Chers collègues...

Bonne Année!

In the French tradition, this winter holiday Cocorico issue is being sent in January to wish you a year of Health, Prosperity and Peace.

If your school district is like many, teachers are being asked to do more with less. You may have more preps, more meetings, larger classes, less free time... simply put, you are spread thin. What to do?! Be sure to take care of yourself - make time for fitness, proper nutrition and adequate sleep! When you are healthy and energized, you can enjoy your family, friends and students to the fullest!

Whether you are new to teaching or a veteran educator, your financial stability is important. Have you set aside some of your hard-earned income in a 403(b)? A savings account? A Powerball ticket? Continue to invest in your retirement!

But don't forget to enjoy yourself along the way! How do YOU prefer to spend your leisure time? Yoga? Reading? Cooking? Travel? Whatever you do, you can choose freely and without judgement. Others around the world are not as fortunate. Let's continue our work as language educators to promote cultural understanding and acceptance. Peace on Earth, Good Will to All in 2016 and beyond...

All the best...
Robin Brown
President, AATF of CNY
The tragic events of November 13th in Paris have touched many of us in a multitude of ways. In response to these events, French teachers around CNY spent time in class and after school discussing the attacks on the city of Paris and creating different displays of support and love for the French. Thanks to all of you for sharing with the readership what you had done in class.

**Clinton Community College**

In class, I used quite a few songs in our discussion of the events. We listened the songs “Hymne à l'amour”, “J'ai Vu”, and “Quand les Hommes Vivront d'Amour” and discussed their connections to the attacks on November 13th. I am also thinking of creating a blog for this.

-David Graham

**Westhill High School**

The Student Council and French Club collaborated to create a space where everyone could write kind messages (in any language!). I also took pictures of each of my classes. We hung them on our wall and we also sent the photos and our messages of support directly to Président Hollande at the Élysée Palace.

-Nancy Amerault

**Chittenango Middle School**

We took time in class to discuss the events of November 13th and the effects that they had on the French people and the rest of us throughout the world. We watched news clips of Président Hollande addressing the country and discussed how it made us feel hearing those words. We also created posters showing out support for the French people that we hung in a display in the atrium of our school. Finally, as a class, we composed a letter that was sent to a high school in France along with some of the posters of support that the students created.

-Paul Zimmerman
South Jefferson

Following the Paris events of that fateful Friday the 13th and students' interest and questions, we at South Jeff worked on a variety of activities at the French 3 and 4/5 levels. As French 4 students had been interpreting newspaper/magazine headlines, it was only fitting for them to look at some francophone publications highlighting events in Paris, but also in Beirut. Along the same line, we also viewed and commented on compelling drawings, cartoons, “dessins de presse” as well as photos of monuments from around the world, covered in “bleu, blanc, rouge”. Students were impressed with the overwhelming show of support from the international community, especially on social networks, where some of our young adults spend half of their lives... As a reading exercise, students read an excellent article from 1jour1actu where the language is geared towards young French children; they could understand it, and their task was to develop questions to ask one another. We also watched and discussed the video of the very young child trying to make sense of the tragedy, in front of a memorial to the victims. Students were moved by the sensitive way both the boy’s father and the interviewing journalist approached this difficult topic with such a young child, and were proud to understand the whole exchange, as we watched the video without subtitles. On a day when we do a lot of cultural activities, including “la chanson de la semaine”, the pick of the week had to be the rendition of “L'hymne à l'amour”, performed by Céline Dion at the American Music Awards: students watched with awe (some said it gave them goose bumps) and wrote amazing commentaries on their “fiches”, including how interesting it was that many in the audience were moved to tears even if they (probably) didn’t understand the lyrics of the song. They also appreciated all the famous Paris monuments and photos honoring the victims that were projected in the background during the song.

Two students from French 3, Anna Docteur and Matthew Smith, designed a bulletin board using many of the visuals mentioned above: as their teacher, I provided the images, and the rest was entirely their creation, from start to finish (see pictures). I felt that they captured the reactions of all of us, Parisians and supporters from the whole international community, in a simple and beautiful way.

-Françoise Piron

Chittenango High School

French students at Chittenango High School chose to create messages of hope and peace to express solidarity with France during a difficult time. Nous sommes Paris.

