cultures and made diverse acquaintances.

The pre-session in Paris was basically sightseeing. After meeting the other members of my 'Connaissance' group from Iceland, Algeria, Morocco as well as the United States the first day, I experienced Paris' Notre Dame and the Arc de Triomphe. Both were beautiful and popular. However, despite seeing the majesty of Versailles, the artistry of the Louvre as well as the sheer grandeur of the Eiffel Tower in the following days, several expectations of mine were not met. Paris, albeit having ample sights, is a foreign city and has several negative characteristics. The most significant, in my opinion, was Parisians' coldness towards tourists and especially American ones. Other negative traits typical of American big cities, such as pollution and crowds, were evident as well. Paris was a nice place to see but not one to habitate and my picture of the city of beauty was marred somewhat.

However, the amount of my stay in Paris was minor compared to the session in Les Landes. There lie my real memories of France. After meeting 13 other Frenchman upon arrival in Les Landes, I began to understand French culture. Through various activities such as canoeing, kayaking and wind-surfing designed to connect our cultures, the group began to unify in friendship, a characteristic permeating our differences. Communicating and living in a foreign language increased my confidence in speaking French, which was essential to understanding the other nationalities, except of course my own!

The time went all too fast. Our activities included attending a bullfight and a village festival, going horseback riding, biking 40 km (24 mi.) in one day and dancing to regional Gascony music. Of course visiting

Lettre de Dana Johnson

various cafés was included, but by far the most cultivating experience was my week-end stay with a French family in which one other Frenchman accompanied me.

This was where I learned the most about French culture first-hand. My family was generous and friendly, receptive to my 'Americanisms' and eager to demonstrate their customs. Our interchange was most exciting. Also I came to understand my French comrade all the more, and we hence became friends.

However, as earlier mentioned, the time slipped away and soon I was thanking all my hosts and parting with some difficulty my new-found friends. I narrowly made it back to the Paris airport in time for my flight and experiences one final aspect of our variances in culture. This, however, was an adventure in itself and merits its own story."

Dana Johnson

Lettre de Dina Lowy

Last year Dina Lowy was a student of Eleanor Josset at Edgemont HS in Scarsdale, NY. Her scholarship was awarded by the French Cultural Services.

"Les dix jours que j'ai passés en Avignon cet été, étaient très, très passionnants. J'ai rencontré beaucoup de personnes qui étaient très intéressantes. Dans notre groupe de soixante étudiants, il y avait des personnes venant d'Italie, d'Allemagne, des Etats-Unis, de Belgique, du Luxembourg, de Suède, d'Angleterre, du Canada . . .

Nous avons habité dans une école primaire très bien située. Pendant la journée, nous avons eu du temps libre. Il y avait beaucoup de choses à faire. Nous avons trouvé une piscine olympique et nous sommes allés nager quatre ou cinq fois.

A cause du festival, il y avait beaucoup

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de divertissements dans les rues, donc nous nous sommes bien amusés en faisant des promenades. Pendant l'après-midi il y avait des ateliers. J'ai fait un atelier de danse. Il y avait aussi des ateliers de musique, de théâtre, d'Avignon . . . Si on voulait, il y avait des spectacles pendant la journée aussi.

Mais c'était le soir que tout le monde est allé aux spectacles. J'ai vu Shakespeare, un opéra, deux ballets, deux drames, et un concert de jazz. Nous avons eu l'occasion de parler avec quelques acteurs. L'atmosphère, en général, était très joyeuse et sympathique.

Maintenant, j'ai beaucoup de bons souvenirs et beaucoup de nouvelles amitiés. L'expérience était très salutaire et très amusante."

Dina Lowy

Lettre de Amy J. Strassler

Amy Strassler, attending Northwest HS in Philadelphia, PA, where her sponsor was Sylvia Schenfeld, accepted a scholarship from the French Cultural Services.

