



Le Réverbère

L'AATF de Philadelphie



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Chers collègues,

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing summer, had the opportunity to do some of the things you love most, and are now bringing that passion into your classrooms to share with your students and colleagues.

In our next newsletter, we'd like to share with our readers the **Exchange Programs** that your schools offer. Please tell us the name of the school, location of the school with whom you participate, and a description of the kinds of activities you do here and abroad. Photos would be great!

We'd also like to introduce a new page called **Interesting Finds**. Maybe you found or even created a great youtube video! Maybe you found a new website that you use in your classroom and now can't live without. Maybe you found a French related website that you know other Francophiles would also enjoy. Maybe you've discovered a new French language song or album that you think others would be interested in, or share an activity that you do with a song. You get the idea.

On a different note, while yet another terrorist attack occurred on Bastille Day in Nice, we must not let these zealots deter us from our way of life, which includes traveling to other places to learn about and experience both familiar and new cultures. We must continue to use French as *la langue d'ouverture*, a common language in which many varied cultures can share stories of their land with millions of others with open minds. We enrich and unite one another via the written word, music, food, film, and art. Knowledge deepens, understanding expands, and just maybe peace can be found amongst the many.

Wishing you joy in teaching and a successful year. Bonne Rentrée!

Chris and Edith

P.S. Many thanks to EC members Emily Wagner, Rita Davis, Dianne Goddard, and Rochelle Ostroff-Weinburg for their contributions to this issue.



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AATF Philadelphia EC chapter member and also National Vice President Rita Davis shared this about the National Conference in Austin.

During the month of July, I had the immense pleasure of attending the **Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of French**. The conference was distinguished by great innovative sessions, the willingness of the participants to share ideas and explore new frontiers, and the opportunity to discover the vibrancy of downtown Austin, Texas. Getting to make connections with the speakers at the event was a real plus.

Julien Suaudeau, a faculty member at Bryn Mawr College, opened the conference as the keynote speaker. This contemporary French novelist, author of *Dawa* (2014) and *Le Français* (2015) set the tone for the event by addressing the current state of affairs in France. He gave us a clearer understanding of identity construction and the inequalities and socio-economic realities that exist in the world and in contemporary France.

Another highlight of the conference was the session presented by our own Sister Mary Helen Kashuba entitled *Literature in a Communicative Mode*. Sister gave examples for interpretive and presentational communication based on French and Francophone authors, among them Rabelais, Voltaire, Balzac, and Senghor. Some of the techniques presented included setting up creative conversations, creating interviews with the characters, and exploring applications to present day situations.

In addition to attending many inspiring talks, I also lead a session on sharing strategies for implementing a dynamic National French week using some of the premises of project-based learning.

An annual challenge at the AATF conference is the *Dictée*, a chance to test our own writing skills. This year, Catherine Daniélou, President of the AATF, delivered a challenging text with many stumbling blocks regarding Axel Kahn's observations while hiking from Vézelay to the Puy-en Velay; here is a short excerpt: *Les phénomènes volcaniques, contrairement à l'économie libérale, n'opèrent pour leur part qu'à l'échelle locale, si bien qu'ils offrent un superbe exemple de destruction créatrice authentique dont la région du Puy-en-Velay offre un saisissant exemple. La grande cité vellave occupe un bassin d'effondrement datant du plissement alpin au tertiaire, remodelé il y a quelques millions d'années par des phénomènes volcaniques*

On the last day of the conference, Catherine Daniélou and Jayne Abrate, the Executive Secretary of the AATF, gave a taste of what to expect for the 2018 *Congrès* which will take place in Martinique. Jayne spoke about how the cuisine of Martinique reflects the polychrome and multicultural ethnic mix of the country's people. Catherine spoke about Gilbert Larose, a Martiniquais who created the site *La Savanes de Esclaves*. His research and work is dedicated to the abolition of slavery and the trials and tribulations the people went through as they emerged to a freedom that was not unencumbered with its own difficulties.

