



L'ÉLAN



Bulletin de la Société Honoraire de Français et des Jeunes Amis du Français

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Dans ce numéro...

Lettre de la présidente.....	1
Mot de la rédaction.....	3
L'AATF Nouvelle Constitution	4
Carnet de Voyage.....	5
<i>La Bourse Aux Idées</i>	8
Congres Annuel 2025 A Ne Pas Manquer.....	22
<i>Calendrier</i>	27

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SOUS LA PLUME DE LA PRÉSIDENTE...

Chers et Chères Collègues,



Photo Credit: Rachel Anne Sternlicht

As we embrace this season of light, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the fall semester edition of L'Élan. While settling into the school year, I hope you've found inspiration and purpose in your classrooms. The recent 2024 United States elections have left many of us—and our students—navigating an uncertain landscape.

Voltaire's *Candide* offers timeless wisdom: "Cela est bien dit, mais il faut cultiver notre jardin." *Candide*'s call to focus on what we can control and find joy in simple pleasures feels especially relevant today. So, let's set aside our anxieties and channel our energy into nurturing what matters most—our communities, our classrooms, and our shared mission to promote the French language and francophone cultures. The reopening of Notre Dame serves as a powerful reminder that even the most daunting of challenges can be overcome.

Reflecting on the warm memories of our annual AATF Convention in San Diego this summer fills me with joy and laughter. From strolling through the breathtaking Balboa Park and the historic charm of Old Town to soaking in the serene waterfront views of San Diego, our time together was truly special, like the Star of India ship we could see from our hotel rooms while we were there! A highlight of the convention was undoubtedly hearing from our keynote speaker, Alain Mbankou, and experiencing his powerful film *Noirs en France*. These moments reminded us of the transformative power of shared stories. And who could forget the lively karaoke night hosted by John Shee? Singing and dancing together was a delightful celebration of camaraderie and joy. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of you, especially to our dedicated SHF/JAF team, whose passion and hard work make everything we accomplish possible. A special note of gratitude to Nicky Drake of National Awards/AATF Boutique for sponsoring the 2024 AATF JAF/SHF breakfast, joining us in San Diego, and generously providing gifts for our sponsors. Sponsors, you inspire us every day with your dedication to your students and the meaningful ways you share their successes with our community.

Your 2023-2024 annual reports were a treasure trove of inspiration. In this edition, don't miss the Bourse aux idées, which highlights some of the creative and impactful activities from our sponsors. Thank you for voting on our updated constitution this Fall. The new constitution is now available on the AATF Société Honoraire de Français website.

National French Week celebrations have come and gone and many of our students deepened their understanding of le monde francophone. This year's theme, *Le français, langue globale*, inspired rich reflections among SHF members, particularly in our Creative Writing Contest. This year, there were over eighty five participants with our new Fall timeline! Fourteen winning SHF entries will be published in the spring edition of *L'Élan*. Topping this fall semester off, twenty of our Jeunes Amis du Français members took on the challenge of this year's JAF creative writing contest. Mark your calendars to view an incredible display of talent!

Looking ahead, there is so much to anticipate for SHF/JAF this year. Are you planning to travel with students this year? Encourage them to apply for the AATF SHF Francophone Studies Stipend Award! Student voices and experiences enrich our community, and we're excited to share some of their stories in this issue.

Let's continue to inspire our students, celebrate their successes, and foster their love for the French language and its vibrant global culture. Thank you for all you do to make our shared mission possible.

Wishing you a joyful and productive Holiday season.

Sincerely,

Regina Symonds

Présidente, SHF/JAF



Like Us On [Facebook!](#)

Please join us as one of the over 1602 members on our page. Members of this group share ideas for activities for their chapter, such as National French Week celebrations, induction ceremonies, chapter, service, and fundraising activities. Please feel free to use French or English, as you prefer.



LE MOT DE LA REDACTION

Chers lecteurs et lectrices,



Photo Credit: Fanny Clonch

C'est avec une immense joie que je m'adresse à vous pour partager une expérience inoubliable dans ma ville. Cet été, j'ai eu la chance d'assister à la cérémonie d'ouverture des Jeux olympiques, un événement aussi grandiose qu'émouvant. Voir la flamme olympique s'élever au cœur de la ville Lumière, entourée de milliers de spectateurs venus du monde entier, fut un moment empreint de magie. Cette cérémonie, qui célébrait l'unité et l'esprit sportif, m'a rappelé à quel point ces valeurs sont essentielles, non seulement dans le sport, mais dans notre vie quotidienne.