-Jolene Bennett & Sarah Schiralli
French Fun at Mexico HS

by Kimberley Harter

The French Club and SHF at Mexico High School have been very active this fall! The Société d'Honneur Française planted mums and tulips in the front of the high school and sponsored their annual Evening of Art. The SHF worked with the French Club in packing bags for Operation Reindeer. The students are encouraged by Mme Harter to do community service, so the students have been very busy, giving back to the community.

Also, for Noël, the students planted wheat for La Fête de Ste. Barbe and put out our shoes for La Fête de St. Nicolas. It has been a very busy and rewarding fall for this group of students!

Nous Sommes Paris Cont.

Chenango Valley Schools

We recently did a collaborative project with a 3rd and 4th grade class in our district regarding the attacks in Paris. We spoke about the events that happened in Paris, but we focused on the positive reaction that we can have as world citizens. The little kids loved working with the “big kids” and my seniors absolutely loved being role-models to these kids. The elementary children wrote messages of empathy, friendship, and healing in English and with the help of the French students, it was translated into French. It was a highly successful event!

-Amber Henyan
The Lass of Ha Ha Bay
by: Wether Leigh Kinsolving

Of late we came to Saint Alphonse
On lovely Ha Ha Bay;
I never saw the spot but once,
Nor deep, dark Saguenay.

Yet many tours thro many climes
Have never left a mark
More pleasing unto me at times
Than Saguenay, the dark.

The air is fine, the bay is wide,
A horse-shoe curve outspread,
Which mountains rim on every side,
While clouds float over head.

Enrapt, the soul in romance dwells,
One drifts on dreamy seas,
And fairy fancies cast their spells
On all the vision sees.

O happy little Saint Alphonse!
I loved thee on this stay;
Perhaps again we shall ensconce
Ourselves on Ha Ha Bay.

Dear children are your choicest charm,
The boys and girls who shout
And play, whose hearts beat, free, and warm,
Exempt from care and doubt.

Their church within the village set,
Like jewel-treasure rare,
Doth ward their souls from carping free
And lift the load of care.

The maidens sweet and village youths
Come hither oft, and find
That peace of God, that best of truths
Which calms the heart and mind.

And we – we came to Saint Alphonse
Just at the time to read
A poem of life that’s writ but once;
And it is sweet indeed!

Behold a maiden and a man!
The damsel young and fair;
The gallant, lithe, with coat of tan:
And speech that’s chaste and rare.

Win out, my friend and claim the lass!
Whose sires were French and Scotch;
Where fleur-de-lys and heather mass
Their petals! Knights, keep watch!

We saw her blush of joy for you;
Her smile of gladness sweet
At your return, her glance so true,
From blue eyes, when you’d meet.

The lad in Cornwall had his birth
The lass at Ha Ha Bay.
Her music filled his soul with mirth,
On many a winter day.

At convent in Quebec, by nuns
Taught music’s wondrous charms,
From ivory keys at Saint Alphonse
She draws its soothing balms.

The glorious views of mount and vale.
The zephyrs fraught with health,
Give to her cheeks a hearty, hale,
Increase of beauty’s wealth.

Give to her eyes their azure hue,
Give to her hair the gold,
Sing in her heart the message true
Of love as yet untold.

Luck to you, Lass of Ha Ha Bay!
Love, joy and peace to you!
And should you with the lad away,
Good angels tend you two!

from: The River of Thought & Other Verses
- c. 1914 (the year the lad and lass married!)
- Composed while staying at the McLean Hotel, (owned by the lass’s family), in Saint Alphonse on Ha Ha Bay. They, Jeanne McLean & Robert Carr, later moved to Fulton, NY.
- As shared with me by their grandson, Roy Carr.
- Submitted by Chris Kimball-Kelly, AATF Philadelphia
The Real Life Story and Inspiration for

The Lass of Ha Ha Bay

By Chris Kimball-Kelly, AATF Philadelphia

It really is a small world. Believe it or not, this couple about whom the poem was written has ties to Central New York. I started my teaching career in Solvay, NY, at Hazard St. Middle School. One of my former colleagues, Roy Carr, has family in French-speaking Canada, but I couldn’t remember where. I sent him an email, telling him I would be attending the AATF National Conference in the Lac-Saint-Jean/Saguenay/Chicoutimi area of Québec, and asked where his relatives were from. Of course the answer came back with Lac-Saint-Jean/Chicoutimi!