All the sessions were made available on a website for all the attendees. Below is a brief list of some of the session highlights: (just to name a few)

Réussir une classe inversée

La Musique et le film : Pourquoi, comment, et où ?

Making Global Connections and Collaborating on Tech Integrated French Projects.

La Course Incroyable du Monde Francophone.

Enseigner la Première Guerre mondiale à travers un roman et un album : Le Der des ders.

Origines, famille et identité : L'exploitation des unités thématiques avec le web documentaire : Photo de classe.

De bouche –a-oreille : une approche dynamique de la conversation en cours.

Students using French : Community with Recent Francophone Immigrants.

It was a double pleasure this year to attend the Annual Conference in my role as Vice President of the AATF. I had the opportunity to work closely with all the members of the Executive Council in a collaborative setting. It is so meaningful to me to be part of this dynamic and dedicated group of French aficionados and scholars whose consistent mission is to promote the teaching and learning of the French language and culture in the United States and throughout North America.

- Looking ahead to next year, please consider attending the AATF conference in St. Louis, MO, July 16-19. Please check the national website for details.

Rita Davis



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Social Media Sites: A “Pandora’s Box” of Pedagogical Tools and Resources

We have all attended conferences, seminars, sessions where presenters pushed social media sites and their not-so-obvious pedagogical value. Perhaps our reluctance to explore these sites/resources stemmed from the way we viewed them: one more item on our “to do list” – a list that was already overflowing with techniques to explore and possibly add to our pedagogical toolbox. I assure you: I too was a member of this club.

Fortunately, one day – upon returning home from an ACTFL or AATF conference (I actually do not recall which one), I promised myself that I would explore at least one of the resources that had been recommended: the closed **Facebook** group “French Teachers in the U.S.” I visited the page, requested membership (teaching status is verified by the moderators of the group), and my life has changed – such that I want to share this resource with all of my French colleagues! To say that I receive a few tips, resources, feedback, ideas, lesson plans, curriculum enhancements, moral support, etc. on a daily basis is quite an understatement. It is my new “go to” place for this and much more. We bounce ideas off each other, give and receive feedback, and provide/receive access to other pedagogical sites. The possibilities are endless.

There is not enough room on this page, or even in this newsletter, to possibly list all that I have learned or derived from this resource. I will, however, share a few recent examples. (1) Our school was in the process of exploring two learning management systems (LMS): Schoology and Canvas. I reached out to “the group”, and within minutes I received several comments with valuable feedback, which ultimately affected our acquisition decision. (2) After sharing how I began using **Kahoot!** to review vocabulary and grammar before a quiz, one of our members recommended another multi-player quiz game: **Quizizz**. This game is a nice alternative in that it can be used as a quiz (with multiple choice answers). (3) I was about to begin a film in my Honors French 4 class, and while I love FilmArobics, I was looking for other resources to supplement my unit. I received so many links to sites that offered exactly what I was seeking: a veritable treasure box.

Another valuable social media site (actually advertised as “the world’s catalog of ideas”) is **Pinterest**. This visual bookmarking tool is something I was also somewhat reluctant to explore. What a huge mistake! I am currently following the “top 15 French teachers” (in addition to the AATF and Catherine Ousselin, among others). Again – the pedagogical treasures I find here are innumerable. One example would be the “*billets de sortie*” that I found and adapted to my needs for different levels. Other boards that I am following: listening, writing, speaking activities; *le 14 juillet*; *Bon appétit!*; *Lavande*; *les châteaux*; *Le Petit Prince*; *Teaching-Argot*; *Les contes de fées*; *Teaching-Afrique*; *Poisson d’avril*; AP French; French Club Ideas; *Expressions idiomatiques*; etc.

You may be wondering why I am referring to these tools and resources as a “Pandora’s Box”: beware – once you embark on this journey, it can be very time-consuming and addictive (yet extremely rewarding)! **Bon voyage!**

Thanks to Philadelphia AATF Executive Counsel member Dianne Goddard of Villa Maria Academy for her contribution.



