





**Americans in Toulouse
Newsletter**

for English-speaking ex-pats
living and sharing the
good life in Toulouse, France

February 2007

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School winter vacation starts Saturday 10th and first day back is Monday 26th



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi there,

This month we have a very special treat in store – our **ANNUAL ST VALENTINES GALA EVENING** to be held on Saturday, 10th of February in a great new venue – the ECURIES DE LA TOUR, between Mondonville and Montaigut sur Save. This place is really well chosen for those of you who live in the west of Toulouse. It will be a lot of fun – it is open to your friends and neighbours and we are offering a choice of tables to choose from (including tables for teens and singles). Please help us to make this a great success by coming yourselves and bringing guests.

See further details in this newsletter.

A word about our forum, which is very popular and we enclose clear instructions for use, in this newsletter. Get on to the forum – you will be surprised at the wealth of information and offers there are for members of our club!

For those of you who are looking for regular events don't forget our walking discovery tours, the book club, the kids club. If you have free time on your hands we would love you to organise a monthly lunch and cinema get together. You may know that there are three cinemas in and around Toulouse that regularly show original soundtrack movies. Let's take advantage of a film in English to meet for a light lunch beforehand! Any volunteers out there?

Talking about volunteers, we are planning our next Annual General Meeting for Friday, March the 23rd. On that date we will be able to take on new board members and I extend a warm invitation to contact me personally if you think you have the time and enthusiasm to join our Board and have fun while assisting to organise our events. We will soon send out an invitation to join the Board – just send us a positive reply and we will invite you to an information briefing. Welcome to the Board!

We hope you find this newsletter interesting. I wish you safe and happy holidays if you are lucky enough to be travelling in February.

I look forward to seeing you at the St Valentine Gala evening!

Mary Rix-Miller

Your AIT ambassador is looking forward to meeting you!

If you have just arrived or If you would like to meet other AIT members In your area of Toulouse or the Midi-Pyrenees region, we invite you to contact your nearest AIT ambassador.

He or she will invite you to the next gathering of new and established members close to you so you will find a friendly smile and support right in your neighbourhood! At these meetings you will get to know more about what AIT offers you and find people you can share activities with.

List of Ambassadors:

Francoise DE DONDER
05 62 20 90 84 franchalon@free.fr
L"ISLE JOURDAIN-LEGUEVIN-PIBRAC

Ellen CASHMAN
05 61 59 04 47 mjcejc@wanadoo.fr
AUSSONNE-CORNEBARRIEU

Susan COUGHLIN
05 61 29 88 79 scoughlin@ix.netcom.com
TOULOUSE CENTRE

Esmeralda BOLLANSEE
05 61 83 06 09 esmebol@hotmail.com
ST ORENS-QUINT FONSEGRIVES-ALBI

Natala SEVENANTS
06 09 34 11 92 nat.natala@wanadoo.fr
GRENADE-FRONTON-MONTAUBAN

Sharon ASHTON-SIROT
Tel 05 61 50 72 79" sjashton@hotmail.com
AUTERIVE, ST GAUDENS, PORTET, MURET

Jean-Louis & Isabelle LAMOTTE
05 61 07 22 58 ij.l.lamotte@club-internet.fr
TOURNEFEUILLE
PLAISANCE DU TOUCH

Angela Romprey
05 61 15 14 39 angela.romprey@wanadoo.fr
COLOMIERS, BLAGNAC

Welcome to our new Ambassadors Angela Romprey and Jean-Louis & Isabelle Lamotte!

For questions please contact Alan Agate at
vicepresident@americansintoulouse.com

You will also find the list of Ambassadors posted on
americansintoulouse.com

From your Editor

There's something for everyone on this month's program! On the Forum on americansintoulouse.com you can post your comments and tips on your explorations of restaurants and trips – you are also welcome to send items like that to me for inclusion in the newsletter.

Bfunch, Newsletter Editor
newsletter@americansintoulouse.com
08 70 50 20 70

AIT Babysitters

Carnavale, Anna (Colomiers)
05.61.07.67.21
Doherty, Jessica (Levignac)
05.34.52.01.41
Fels, Valentine (Tlse) - 05.61.14.23.70
Funch, Marie-Therese (Ramonville)
06 72 37 57 21
Funch, Zachery (Rmnville) 06 08 18 80 36

Member to member

"It has been shown that women who breast feed have lower incidences of breast cancer. Breast feeding has been linked to superior cognitive development in children as well. And, did you know that support for breast feeding is severely lacking in France? Most women find that they need at least support and often specific help for some of the problems they encounter in practicing breast feeding?