Au-delà de cette ouverture spectaculaire, j'ai eu la chance d'assister à plusieurs compétitions qui ont montré des niveaux de performance absolument incroyables. Que ce soit le football, avec ses matchs intenses et passionnés, le basket, où l'agilité et la rapidité des joueurs m'ont impressionnée, ou encore le water-polo, un sport que j'ai découvert de manière plus approfondie pendant ces Jeux. Une épreuve particulièrement palpitante fut celle du match entre le Maroc et les Etats-Unis, qui s'est soldée par une victoire du Maroc. Une excellente ambiance soutenue du début jusqu'à la fin que j'ai eu la chance de vivre avec mon frère. L'expérience de supporter ces équipes aux côtés de fans passionnés de tous horizons a rendu chaque moment unique.

Je ne peux oublier le canoë-kayak, où les athlètes affrontaient des rapides avec une maîtrise époustouflante, ni l'athlétisme, ce sport roi des Jeux, où la puissance, la vitesse et la résilience des athlètes ont laissé tout le monde sans voix.

Un des aspects qui m'a particulièrement touchée cette année est l'engagement des Jeux olympiques de Paris en faveur de l'écologie et de l'égalité. Ces Jeux se sont voulus exemplaires en termes de respect de l'environnement, avec des infrastructures durables et un objectif de réduction de l'empreinte carbone. De plus, pour la première fois dans l'histoire, il y avait autant de femmes athlètes que d'hommes. Ce fait est d'autant plus marquant que Pierre de Coubertin, le fondateur des Jeux olympiques modernes, croyait fermement que les femmes ne devraient pas participer aux compétitions sportives. Voir aujourd'hui autant de femmes briller sur la scène internationale est une preuve de l'évolution des

mentalités et de l'importance de la parité dans le sport.

Un moment particulièrement fort de la cérémonie d'ouverture fut l'hommage rendu à 10 femmes d'exception, représentées par des statues érigées en leur honneur. Ces figures marquantes, issues de divers horizons, incarnent le progrès et la force de la lutte pour l'égalité des genres. Les femmes honorées étaient :

Olympe de Gouges, pionnière des droits des femmes et auteure de la "Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne"

Simone de Beauvoir, philosophe et militante féministe

Marie Curie, scientifique de renom et la première femme à recevoir deux prix Nobel

Colette, femme de lettre, actrice, journaliste et féministe

Josephine Baker, artiste et résistante, la première femme noire à entrer au Panthéon

Germaine Tillion, ethnologue et résistante

Simone Veil, survivante de l'Holocauste et première femme présidente du Parlement européen

Jeanne Barret, la première femme à avoir fait le tour du monde

Micheline Ostermeyer, championne olympique en athlétisme et pianiste accomplie

Alice Milliat, militante pour la participation des femmes aux compétitions sportives internationales

Cet hommage puissant a souligné à quel point la place des femmes dans l'histoire et dans le sport doit être reconnue et célébrée. Assister à ces Jeux olympiques à Paris m'a rappelé la grandeur de l'esprit sportif, l'importance de l'effort collectif et l'engagement vers un avenir plus durable et inclusif. Ces moments passés en tant que spectatrice m'ont profondément inspirée, et j'espère qu'ils vous rappelleront, à vous aussi, la force de la communauté et de la détermination.

Je vous remercie de continuer à faire vivre L'Élan, un espace qui, à sa manière, célèbre aussi nos victoires collectives et individuelles pour l'amour de la langue française et des cultures francophones..

Avec mes salutations les plus sportives,

Fanny Clonch,

Éditrice du bulletin L'Élan

L'AATF NOUVELLE CONSTITUTION

Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que l'AATF a adopté une nouvelle constitution pour la Société Honoraire de Français (SHF). Ce document actualisé vise à mieux répondre aux besoins des sponsors et des chapitres tout en renforçant notre engagement envers la promotion de la langue et de la culture françaises.

Tous les sponsors peuvent consulter la nouvelle constitution en cliquant sur le lien ci-dessous :

[\[Consulter la constitution\]](#)

N'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour toute question ou clarification. Merci pour votre dévouement à la SHF et à l'enseignement du français !

CARNET DE VOYAGE

- Tu es en vacances dans un pays francophone; écris une carte postale à ta famille! Décris tes vacances. Parle un peu des monuments, des musées, de la culture, et de la cuisine.

Erica: Le voyage en France



The experience of traveling to France was such an amazing opportunity that I will always be grateful for. With the money that I received I was able to travel to France with my French teacher and fellow students. We were able to spend four days in Paris, two in Brittany, and two in Normandy. I first began dreaming of Paris when I was 6 years old. My childhood best friend and I loved the idea of venturing Parisian streets and eating delicious food. This trip brought my dreams to life. France was all that I had hoped for and more. In Paris, I enjoyed exploring the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Galeries Lafayette. However, my favorite part of Paris was the Architecture. Seeing the beautiful French limestone with slanted blue roofs was a view I always wanted to see. After spending numerous days in Paris, my group traveled to Mont Saint Michel. The streets of this small island felt magical. Saint Malo was no different, as we explored the walled city and swam in the ocean.