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Le Coin de la Francophonie:

Focus on: L'Indochine: le Cambodge, le Laos, le Viêt Nam



(paysage vietnamien)

New! I have added Sports and Holidays as separate categories, as well as adding recommendations and pointers about various sites. You will also find sites focused on



(paysage camdodgien)

lower level, younger or beginner level learners.

The Activities here are geared for these younger or beginner learners. **Certainly**, if your students are more advanced, the activities are easily adaptable for games or low-key competitions.



(la traversée du Laos)

First you will find websites, links and youtubes for each country under each category. **Activities** and plans follow! **These** sites that I have selected are to enhance your students' cultural awareness and appreciation of la belle Francophonie.

Bonne exploration!

--- Rochelle Ostroff-Weinberg

Links and Youtubes:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_EzpWie7q5Awib3Apv0tpfhP2f7e0qkbPvgaN2UcFtk/edit

Activities and Plans:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zAl9vwwfrUO0V8_8d3GpjMduh1tqTP47eYS2VQ6vrp0/edit



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A TRIBUTE TO JOANNE SILVER, AATF EMERITA

It is with great appreciation that we announce Joanne Silver's personal reasons, from the Conseil Exécutif of the Philadelphia AATF.

Joanne served as the board since 1993 and her many notable were recognized by National in 2011 when she was named Chapter Officer of the American Association of Teachers of French. secretary/treasurer of the local chapter Conseil from 2001 to 2015, the group into the twenty-first century by creating its first viable making many other contributions to the chapter's success. Joanne was a recipient of Title VI Grant, American Association of Teachers of French, through the U.S. Department of Education 1999–2002, and co-authored the online booklet, *Le Tour du Grand Concours*.



resignation, for chapter of the

contributions
Outstanding

As
Joanne brought
listserv and

Joanne's personal initiatives have highlighted for us the connections between France and Philadelphia. Joanne organized programs for our local chapter, with speakers from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She also spoke to AATF Philadelphia members on the music that, surprisingly, flourished in Nazi-Occupied Paris. She introduced us to Joseph Borkson, who spoke at an AATF session on his newly published book *Philadelphia: An American Paris*. For the Alliance Française de Philadelphie, she published the book *French Philadelphia: The French Cultural & Historical Presence in the Delaware Valley* (Miller & Emgarth) and its French edition, *Philadelphie à la française*. She created PowerPoint programs of the books' illustrations to share with other AATF chapters and to accompany talks by co-author Lynn H. Miller. Joanne also arranged English and French narrated trolley tours to bring the book alive for AATF National conference attendees in Philadelphia.

Retired from teaching French in 2001, Joanne founded Beach Lloyd Publishers, LLC, devoted to survivors' memoirs (books, DVDs, music) of World War II France and Belgium. She is an author of pedagogical works, a publisher and a regular exhibitor and speaker at AATF conferences and other venues.

A Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques since 2008, Joanne holds an M.A. in French and certification in Spanish (West Chester U.) and in supervision of Foreign Languages (Penn State U.), has studied in Paris and Normandy, and at the universities of Pennsylvania and Millersville. In 2012 she was named an Honorary member of the West Chester University chapter of the French National Honor Society Pi Delta Phi, in 2012 and was inducted into the Academic Achievers Hall of Fame, Springfield School District, Delaware County, PA in 2012. She served on the DELF/DALF jury from its inception in 1992, as well as on the Board of the Alliance Française de Philadelphie. Joanne also founded the only International Lyceum women's club in the U.S., now a sister club with Paris, and just completed two terms as vice-president of the International Lyceum Clubs of the Northern Hemisphere.

Joanne's enthusiasm for all things French, her extraordinary expertise as editor, her amazing assiduousness and her seemingly effortless efficiency all contributed to the success of the local chapter of the AATF during her tenure and have helped shaped its future. We will miss her effervescent personality and her innovative resourcefulness, and wish her well in her new endeavors.