"Le temps que j'ai passé en Avignon aux Rencontres Internationales des Jeunes était très mémorable. J'ai rencontré des jeunes venant de beaucoup de pays, par exemple, l'Allemagne, l'Angleterre, le Canada, l'Egypte et la Suède. Aussi, j'ai appris beaucoup au sujet du théâtre. Pendant le jour on a offert des 'ateliers' sur des aspects différents du festival. J'ai choisi l'atelier de danse qui était très amusant et intéressant. Le soir nous avons assisté aux spectacles du festival et du 'OFF.' (Il y avait beaucoup de spectacles du 'OFF' qui ne faisaient pas partie du festival, mais ils étaient très bien joués.) Henry IV de Shakespeare, un spectacle de danse appelé 'Hymen,' et un concert de jazz avec Jon Hendricks étaient mes favoris. Des rencontres avec les acteurs, les actrices, et le directeur du festival ont ajouté beaucoup aux spectacles.

Lettre de Amy J. Strassler

Pendant mon séjour en Avignon j'ai découvert beaucoup de la ville et de la Provence. Le 14 juillet nous avons visité les belles villes de Roussillon, Gordes et Fontaine de Vaucluse. Il y avait les feux d'artifice et la danse au soir et je me suis bien amusée. Les autres jours je suis allée à la piscine olympique qui se trouvait près de la ville, j'ai regardé les artistes qui jouaient dans les rues, j'ai visité le Palais des Papes, le jardin près de là et bien sûr les magasins!

Je n'oublierai jamais mes vacances au festival d'Avignon, les personnes que j'ai rencontrées, les lieux que j'ai vu et les choses que j'ai apprises."

Amy J. Strassler

Lettre de Luanne Ducett

Luanne Ducett is a student of Nicole Hamilton, Thornton Township HS in Harvey, IL. Her scholarship was provided through the French Cultural Services.

"My name is Luanne Ducett, and I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship to spend the summer in Avignon, France. The Société Honoraire de Français and the French Cultural Services awarded me the scholarship which allowed me to spend eighteen days in a youth center in the city of Avignon. The trip was especially nice due to the fact that I was able to travel with another girl, Shivani Mehta, throughout the entire voyage.

The trip began with a seven day stop in Paris which Shivani and I were able to arrange. We stayed in a hotel for youths, and we saw many of the famous sights. We had the luck to be in Paris on Bastille Day. On the French Independence Day, as on our own Fourth of July, the entire city was bubbling with excitement. The excitement climaxed during the magnificent fireworks which we viewed from under the Eiffel Tower. While in Paris, I became well acquainted

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with the French language, the Métro, and the French customs. After staying in Paris for seven, unfortunately rainy, days, we were more than ready to travel to the sunny South.

After riding on the efficient, modern TGV train, we arrived, at last, in Avignon which is located on the Rhone River, about fifty miles northeast of Marseille. At the center, we found that we were the only two Americans. Among the others at the center, there were two North Africans and other teens from every part of France. The better part of our stay at the center was spent exchanging information and ideas with the others. Not only did this increase our knowledge of the language, but also we gained a fuller understanding of the culture of the youth in France. This is something which no classroom text book can convey. At the center, we attended nightly dramatic performances which were given in the town. In Avignon, there is an annual festival in which scores of dances, plays, and theatrical shows are performed by artists from all parts of France and Europe. I was able to attend two marvelous and unusual dances, a marionette show, and an intriguing Japanese expressive dance show. The shows were not the sole type of entertainment at the center. We also had daily organized excursions. The most memorable of these trips were our voyages into the nearby mountains. We were able to visit a medieval village called Les Baux, and a captivating chateau on a magnificent hill. Shivani and I were also able to organize an unforgettable camping and hiking trip on the beautiful Mt. Ventoux. The days spent in the South of France, and the friendships created there will be cherished by me for the rest of my life. I cannot begin to explain how this experience has helped me grow and develop as a more understanding and wiser person. The benefits of taking a voyage like this one while one is still young are many.

