



March 2015 Newsletter

Dear members,

AFJax has been recognized for our role in planning, participating and hosting events to celebrate 450 Years of French History in Florida. Events held by AFJax culminated in our countywide poetry contest held last year. The 2014 Regional Council Special Achievement Award was presented to the City of Jacksonville, Mayor Alvin Brown and Federal, State, Local and French Partners. Please see the photo of this award on our website.

Continuing on a historical theme, this year the link between France and the USA will be celebrated with a transatlantic voyage made by a replica of the Hermione, the ship used by LaFayette. Twenty years ago a small group lead by Jean-Louis FROT, Mayor of Rochefort, France, met and discussed the idea of reconstructing an exact replica of L'Hermione. Now it is completed - one of the most authentically built Tall Ships ever. L'Hermione will sail to the USA - bringing to life the voyage made by LaFayette in 1780 and re-affirming the historic relationship between the United States and France. You can find out all about this, watch videos, and get instructional material for students at <http://www.hermione2015.com/>. Please check out event dates and places.

AFJax now has two satellite groups, one in St Augustine and one in Amelia Island /Fernandina Beach for our members living in those areas. These groups are member led and meet for French conversation, lunch and any other activities decided by the group. Please contact Bill Maurer at w.maurer@aol.com for Amelia/Fernandina and Anne-Marie Laine at anmarielaine@yahoo.com for St Augustine.

Summer job opportunities – AFJax has been contacted by MAKWA who run adventure/vacation programs in Canada, France and the USA for teens, adults and families. They are looking for French/English-speaking group leaders. This would be a great way to practice and improve French language skills! Please pass on to anyone who might be interested <http://www.makwa.net>

I hope you will join us for our events in March and April. I am particularly pleased to announce that Dr. David Schwam-Baird, associate professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida and AFJax member, has kindly agreed to give a presentation on “Politics and Society in France”. I know we are all interested in learning more about this subject.

In April French folk group Mary-Lou is returning to Jacksonville, it will be a pleasure to meet them again and hear more of their wonderful music.

Remember the quickest way to get information on events is to go to our website www.afjacksonville.org or check out our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/alliancefrancaisdejacksonville>

Spring has come to Jacksonville and we can look forward to planning some outdoor events. If you would like to plan and host such an event please contact afjax@aol.com.

Please note we are still looking for rental space, between 1,000-1,500 sq. feet, with classroom and event space, parking and easy access. Let us know if you see something suitable!

I look forward to seeing you soon,

Sheila Kloc

Upcoming events

March 19th 6.30-8.00pm – Bar and Boules - Come join us at Ovinté wine and tapas bar. Weather permitting we will play pétanque on the bocce court outside and have drinks and snacks. Ovinté 10208 Buckhead Branch Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32246 RSVP to afjax@aol.com by March 17th

March 29th 6.00-7.30pm - Please join us for a presentation on “Politics and Society in France” by Dr. David Shwam-Baird, associate professor of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of North Florida. Aperitifs will be served. Hampton Inn and Suites 13733 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32224 RSVP to afjax@aol.com by March 25th.

April 16th – 6.30-8.00pm – Join us at JJ’s Ponte Vedra for a French folk concert by Mary-Lou plus wine and starters. Mary-Lou is a well-known folk group from Brittany, please checkout their website <http://www.mary-lou.fr/Sommaire.html> Cost \$20 per person. RSVP to afjax@aol.com by April 13th