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Spring 2016 Conference with Jon Shee

On a bright and sunny Saturday in April, AATF Connecticut President Jon Shee joined us at Chestnut Hill to share his energy and enthusiasm for teaching French. His presentation, *Triple Play*, included:

- 1) **Strategies for building and promoting excellence in your French program**
- 2) **Starmania, the mother of all rock operas and how to use it in the classroom**
- 3) **AP French Crash Course: techniques for new, future, and experienced AP teachers.**

Jon provided some quick and easy ways to check to see that students are studying or doing the readings. For example, as students first enter the room or during the first few minutes, choose 3 random vocabulary words that they were supposed to study and ask them what they mean. Students know ahead of time that you are going to do this and that you are tallying points on a checklist on a daily or weekly basis.

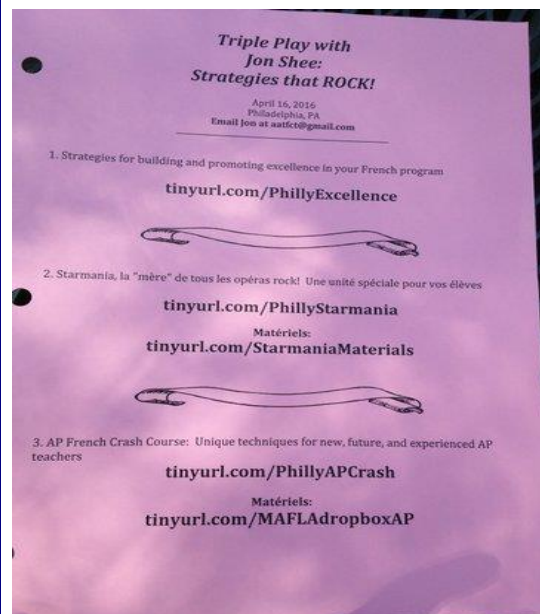
Promote what you do in your school with photos of your students in the hallways and in local publications.

He generously shared a wealth of materials that he has personally created, through much time and boundless enthusiasm, for teaching the Québécois rock opera Starmania!

As for AP, he opened discussions with those who are teaching or are interested in teaching AP by soliciting input regarding to theme or not to theme, among other topics. A round table talk ensued about the new format of the exam and how best to prepare students.

He shared a great way to have students create a study guide on individual student presentations on Francophone countries, which is too difficult to try to describe here but easy to understand visually.

Please visit his sites as listed in the pink photo below to truly appreciate who much he shared with us.
Merci infiniment, Jon!





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Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 24 SEPT 2016 | AATF Fall Conference with Dr. Kathryn Kleppinger: <i>Comment Comprendre et Enseigner Le Terrorisme en France: Approches Historiques, Politiques, et Culturelles</i> 8:30-12:00 at The Agnes Irwin School |
| 22 OCT 2016 | PSMLA & MLAPV Fall Conference with Francis John Troyan: Design Performance Assessments in Interpersonal Mode, Interpretive Mode, and Presentational Mode of Communication 8:15-12:15 Chestnut Hill College (http://www.mlavp.org/) |
| 4-10 NOV 2016 | National French Week (https://www.frenchteachers.org/nfw/) |
| 18-20 NOV 2016 | ACTFL Boston (https://www.actfl.org/) |
| 9 JAN 2017 | AATF 3 rd annual movie night at Bryn Mawr Film Institute, (TBA) |
| 8 FEB 2017 | Gad ELMALEH at the Keswick Theater in Glenside, PA (http://www.keswicktheatre.com/) |
| 8 APRIL 2017 | AATF Spring Conference (TBA) |
| 16 MAY 2017 | AATF Distribution des Prix at Chestnut Hill College |
| 16-19 JULY 2017 | AATF National Conference in St. Louis, MO (https://www.frenchteachers.org/) |



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