If interested further in this subject, a breast feeding support group will be hosted by Stacey Callahan; starting in February 2007 in the Toulouse Center (1 rue Edouard Dulaurier, 31000 Toulouse). Stacey is a psychologist and a professor at the university in Toulouse. Her main areas of research are maternal and infant health where she has done much research in the field of breastfeeding. Additionally, she has been invited to consult with local hospitals on their breast feeding programs. La Leche League (LLL France) has also asked her for help in designing and implementing studies. Stacey is an active member of the LLL. Please contact Stacey (callahan.stacey@gmail.com) who is organizing the support group, and will want to know if you wish to attend group meetings.

(Once the group is formed: To get there by metro, either Jean Jaures or Capitole stops; by bus the numbers 1, 10, 16, 24 all stop quite near the center. By car there is some parking available (limited!) in the neighborhood -- otherwise Jeanne d'Arc or Arnaud Bernard public parking is close by.)"
Forum link:
<http://www.americansintoulouse.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=852>

AIT Activities

FAMILY BOWLING

Feb 3, 11 am – 13:00 Colomiers
Please note that RSVP is needed by Jan 30th



Come join us at the bowling alley where children will also celebrate Erika Farrage's 6th birthday! If bowling isn't your "thang" there is a video game arcade and billiards for all to enjoy. And if you enjoy bowling but are bad at it (non, impossible!) you can avoid all gutter balls by asking for the kid's bumper ball ;-). Food and drinks are available at the restaurant, and of course we'll share a birthday cake! The Farrage family is inviting all children to come bowl free, adults are €6, food and drink not included. RSVP mandatory by Jan 30th, call Marla Farrage 05 34 39 14 79 or infarrage@yahoo.com

Le Trio, 29 chemin du Loudet, 31770 Colomiers, 05 34 36 42 50

SUPER BOWL XLI CELEBRATION

Feb 5, 12:30 AM, De Danu Bar, Toulouse



Come and watch Super Bowl at De Danu Irish Bar. (At night between Sunday and Monday) This event is on the initiative of John Carleton and he has arranged things with the management, so that on offer is stuff like 3 for 2 Budweisers, t-shirts, give-aways, use of the kitchen, utensils, etc... He'll be making beef chili, friends will be bringing "main" hot dishes, and he would like others to bring munchies such as veggies, dip, salsa, chips, etc. RSVP (John.Carleton@wanadoo.fr) so he can coordinate snacks.

De Danu Irish Bar, 9 rue du Pont-Guilhemery, 31000 Toulouse, 05 61 62 58 79, www.dedanu.com (Located by Canal du Midi)

ANNUAL EXPATS ST VALENTINE'S GALA EVENING

Saturday, Feb 10, 8PM, Ecuries de la Tour, Mondonville



Fabulous fun evening in a prestigious new venue. Dinner with cupid's menu and dancing with music played by professional dj. The price is 50 euros for members and 55 for non-members. This event is open to non-AIT members as well, so invite your friends and associates. Please notice that for catering purposes 'walk-ins' on the night of the event are not accepted. Payments go to Jamie Donovan, AIT Treasurer and checks can be made out to AIT or via PayPal to treasurer@americansintoulouse.com. See further info elsewhere in this newsletter.

READING GROUP

Tuesday, February 27, 11:30,
at Angela Shaw's in Toulouse



This month's book discussion will be held at Angela Shaw's house, (between Place St George and Place Wilson) in Toulouse (Tel: 05 61 23 67 88, email: AngelaS2k@cs.com). We will be talking about "The Inheritance of Loss" by Kiran Desai. "In the north-eastern Himalayas, at the foot of Mount Kanchenjunga, in a crumbling isolated house, there lives a cantankerous old judge, who wants nothing more than to retire in peace. But with the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter, Sai, and the son of his chatty cook trying to make his way in the US and stay a step ahead of the immigration services, this is far from easy. ... " Kiran Desai was born in India in 1971, and was educated in India, England and the United States. The discussion commences over coffee and continues through lunch, so please contact Angela for precise directions and to inform her about your contribution towards lunch. "The Inheritance of Loss" may be ordered by email from THE BOOKSHOP, rue Lakanal, Toulouse (bookshop.toulouse@wanadoo.fr) or from www.amazon.co.uk

SINGLES HAVE MORE FUN?!