He then forwarded the poem to me, written about his grandparents by an Episcopalian Priest from Virginia who was staying at the renowned hotel of the time, Hotel McLean, in Bagotville, St. Alphonse, looking down on Ha Ha Bay. He was witness to the courtship and recorded it for us to enjoy 101 years later. Roy’s grandmother’s family owned the hotel which later burned down in the 1920s and is now the site of McLean Park. He said it’s called Ha Ha Bay because when they were looking for the Northwest Passage, they thought they had found it until they realized it was a bay. Ha ha!

There was no secondary school at that time, so his grandmother went to a convent school in Québec City for what we would consider high school. She left in the fall and could not return until spring. There was no road to Chicoutimi and she traveled by boat down the Saguenay Fjord to the St. Lawrence.

His grandfather traveled to get lumber contracts for pulp for Armstrong. At times the train would drop him off in the forest on the way to Chicoutimi and he would hike into the logging camps, hunt for deer, moose, etc. for the loggers and get contracts signed. He stayed at the McLean Hotel when in the area.

What a world they lived in!

Once married, Roy’s grandfather brought his new bride home to Fulton, NY, where they raised their family. She spoke not a word of English when she arrived.

Many thanks to Roy Carr for sharing this poem and family history with me. It made the trip even more special than it already was. If you’ve never traveled to the area before, I highly recommend it. The poet truly captured the natural beauty of the Saguenay region, so named in 2002 when the cities of Chicoutimi de la Baie and Jonquière merged.

Thanks also to the AATF of Central New York for allowing me to contribute to your newsletter. I was born and raised in the Syracuse area, and it still holds a special place in my heart. Even though I moved out of state nearly 20 years ago, to Philly, then Los Angeles, and back to Philly again, I miss my family and life-long friends, and yes, the snow!
Opportunity for French Clubs to Connect to Haiti

by Georgette Schmidt

French Teachers, French Clubs and National French Honor Societies are invited to support the education of students in Paulette, a village in North East Haiti. Funds are needed to provide tuition for 100 children in Paulette to attend primary school. Funds are also needed to treat the school children for worms and anemia at the yearly mobile clinic. If you or your students would like to help, the following sponsorships are needed:

$26 per student per year for State Primary School (50 students)
$82 per student per year for Baptist Primary School (50 students)
$13 per student for treatment at mobile medical clinic (300 students)

In addition, the roof at the Baptist Primary School is leaking and has to be repaired. Donations are also needed for this. Several classrooms cannot be used because of the leaks.

Thank you for your generous support in the past and please consider helping once again. Please contact Georgette Schmidt for more information, if needed, at gschmidt@twcny.rr.com. No amount is too small to donate. (or too large of course)

Donations may be made payable to “Park Central Presbyterian Church” with “Haiti FEED” written in the memo line on the check.

Checks may be sent to:

Financial Officer Ken Sharkey
Park Central Presbyterian Church
Haiti Educational Partnership
504 East Fayette St.
Syracuse, NY 13202
AATF - Le Grand Concours - 2016

Le Grand Concours – The year of Change!

There is still time to order your exams!!!!

1. Teachers will order their Contest materials directly from National-standard National price, no chapter fee this year. The estimated cost per student for members is $3.50, and for non-members $7.00- cost same for paper and pencil testing and on-line testing. AATF membership must be confirmed at time of order to receive member pricing.

2. For the on-line testing, any device that can access the internet can be used for testing: computers, tablets, and even phones. Students will be required to have headphones or earbuds for the listening comprehension portion of the Contest.
   A. On-line testing available until February 19, 2016.

3. Here is on-line registration form. Teachers may complete and submit this form, an invoice will be sent via email reflecting order.
   A. Payment may be made by check or credit card. Information will be sent with invoice.
   B. Payment may be sent after the deadlines listed above. Paper and pencil test materials and on-line access codes will NOT be sent until payment in full has been received.
   C. Please review our Policies carefully.

4. Advantages of on-line testing:
   - Lower cost (since CDs are not required and shipping and handling changes are eliminated).
   - Teachers may proctor their own students (since students will be using earbuds or headphones).
   - Multiple levels may test at the same time, in the same room.
   - Answers to questions are randomized, so it will not be necessary to test all students in a level at the same time.
   - Immediate access to scores- as soon as students are finished testing, they will know how many points they earned.
   - Receive two years of past Contests on-line for practice purposes.

