



## Alliance Française de Jacksonville

Été / summer 2015

Dear members,

You may have noticed that things have been a little quiet over the past month or so – that is because we have been working full-time to find office space for AFJax. We have found rental space on San Marco Boulevard that we think is suited to AFJax and are in the final stages of negotiating our lease. This space is centrally located with easy access from I95 and I10. There is plenty of parking. We will be in easy walking distance of Bistro Aix, European Street Café and Kitchen on San Marco. We will have a large enough space to have our monthly meetings, plus a communal space for hanging out, chatting and having coffee and, depending on set up, two or three classrooms. We will be able to have a full program of events plus a structured schedule of classes. Fingers crossed everything will go smoothly and we will have a place to call home in the next few days!

We hope to open for members on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of July for a Bastille Day celebration. How wonderful to be able to celebrate this in our own offices! Please save the date and we will keep you posted.

We will need your help to get everything in place. There are some renovations to do – our first priority will be to repaint. We need a few volunteers to help with this, if you can help please email [afjax@aol.com](mailto:afjax@aol.com) with “Paint” as the subject. We expect this to be going on the second week of July, day and evening. If you have a few hours to spare please come and join us.

We also need donations of furniture and office supplies – we need desks, stacking chairs, a sofa and armchairs, dining/office tables and chairs, bookcases and a refrigerator/freezer. If you have items you can donate, please email [afjax@aol.com](mailto:afjax@aol.com) with “donation” as the subject and include a photo of the items.

This is an exciting time for AFJax – we have worked hard to get to this point and I think the future looks bright.

Board position open – our treasurer, Don Culpepper, is stepping down after having served with distinction for AFJax. Thank you for all you have done for our organization! The post of treasurer is therefore open. If you would like to serve on the board as treasurer please email [afjax@aol.com](mailto:afjax@aol.com), subject “treasurer”. This is a great way to be involved with the day-to-day running of AFJax.

Congratulations to Richard Shieldhouse who has been appointed as vice-president of the Nantes Committee of Sister Cities Association, Jacksonville. Félicitations, Richard! Richard is a longtime AFJax member and invites other members who are interested in joining the Sister Cities Association to celebrate Bastille Day with Sister Cities' members on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see upcoming events section for details.

AFJax in St Augustine – as you know, AFJax covers the First Coast from Fernandina Beach to St Augustine, here are ongoing events in St Augustine.

We have a French-speaking playgroup in St Augustine run by one of our members. This gives French-speaking families with young children the chance to meet up, speak French and visit interesting kid-friendly places on the First Coast. If you are interested in joining, or want to pass on this information to families you know, this group is organized by AFJax member Catherine de Beaumont, email [cathbeau@hotmail.com](mailto:cathbeau@hotmail.com) phone 1-443-983-0204.

There is a French-speaking lunch group that meets about every six weeks in St Augustine. If you are interested in joining please contact AFJax member Anne-Marie Laine at [anmarielaine@yahoo.com](mailto:anmarielaine@yahoo.com).

The magazine France Amerique is offering AF members a subscription rate of \$45 for a year instead of \$66. To take advantage of this offer please email [afjax@aol.com](mailto:afjax@aol.com) with the subject as “France Amerique offer” and we will send you the information. There is a code you must use when ordering to show you are a member of AFJax.

Pétanque – discussions are ongoing about creating a pétanque club in Jacksonville. Jacques Biaggini, a long-time pétanque player and teacher will run this. Please contact Jacques at [lepetancoeur@yahoo.com](mailto:lepetancoeur@yahoo.com) if you are interested playing and getting this established.

Please note that upcoming events are on the next page to facilitate printing!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,  
Sheila

## Upcoming events

July 7-14 – AFJax moves into new office space. Details will be sent out. Volunteers needed!

July 12<sup>th</sup> – The Jacksonville Sister Cities Association's Nantes Committee is pleased to host its annual Bastille Day event (or warm-up-to-Bastille-Day event) on July 12, 2015, from 3:00-6:00 at the home of Stephanie and Richard Shieldhouse. There will be music, wine, cheese, other drinks, and good company, although you are welcome to bring something to share. The event is open to all Sister Cities members and those who are interested in joining.

The Shieldhouse house is at 1468 Edgewood Circle, near the intersection of Park Street and Edgewood Avenue South.

Please RSVP to [richard@shieldhouse.com](mailto:richard@shieldhouse.com) or telephone 388-0158.

July 14<sup>th</sup> – A French movie will be shown at The Corazon Cinema in St Augustine. Details will be sent out when they become available.

July 14<sup>th</sup> – Bastille Day Celebration at the new location of AFJax. Details will be sent out. Please save the date.