DON'T FORGET TO RESERVE THE SINGLES TABLE AT THE SAINT VALENTINES DINE AND DANCE EVENING ON THE 10TH of FEBRUARY!

Sunday, Mar 4, 16:00, Creperie du Taur

For all of those who have difficulties to go out in the evening, this afternoon event will be a nice time to enjoy tea and a nice crêpe. See you there Natalia nat.natala@wanadoo.fr

Creperie du Taur, 75 rue du Taur, 31 000 Toulouse Tel : 05 61 23 90 19

ART WITH ELYSE

Tues, Mar 13, The Left Bank of Toulouse and the Abattoirs

On Tuesday, March 13th we will go on a tour of the new, trendy art area of Toulouse, the "left bank" which goes from the Chateau d'Eau to the Abattoirs. We'll walk through the neighborhood, visit some of the old historic buildings, see why it has become the new 'in' place to be, and end the tour at the museum of contemporary art, the Abattoirs, and its gardens. The tour may include a visit to the museum. Time and place of meeting will be announced in the March newsletter.

AUCTIONS AND HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THEM! MARCH (date TBA)

10am: We meet at the auction rooms to view items that will be on sale in the afternoon. The auctioneer will give us an explanation in English about the auctioneers job, how to evaluate and bid, as well as tips on how to walk away from an auction with a bargain!

12h00: Lunch together in a typical restaurant

2pm: Return to the auction house for the auction. You stay as long or as little as you wish. Have fun bidding for items you have selected.

Confirmation of this event will be sent to you as soon as our favourite auctioneer comes back from his holidays !

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Miscellaneous Classified Ads:

Toulouse International Church, 15 Ave de la République, 31700 Cornebarrieu 'at the end of the runway' Tel 0561850467 Pastors Andrew L Berry & Brad Reynolds (Fr Ministries) English Worship service 10.30 Sunday, French 16:30 Youth 18:30. Alpha course, Christianity Explored, Ladies & Men's Bible Study and other activities during the week

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS has a weekly English-speaking meeting on Mondays at 8 PM at the Centre Sociale, ave du Corde, L'Isle Jourdain. For more information call John and Pat 05 61 86 13 29 or Theresa (mobile) 06 18 43 37 42 (home) 05 63 26 44 48.

My name is Lyse and I am a native French speaker. Whilst I am looking for permanent employment in the area, I would love to take the opportunity to teach children French or perhaps help students with their French homework. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me on 06 23 36 58 51 or email me on lysedumesic@hotmail.com

A Word From Your Consulate...

The U.S. Consulate in Toulouse is a great resource for American citizens living in the region. Over the next few months, we will go over the most frequently asked for information and services in this column. Please keep in mind that due to our small size and limits on the State Department's mission, there are many services that we cannot provide. Fortunately, there are other resources or organizations that you can turn to in order to obtain these services. We provide notarial services to all U.S. passport holders and foreign nationals with documents for use in the United States. These services most typically include documents to be signed before a Consular officer, affidavits, acknowledgments, powers of attorney and sworn statements. If you will be married in France, we are able to notarize two documents, called a "certificat de celibat" and "certificat de coutumes," that are often required by local Mairies officiating the wedding. The same applies to the French PACS (Pacte de Solidarite Civile). Unfortunately, we are not able to help with getting a copy of your birth certificate. However, you can easily order a copy of this (and other) official state documents online at www.vitalchek.com. Similarly, for many official documents a seal known as an "apostille" is required. This is a seal that attests to the authenticity of the document as an official state record. The U.S. Embassy and Consulates are not equipped to provide apostilles on documents - this needs to be done by the agency providing the original document. For more information about apostilles, see <http://www.amb-usa.fr/consul/acs/guide/aposti.pdf> for an American document or <http://www.amb-usa.fr/consul/acs/guide/apostif.pdf> for a French one. The U.S. Consulate can process Social Security number applications, but questions relating to the procurement of federal benefits should be addressed to the Federal Benefit Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. To contact them, see <http://www.amb-usa.fr/consul/acs/fbenefits.htm>. The Consulate cannot provide translations other than for your driver's license. However, the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Toulouse maintains a list of official translators in the region. You can find their names and contact information on our website: <http://www.amb-usa.fr/toulouse/amcit/translators.pdf>. Do note that the Consulate cannot vouch for the quality of these service providers and only lists them as a resource to consult. To be continued...