I am very fortunate to have been able to come in contact with the French culture through this experience. I hope to be able to increase the awareness and understanding

Lettre de Luanne Ducett

of others about the French and their ways of life at every chance I get. I am truly grateful to everyone who, through their dedicated support to international education, have made my experience in France possible."

Luanne Ducett

Lettre de Nancy A. Sheliga

Last year Nancy Sheliga was a student of Carol Leshock at Greensburg-Salem HS, PA. French Cultural Services provided the scholarship.

"Cet été, grâce à la générosité de la Société Honoraire de Français et des Services du Conseiller Culturel de France, j'ai eu l'occasion de participer aux Rencontres Internationales de Jeunes à Avignon, France. Il y avait soixante étudiants de quinze pays différents dans ce programme. Nous avons passé neuf jours à Avignon pendant le festival d'Avignon. Nous avons assisté à des pièces de théâtre, des opéras, et des spectacles de danse. Tout le monde a vu la pièce de théâtre Henri IV et l'opéra 'L'écharpe rouge.' Nous devions choisir entre cinq autres spectacles. J'ai choisi 'Hymen,' un spectacle de danse, et 'Ani Mamin,' une pièce de théâtre. Chaque jour, sous la direction d'un animateur, nous participions dans un atelier. Nous pouvions choisir entre six ateliers: l'atelier de danse, l'atelier de musique, et la découverte d'Avignon, par exemple. Le 14 juillet, tout le monde a fait une excursion à La Fontaine de Vaucluse, à Gordes, un village typique de Provence, et à Rousillon. Le soir, nous sommes allés à une grande assemblée publique: une célébration pour l'anniversaire de la Bastille. Nous avons aussi beaucoup de temps libre. Pendant ce temps nous voyions des attractions touristiques, par exemple, le Palais des Papes et le Pont St Bénézet. Nous sommes allés à la piscine publique et avons fait des

Lettre de Nancy A. Sheliga

achats. Je n'oublierai jamais mon séjour
à Avignon. Merci mille fois!

Nancy A. Sheliga

Volunteer Work in France

(The editor shares this information, gleaned
from a recent issue of Marie France, with
SHF sponsors and students.)

Some of you who are a bit weary of organized
student tours to France may want to investigate
taking students to do volunteer work.

Each summer hundreds of boys and girls from
13 to 18 participate in the reconstruction
and refurbishing of national historical
treasures which have felt the effect of time,
pollution, etc. The jobs vary greatly: con-
structing a wall, recovering a roof, weeding
forest paths, digging, kitchen duties, etc.

These are not the 'colonies de vacances'
with which most of us are familiar. Young
people from 13-18 work five hours daily;
18 and over work six hours. Once the work
is done there are visits into the surrounding
areas.

Most of the programs accept foreigners,
according to the article. The minimum stay
is two weeks. Lodging is usually free but,
in addition to the travel, one must have
available 15 to 30 F per day for food. The
registration fees are usually 100-200 francs.

I encourage you to write for information
about the various programs, each quite dif-
ferent. Please investigate thoroughly any
program before reaching a decision. Be
certain that medical insurance is provided.
And don't forget that this is volunteer work,
which means that if things don't go as you
wish, you can turn in your shovel!

Choose your work area carefully. Some
are isolated, others more or less specialized
in certain periods (some also come and go
quickly once the work is completed).

Volunteer work in France

Here are the addresses:

--Alpes de lumière, rue Saunerie, Saint-
Michel-1'Observatoire, 04300 Forcalquier.
Minimum age is 18. Restores old houses
in Haute-Provence.

--Le Moulin des Apprentis, 23220 Bonnot.
Tel. (55) 62.10.05. Minimum age is 15.
Restores old mills in the Creuse area.

--Le Club du Vieux Manoir, 10, rue de la
Cossonnerie, 75001 Paris. Tel. 508.80.40.
From age 13, castles in Dordogne, Gers,
and Lot.