5. You CAN give the exam in 2 sections- listening section day one and grammar/reading section day two.

The National French Contest will be during a date range because of the on-line testing:
Monday, March 7, - Friday, March 11, 2016.

The FLES contest dates will be February 14 – 28, 2016.

The website to order will be a link on our CNY AATF website: www.aatfcny.org
Contact me with any questions: millereed@hotmail.com
Review of Québécois Literature

by Ken McCluskey

L'Homme de Partout & Les Nombrils

Friday night comes and we know we should be doing something even just a bit intellectual but not that intellectual. After all, it IS Friday night and it has been a long week. Maybe we ought to read a little French but just a little French….not Proust nor anything that scholarly.

Might I suggest then that L'homme de Partout might be the book you want to spend a Friday evening with. It's a novel more filled with potato chips than madeleines.

Camille Bouchard's novel is the story of an author. Fifty-five year old Charles Bissonnette, is the winner of the Prix de Gouverneur général du Canada, for his book L'Homme de Partout which is a description of his own life. As a teenager, Bissonnette left his hometown and his country (Canada), to become a man wandering the world. He became a man from nowhere and from everywhere.

Bissonnette unwillingly returns to his hometown, on the Cote Nord of Québec, to take part in a book fair where his appearance has been arranged by his literary agent. His agent reminds him of the importance of his appearance at the book fair for the publicity it will bring to his career.

Avoiding people who resemble anyone he might have once known, he finds that the book fair has been arranged by the girl, now woman, Clara LaPorte, whom he abandoned when he left the Cote Nord all those years ago.

He is joined at the book fair by Magdalena, a thirty year old, author of a widely popular series of teenage fantasy novels and an older, sober historian, Hervé Latulippe.

The relationship between Bisonnette, Clara, her teenager daughter, Casandra and his co-presenter Magadelena in the cold winter of the Cote Nord drives the book. There are enough twists and turns to move the book above the typical romantic potboiler and far enough above that it will not cause any self-recrimination that you’re wasting time. After all, you are reading French.

On the other hand, if you do want to completely waste an evening, might I suggest any volume of Les Nombrils.

Les Nombrils is a series of bandes dessinées produced by the husband and wife team of Maryse Dubuc and Marc Delafontaine. The series has won numerous awards and has, at the moment, produced five volumes with undoubtedly more to come.

The “heroines” are Vicki and Jenny, two teenagers who consider themselves the sexpots of their high school, and their foil, Karine, best known by her brother’s description of her as cure dent.
Vicki and Jenny attempt, by any perverse means, to keep Karine away from any boy who might want to date her, especially Dan. Meanwhile, they happily pursue John-John because he has a motorcycle and is super-cool.

Yes, it is mindless, but after all, it’s Friday night and we are learning some teenage Québecoise vocabulary. And, besides, it’s a fun read.

By the way, I absolve myself of any blame if these teenagers happen remind you of your own students.

*L’Homme de Partout*
Camille Bouchard
l’Hexagone
19.95$ Canadian

*Les Nombrils*
Delaf & Dubuc
Dupuis
17.95$ Canadian

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**Like us on Facebook - AATF of CNY**

Be our 50th like and win admission to the next AATF of CNY conference!

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**AATF of CNY Annual Scholarship**

The annual scholarship will be awarded again in 2016!
Information has been sent out, if you did not receive it, contact Paul Zimmerman: pzimmerman@chittenangoschools.org
Applications will be due April 1st.

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Scan this QR code to check out our website!
Visages:

As many of you know, we like to feature members in this newsletter to introduce them and to highlight their accomplishments to our members. In this issue, we introduce to you a new AATF Member, Cindy Elliott.

Cindy Elliott has taught at Rome Free Academy – Rome City School District for 3 years. Cindy is the youngest of four children in her family. She has a BA in French & Adolescent Education from Marist College and is currently pursuing her MS in TESOL at LeMoyne College. She is the recipient of the Madame Francoise B. Gregg Scholarship, Marist College 2011 & 2012 and also the recipient of the Annual Conference Scholarship, NYSAFLT 2014 & 2015.