Normandy was a reflection of reverence and beauty as we explored the American Cemetery. Being able to see the memorial of soldiers who had sacrificed their lives for liberty was incredibly beautiful. Another part of France that I enjoyed seeing was the gorgeous Cathedrals. I visited the Cathedral of Chartres, the Cathedral of Rouen, and Notre Dame. These buildings were not only sacred but also carried so much history and faith. The experience of traveling to France was something that I will never forget and in turn it made me develop a love of travel. I cannot wait to explore other countries and hopefully return to France one day.

Madrid: Le voyage en France



The opportunity to go to France was one that I just could not pass up, and with the help of the stipend awarded to me earlier this year, it made my dream that much more of a reality. Not only was I able to go abroad at an early age, but I was also able to enjoy the experience with a handful of my closest peers - a chance to create memories and tackle the world together.

The tour that I embarked on was that of visits to Paris and the chateaux of northern France; I climbed staircase upon staircase and saw the coasts in the

eyes of the kings before me. One of the main things I begin to share with everyone back at home is the extraordinary architecture that lines the streets of any city in France one finds themselves in. Most buildings have a stone carving of some sort, and the corners of streets have their own significant statues that tell the tales of battles, hardships, and victories of not so long ago. While on the Seine river cruise my group and I saw bridge after bridge, each with its own significance and story; one bridge is dedicated to lovers, another joyously inaugurated in honor of the 1900 Universal Exhibition.

When we arrived at Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, I, as well as many of my peers, were moved and touched by the monument; to not only imagine what soldiers went through, but to walk the same dirt path as they once had to defend the overlook.

I am happy to say that I was able to use my years of French in high school to get around, order food, make small talk, and indulge myself in the cultures of each city. And speaking of the culture, it was always a pleasure to wonder what my next meal might be and really taste the difference from the food back in the states. The fruit was fresher, the meat was more tender, and the potatoes were made with the skill of a chef I hope to someday possess.

I so greatly thank you for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and to have given me such a generous helping hand. I hope to be able to return someday, to study abroad in France and pursue linguistics. I brought back with me not only souvenirs, but memories, a new sense of confidence, cultural perspective, and a strong individual. Thank you again.

Leo: Un stage à l'étranger

To those that helped me find myself away from home,

How are you? Have you had water today? Have you done something you like? Something you don't like? Does it take a little effort to answer any of those questions? I had difficulty answering all of those questions before I was jetted about 5,000 miles away from my childhood home, so please don't feel bad about it if it's difficult for you; and don't think I'm



saying you have to go to Baghdad or somewhere else to know you had some water this morning. It's certainly not necessary for everybody to spend a couple months being self-conscious about ordering sandwiches in a different language to help your consciousness grow; it just so happens that this is the way I was able to go about it.

In my foreign internship experience, assisted significantly by this stipend and countless other contributions throughout the course of my life, I was able to spend three solid months being somewhat forcefully, albeit not too unpleasantly, brought to consciousness of myself and the world around me. From taking a solo trip through Paris and being provided free haute cuisine by some paternally inclined Parisians, to managing a life filled with hundreds of sweet but extremely French 10 to 18 year olds in a French boarding school, my awareness of what I can do has been forever changed; and getting to learn all the names of those students, seeing their smiles, and playing soccer every weeknight with them on the

courtyard, I now have a comparatively rare and, in my book, extremely valuable perspective on the world that has shifted the bedrock of my life. What I gained in my French exchange experience, and what I now thank everyone I've ever interacted with in the span of my life for, is a new recognition of the humanity in myself and the rest of the world.

Thank you again AATF for you stipend, and to the rest of you who've helped me find myself, and others, away from home.

Ciao,
Leo

LA BOURSE AUX IDEES

Editor's Note: Contributions for "La Bourse aux Idées" are solicited from teachers when they submit their annual report. All chapter sponsors are encouraged to submit ideas to share with colleagues. Articles may be sent to aatfelan@gmail.com.

Teacher: Dawn Young

School: East Mecklenburg High School

Project: Une Journée dans le Monde Francophone

Une Journée dans le Monde Francophone



Caren and Taylor
Co-Presidents, 2023-24
East Mecklenburg High School SHF

“Une Journée dans le Monde Francophone” took place at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, North Carolina on Friday, November 3, as part of its celebration of National French Week - representing a journey of immersion into the many facets of francophone cultures. Beginning with East Meck’s Société Honoraire du Français in the fall of 2022, this project was fueled by student drive and ingenuity throughout its

formulation as SHF members worked tirelessly to organize and coordinate such the multisensory presentations of the francophone world. Enlisting the aid of the IB upper level French classes, we held team meetings over the span of multiple months, and extensively campaigned for donations to cover event costs.