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CATHOLIC MASS IN ENGLISH

English-speaking Catholics of the Toulouse area organize
Masses every two weeks, celebrated by priests from the Institut
Catholique. All Masses are at 11 A.M. at Chapelle St. Gabriel
(Le Plateau), rue Marie Curie, Blagnac. Schedule as follows:

**February 4 and February 18, 2007
March 4 and March 18, 2007
April 1, April 15, April 29, 2007
May 13 and May 27, 2007
June 10 and June 24, 2007**

For more information, contact:
Grace Leahy 06 09 51 55 35 Eileen Highley 05 62 13 71 42

Carlos Cruz's Moving Sale

Item	Price €
Set of pots/pans (8 pieces)	25
Bionare Fan w/ Remote Control (29 cm W x 29 cm L x 102 cm H)	40
Calor Artik Fan (13 cm W x 13 cm L x 36 cm H)	10
Logicom Cordless Phone (3 handsets)	50
Samsung Plasma Display Panel TV (105 cm)	900
Leather Couch / Sofa Chair / Footrest (Ivory)	1000
Metal Winerack (24 bottles)	40
DeLonghi Small Toaster Oven (37 cm W x 22 cm L x 21 cm H)	30
Senseo Coffee Maker w/ 4 Senseo containers for packets (Dark Gray)	40
Wooden Rack for Drying Dishes (31 cm W x 52 cm L x 24 cm H)	10
Brand new Miele Freetime Lagoon Vacuum Cleaner (inc. extra dustbags/filter & attachment for wood floors)	200
Brand new Philips HR 2094 Blender	50
Brand new Aluminum Tea pot	10
3-Step Metallic Stool	40
Plastic Toiletpaper Holders (x2) - Stand alone	10 each
Toolkit	25
Ironing board	30
Alcatel Telephone	10
Dream Machine Alarm Clock/Radio	15
Bedside reading lamps (x2)	10 each
Hanging Lamps (x2)	25 each
Hewlett Packard PSC 1610 Printer/Copier/Scanner	50
Lefthanded Golf Clubs (Assorted set with irons/woods/putter) / Bag	20
Foldable Laundry Drying Rack (8 "rows")	30
Floor Lamp "Metallic Look"(180 cm H) w/ 2 "moveable" lamps	30
Meister Craft "Drummel" Drill	10
High-end (TV, Computer, etc.) X-DOM Power Strip Cords (x2) (8 outlets plus protection for cable/modem, ethernet)	30 each
Hangeable Wall Mirror (40 cm x 140 cm)	30
2-mode Showerhead	10
Jalla Bed Sheet Set x2 (Available in White and Blue) - Approx. 240 cm x 250 cm	20
Black & Decker Electric Screwdriver (10 bits)	20
Calor Prima Iron	15
Extension Cord (9 meters)	5
Brita Water Filter System (includes 1 new filter)	30
Strip Cord (5 outlets)	5

- * All items are in very good condition, some are practically new
- * Please contact Carlos at carlos.cruz@lord.com or 06.71.03.62.34
- * Items can be viewed immediately (contact Carlos to schedule a viewing)
- * Items can be picked up between February 18-27 (some items can be picked up sooner)
- * A photo of each item can be emailed upon request



ANNUAL EXPATS St VALENTINES GALA EVENT 2007



Saturday 10 Feb, 8pm
Ecuries de la Tour
3 route de Toulouse
Mondonville

Come and enjoy a wonderful evening with good food and good music at this beautiful new place located just 18 km from Toulouse. We will enjoy a Valentine inspired menu with some wine and coffee included, dance music played for us by a dj in between courses and after. Tickets are 50 euros for members and 55 for non-members. You are welcome to invite friends and associates, neighbors and acquaintances as this event is not just for AIT members.

Hearts and flowers, jazz and pop – there'll be something for everyone. The dress theme is "black and white with a touch of **passionate red**" We'll be seated in groups of eight by round tables – if you have special seating preference, indicate this – singles, teens, your clan, whatever – when you make your reservation with payment.

Make sure you **RSVP** to President@americansintoulouse.com before Jan 31 and send your payment to the Treasurer by check made out to AIT: Jamie Donovan 3 rue des Arts, 31000 Toulouse.

Payment can be made by PayPal as well: treasurer@americansintoulouse.com

