



Newsletter – March 2014

**“Laissez les bons temps rouler!”
Happy Mardi Gras to all our members.**

Dear members,

March is already here and with it Mardi Gras. I thought you might like some information about this tradition. The phrase "let the good times roll" is most frequently heard during **Mardi Gras** celebrations in New Orleans, it is a Cajun expression. Cajun French, or Louisiana regional French, includes different grammatical structures and unique words not found in a more classic variety of French. The phrase "*laissez les bons temps rouler*" is not normally used in classic French. You can use one of these alternatives instead, which have similar meanings to the Cajun expression "*laissez les bons temps rouler*."

Que la fête commence! (Let's get the party started!) *Éclatons-nous!* (Let's have some fun!) To read about Mardi Gras in French please go to: <http://www.france.fr/fetes-et-festivals/mardi-gras>

AFJax would like to thank Bill Maurer for the wonderful watercolor demonstration he gave at our meeting on 3/2.

If you missed the meeting, please check out Bill and Kathleen Maurer's website at <http://maurerfineart.com>. Thank you to Susan Astleford for the great photo!

Upcoming Events

3/6 - 6.00pm Q&A meeting with Lucie Little for those interested in going to Nantes. Panera, St John's Town Center. RSVP to afjax@aol.com by 3/5

3/11 – 5.00 -7.00pm Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer café - the new spot in town for happy hour! Relax on the new patio under one of the magnificent oaks. Take in the sunset while listening to local musicians, and enjoying a beer or glass of wine, paired with artfully inspired tapas. Arvid Smith is

playing tonight. Museum entrance is free on Tuesdays. Hope to see you there!

829 Riverside Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32204

RSVP to afjax@aol.com by 3/10

3/12 - monthly lunch at JJ's Bistro de Paris, all welcome.

Where: 7643 Gate Pkwy #105, Jacksonville, FL 32256

When: 12 noon:

RSVP to the restaurant:(904) 996-7557

3/26 – 7- 8.30pm Language Learners “Bonjour et Bienvenue” – an event for all our language students. This is a chance to meet others who are learning French with AFJax and to use what you have learned. There will be language related activities and games and a language presentation. Refreshments will be served. The Hampton Inn and Suites, Beach Boulevard and Hodges.

Cost: free to AFJax language students, \$10 for other AFJax members.

RSVP to afjax@aol.com by 3/21

4/3 – 6.00pm onwards - French Happy Hour and/or dinner at The Reef, 4100 Coastal Hwy, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Conversation will be mostly in French, all welcome. RSVP to afjax@aol.com by 4/1

Hope to see you soon,

Sheila Kloc