--Union Rempart, 1, rue des Guillemites,
75004 Paris. Tel. 271.96.55. Minimum
age is 16. In charge of many interesting
workfield in Bourgoigne.

--Chantiers d'études médiévales, 8, ave-
nue de la Forêt-Noire, 67000 Strasbourg.
Tel. (88) 61.03.56. Minimum age is 16.
Restores castles in Alsace and Provence.

--La Caisse nationale des monuments his-
toriques, Hôtel Sully, 62, rue Saint-An-
toine, 75004 Paris. Tel. 277.59.20. Can
furnish valuable information on various
digs going on in France.

Scholarships for 1985

Applications for 1985 will probably reach
you in late March. I usually try to allow
2-3 weeks time for completion and return,
but sometimes the U.S. mail helps little.
You can, however, start the preparation
earlier. Each file will contain:

1. a transcript (get one ready at the end
of the first semester)
2. a student composition concentrating
on his/her desire to visit a French-
speaking country and what he/she intends
to draw from this opportunity
3. two letters of recommendation (you
may ask the non-SHF sponsor for one soon)
4. the application must be completed at
competition time

Creative Writing Contest

Are your students ready for the Creative Writing Contest this year? We shall again offer five prizes, starting with a twenty-five dollar cash award for the first-place winner.

If you submit pictures/drawings, please be certain they are done in black ink. I think I shall be able to reduce them in size to fit into the newsletter if you submit on standard sized paper.

Limit compositions to 200 words, please.

Observe the following rules:

1. Entries must be submitted by the chapter sponsor.
2. A sponsor may submit a maximum of three (3) entries for his chapter, but only one entry per student.
3. Mark all entries clearly with name of student, high school, city, and state. Also, please indicate the level of French in which the SHF student is currently enrolled.
4. Please send copies since I cannot return entries to you.
5. Prizes may also be distributed to individuals submitting original works of art, provided the conditions stated above are met.
6. Deadline for all entries is:

February 15, 1985
(postmarked)
7. Please send entries to the Executive Secretary who, along with the SHF President, will decide the winners.

Dr. Stephen Foster, Ex. Sec., SHF
Dept. of Foreign Lang. & Lit.
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23508

AND GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!

New Chapters Since July 1984

- Dublin HS (1627)
Dublin, OH, Denise Chenevey Curtin
Academy of the Holy Cross (1648)
Kensington, MD, Sr. Jeanne Buisson, CSC
Southwest Miami Sr. HS (1649)
Miami, FL, Teresita G. Rodriguez
Burlington Community HS (1650)
Burlington, IA, Stephen Aspleaf
Bear Creek HS (1651)
Denver, CO, Joanne Lawrence
Lely HS (1652)
Naples, FL, M. Assaad
Lynnfield HS (1653)
Lynnfield, MA, Edward Fuller
John S. Davidson Fine Arts School (1654)
Augusta, GA, Michele Edelsberg
South San Antonio HS-West Campus (1656)
San Antonio, TX, Donna Sager
Comsewogue HS (1657)
Port Jefferson Station, NY, Ann Henry
Walsingham Academy (1660)
Williamsburg, VA, Sr. Susan Myslinski
West Caldwell HS (1662)
Lenoir, NC, Judith G. Simmons
Simon Kenton HS (1663)
Independence, KY, Jacqueline Cain

New Column for Sponsors

At the Chicago meeting, a number of sponsors expressed a desire for communication among chapters at the regional level.

If you have activities planned for your area and wish to share them with other SHF sponsors, please let the editor know and they'll be put into this new column.

"Le Congrès de la culture française en Floride will take place March 21, 22 and 23 in Orlando, Florida.

If you have not yet received your materials, please contact:

Pearl Chiari
North Miami Beach Sr. HS
1247 Charger Drive
North Miami Beach, FL 33162"