Her favorite part of teaching is working with students and watching them progress. A French exchange student in her class was recently recognized in our local newspaper for her reaction to the Paris attacks. The student is from Paris, and shared her insights with our French class and our school in regards to the attacks. She also organized with other international students to hold a respect ceremony to honor the victims of the attacks.

Here is a link to the story of that student: http://romesentinel.com/education/attack-fails-to-dampen-enthusiasm-of-french-student-at-rfa/QBqole!8jrl7ymtU@npz8ULStejNA/

Here are some of her favorites…

French food: Any kind of cheese!
French music: Currently I am enjoying Celine Dion.
French quote: Chacun à son gout.

And she says that no one would guess that “On the weekends, I teach yoga!”

If you have someone that you think that we should feature in the upcoming issues of Le Cocorico, please let us know! E-mail me at pzimmerman@chittenangoschools.org.
Calendar of Events

February 6, 2016  
LLL-LECNY Conference  
Goldstein Auditorium at Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY

February 14-28, 2016  
FLES Contest Dates

March 5, 2016  
NYSAFLT Spring Conference  
Nazareth College  
Rochester, NY

Addressing the Language Needs of a Changing World: Preparing our Teachers, Preparing our Students

March 7-11, 2016  
Grand Concours Dates

March 11, 2016  
French Night at the Crunch (See flyer below)  
OnCenter War Memorial  
Syracuse, NY

April 16, 2016  
AATF of CNY Spring Workshop  
Onondaga Free Library  
Syracuse, NY

La Voix Maghrébine

August 2-5, 2016  
NYSAFLT Summer Institute  
SUNY Oneonta  
Oneonta, NY

October, 21-22  
NYSAFLT Annual Conference  
Holiday Inn  
Liverpool, NY

Learning Without Limits: Connecting the World with Languages
FRENCH NIGHT
AT THE SYRACUSE CRUNCH

FRIDAY, MARCH 11th
VS. BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS
WAR MEMORIAL ARENA 7:00 P.M.

TICKETS ONLY $15
(a savings of $11 per ticket)

To order tickets:
Complete this form WITH payment attached and return to your French teacher by Friday, February 26th
*French teacher: Contact Jonathan Smaldon with the Crunch 315-473-5444 ext. 20
with your final number of tickets needed for your class!*

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________
French Teacher Name: ____________________________________________ School Name: ____________________________________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: ___________________________

Number of tickets: ________ @ $15 = __________________________
Payment Method: CASH CREDIT CHECK (payable to Syracuse Crunch)
Card Number __________________________ Exp: _______/_______ Sec Code: _______
Looking to improve your French next summer? To renew your lesson plans? To better inform your students about France today, especially in light of November’s tragic events? Join The French Traveler and like-minded colleagues in our 12-day immersion program in France’s dynamic southwestern city of Toulouse from July 16-27, 2016. Our morning seminars and afternoon excursions will give you a renewed understanding of France’s burning issues of the day and a heightened pleasure of teaching the French language; conversations with teaching colleagues who hail from all over the US are sure to enrich your lesson plans. Seminar subjects reflect the themes taught in the advanced levels of French; leisure time and optional excursions expand your knowledge of the country and language you teach. Details, itinerary, cost, and testimonials at www.frenchtraveler.com.

Dates: July 16-27, 2016; based in Toulouse. Our 18th consecutive year!

Contact Valerie Sutter at:
The French Traveler, Inc.
1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd #346
Coral Gables FL 33134  Tel: 941 544 6777
E: trips@frenchtraveler.com  www.frenchtraveler.com

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“Tours in French” Just call to arrange!
Engage your students and keep them interested in every class with contemporary French songs, music videos and exciting exercises. The musical legacy of American singer, Carole Fredericks and the French trio, Fredericks Goldman Jones, provide a wealth of pedagogical possibilities. Originally intended to entertain, their songs and music videos were transformed into powerful classroom teaching tools by veteran teachers. Select the Teacher’s Book that is right for your class: Elementary to Middle School or High School (including AP and Honors) to University. Each Teacher’s Book contains: reproducible activities, 1 CD or DVD, easy to understand instructions, classroom tested exercises for each song and video, vocabulary, grammar, assessment strategies, lyrics, and answer key. Great music! Jean-Jacques Goldman’s original lyrics! Culturally rich music videos and the legacy of an American in Paris.