



# Le Piaf

Bulletin bimestriel de l'Alliance Française de Toledo  
Bimonthly newsletter of Toledo's French Alliance

Numéro/Issue 8

Décembre/December 2009

## EDITORIAL

*Bonnes fêtes de fin d'année à toutes et à tous !*

In this period of the year, it's all about holidays and having a good time with family and friends at the table.

In November, Maumee Wines hosted the successful wine tasting and flavorful cassoulet dinner.

In December, our yearly Christmas dinner will be held at Carranor Club, offering a wonderful menu.

Either coming from the recipe in The Palate rubric or from our just recently released bilingual cookbook, you can prepare and enjoy delicious dishes.

As usual, should you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Rodolphe Jamet at [guylebleux@free.fr](mailto:guylebleux@free.fr).

À bientôt !

## PRESENTATION

The Alliance Française of Toledo is an educational, cultural non-profit organization.

Its objectives are to encourage and develop the study and knowledge of the French language and culture, and to promote friendship between the Francophone and American peoples.

### BOARD

Marci Cannon Fisher	President
Rodolphe Jamet	Vice President
Thomas Reed	Treasurer
Dave Barnes	Secretary

## Calendar of events

- |                     |   |                                                              |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 9, 2009    | ↩ | Christmas Dinner at Carranor Club in Perrysburg, at 06:30 pm |
| February 10, 2010   | ↩ | Board Meeting at 7pm at the AFT suite                        |
| Travelogue (France) | ⇒ | Winter 2010                                                  |

### Wine tasting and Cassoulet dinner

Imagine sitting down at a table with six wine glasses arrayed in an arc before you. That was the situation when my husband Joe and I attended the cassoulet dinner and wine and cheese tasting at Maumee Wines. It was our job to identify first six white wines, then six red wines. We had to guess the grape and which three of six were French. We sat with Jerry and Karen and had a blast. The other three were better able to identify wines by grape or country, but everyone was having a good time. The cassoulet and the cheeses were delicious. We especially enjoyed the triple cream cheese. The conversation was also very entertaining. Before we sat down, we enjoyed a lively conversation with Sylvia in French. I knew Jerry from the advanced French class and Karen is in the beginner class. By the end, everyone seemed relaxed and friendly. We are looking forward to the Christmas dinner! (Carolyn and Joe Kawecka)

### Our bilingual cookbook

Looking for Christmas gifts? This might be a bright idea!

Brigitte Odenthal and her team have produced a fine example of Franco-American kitchen savvy. The attractive 111 page volume is bilingual throughout and includes detailed references. The student of French, who may struggle with terms in a French recipe, will find enlightenment here.

Copies are \$18.95 at the Center, or a little more (shipping fee) if you want it by mail. For more details, see our website [www.aftoledo.com](http://www.aftoledo.com) (Dave Barnes)

### Réunion annuelle 2009 de la Fédération à Chicago

Voici un extrait tiré du site du Consulat de France :

« Pendant les trois jours, du 22 au 25 Octobre, la Fédération a présenté des ateliers très importants au sujet des "best practices" entre les chapitres, et nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir Mme. Monique Saigal, auteur du livre, "Les Héroïnes Françaises" qui parle des femmes qui ont joué un rôle dans la Résistance. À la fin des ateliers, nous avons célébré "Le Jazz", et l'histoire d'amour de la France avec les grands musiciens de Jazz en Amérique, au Bistro Cyrano avec un très bon dîner en plus. L'Assemblée a été un grand succès.

*Mimi Gregory*

*Présidente de la Fédération des Alliances Françaises, U.S.A., Inc. »*

## ACTUALITÉS FRANCOPHONES

\* Doris Leuthard, femme politique suisse d'Argovie, vient d'être élue (=to be elected) présidente de la Confédération suisse mercredi 2 décembre 2009 et exercera sa fonction (=to be in office) en 2010. À 46 ans, elle est la troisième femme à accéder à ce poste (=to get a position), tout en donnant ainsi le pouvoir au Parti Démocrate-Chrétien.

\* Dans les quinze prochaines années, un nouveau réseau (=transportation network) de métro automatique va être mis en place (=to set up) dans la grande banlieue (=suburbs) de Paris. Il fera 130 kilomètres de long, desservira (=to stop at) 40 gares, et transportera 5 millions de Franciliens (=suburbs inhabitants of Paris). La construction débutera en 2013.

\* Pendant la célébration 2009 de l'armistice de la guerre de 1914-1918, un hommage a été rendu (=to pay homage to somebody), près de Bordeaux, aux anciens tirailleurs sénégalais (=soldiers recruited from French West Africa for the French Army) qui ont participé à cette guerre.

## Cubic Pétanque

Sète is a small city in the south of France. It is situated on Mt. St. Clair, almost an island on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Because of this location on Mt. St. Clair, there are many steep streets and it is impossible for one to play pétanque in his neighborhood. There are some Sètois who are trying to address this problem. The solution? "Balls" shaped as cubes! Alain Mauran, president of the Society of Joueurs Frontignanais, replaced the round balls with metal cubes that he made. The piglet cube was made of a small piece of wood.

The originators of this idea are Claude Combes, president of the Ski Club of Sète, and André Camélio, "member of nothing at all" according to him. They recounted that they were in the bar "Les Deux Rameurs" and discussed that it is impossible to entertain oneself with pétanque because of the steep streets. After a drink or two Claude and André conceived of the obvious solution!

The first match was played in the rue Rapide by four teams of friends. The "carréistes" adapted the rules of pétanque for the needs of the sloping field of battle. They decided that the players were able to bounce the cubes off the walls, doors, and the spectators on the condition of not injuring anyone or damaging anything. As onlookers, is it necessary that we wear leg guards?

The competitors reported that the team of the organizers and that of the "bars of Sète" were crowned champions. The Frontignanais and the team "rest of the world" were able to content themselves with the title of vice-champions. And we know that it is always the losers that are coerced to buy a drink for the winners. One doesn't mess with this rule.

From *Midi Libre*

(Harold Hoffman)

Feel free to contribute any kind of article to Le Piaf

THE PALATE  
Tartines françaises1ère recette

fromage de chèvre (=goat cheese), tomate, basilic, feuilles d'épinard (=spinach leaves), tranches de pain français (=slices of french bread), assez longues

- toastez légèrement les tranches.
- étalez le chèvre sur les tranches de pain.
- coupez les tomates en rondelles (=slices) et les disposer sur le chèvre (2 à 3 rondelles).
- parsemez de basilic et salez/poivrez.
- passez au grill dans le four 2 à 3 minutes.
- ensuite posez des feuilles d'épinard dessus et couper les tartines en 3 ou en 4.

2ème recette

saumon fumé (=smoked salmon), concombre (=cucumber), citron, crème fraîche (=sour cream), tranches de pain français, assez longues

- toastez légèrement les tranches.
- posez du saumon fumé dessus et ensuite des rondelles très fines(=thin) de concombre.
- salez légèrement et poivrez bien.
- citronnez quelques gouttes dessus, déposez une cuillère à soupe de crème fraîche, et couper en 3 ou en 4. (Sylvie Deschamps)

## LA LANGUE

Réponses (des questions dans Le Piaf #7) :

Un **grimpon** est un arriviste, un homme ambitieux.

L'expression idiomatique « Tirer le diable par... » se termine par « la queue », et signifie subvenir difficilement à ses besoins.

Charade :

Mon premier ouvre les portes

Mon second se boit

Mon troisième garde les moutons

Mon tout est aimé par Jules César  
*qui suis-je ?*

Au Québec une **bébel** signifie un truc, une chose, un bidule.

De quelle origine est le mot **cordonnier** : roumaine, espagnole ou hindi ?

Réponses au prochain numéro

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