Finally, the vision we had long been working towards came to life. We presented the diversity of the francophone world of our various student presenters from the Middle East, Quebec, West Africa, Vietnam, and the Caribbean, making sure to highlight regional traditions, folk tales, dances, and food; we even worked in partnership with our culinary students to provide wonderful regional “tastes”. Each region became a getaway to discovery, offering students from French 1 and 2 a unique opportunity to expand their horizons, enrich their French vocabulary, and empower them to dig deeper into the wonder of the Francophone world.

Not only was this event about showcasing the francophone world to the East Meck community but it was also an opportunity for its own students to express their identities and cultures with pride, even being featured in a local newscast. We had students with connections to every region exhibited with many of them participating in the presentation of their very own cultures by bringing in personal artifacts and garments. Ultimately, this event was a masterful exhibition of francophone culture and opportunity for students to delve into new waters, helping them build the road for future student understanding of just how incredible is the diversity of the francophone world.

Teacher: Wendy Witt

School: Elgin High School

Project: Francophone Trivia Contest

The Elgin High School chapter of SHF hosts an annual school-wide francophone trivia contest during National French Week. This activity is our focus during meetings shortly after school starts, because students collaborate on researching facts, creating posts for our French Week Wakelet <https://wke.lt/w/s/p7HhiH> and student bulletin announcements, and creating the trivia questions. We meet weekly for about 30 minutes, so we needed eight

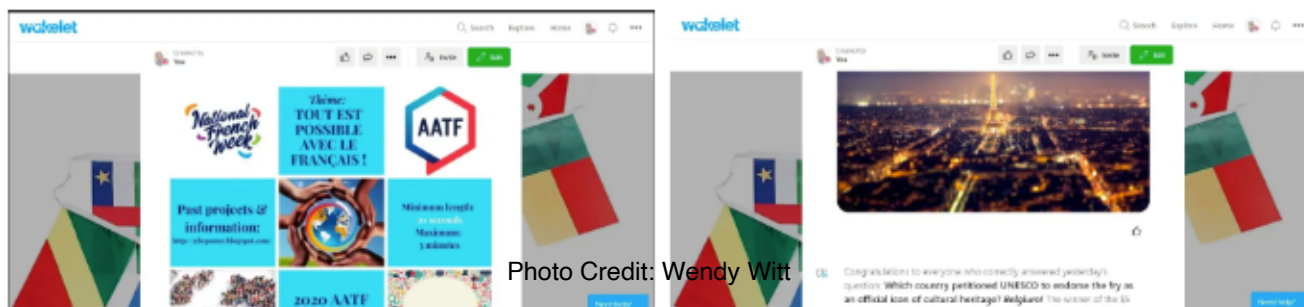


Photo Credit: Wendy Witt

weeks to put it all together.

The Wakelet is our digital platform for posting the facts and the Google Form trivia quizzes. This worked well during distance-learning; and I anticipate keeping the platform for in-person. Instead of our traditional poster displays, we can post QR codes for the Wakelet around school. I invited SHF members to add directly to the Wakelet, but they were more comfortable collaborating on a Google Doc. They did all the research and decided on the order/content of posts, announcements, and difficulty of the questions. All I did was copy and paste to the Wakelet, Google Forms (example: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Q39nupoGp2ow4ib9UPtrILrFC27rXmx7VexWr6j9iKk/edit?usp=sharing>), and student bulletins.

We started announcing French Week the Friday before, directing students to the Wakelet for information. Three quizzes were staggered: Wednesday to kick off the week, Friday, and Monday. The winner of a \$5 Starbucks e-card was drawn at random from correct answers for each quiz. We ended the week with a \$15 Starbucks e-card grand-prize drawing from those who correctly answered all three questions. Drawing is a snap if you export the quiz

results to a Google Sheet and use the magic Excel randomizer formula (works in Sheets!) described at: <https://www.extendoffice.com/documents/excel/2768-excel-select-random-names.html>

By the end of the week, staff were asking to participate in the trivia quizzes. We plan to include them in the 2021-22 school year. This activity is a great way to build community in SHF and school wide.

TEACHER: Soukeyna Diop-Tall

SCHOOL: Livingston HS, Livingston, NJ

PROJECT: Ups and down of the year: Des hauts et des bas!



The past three years have been challenging in multiple ways and this impacted the Livingston High school FHS. We were lucky to hold an in-person induction in 2019 but in 2020 we got creative with an online induction. However, in November 2021 we finally held an in-person ceremony, and it was beautiful with beret, music, and a candlelit ceremony. Our ceremony was exclusively run by the students. We had few rehearsals and invited the

parents and the community to view it online. We wanted to really have fun with it and decided to add berets to the look. We ordered the berets and the mother candle from amazon, but a parent donated small candles for students to light from the mother candle. Though we were still masked and could not have any food, it had a great turnout; the kids were very proud and felt special and the community photographer was present to immortalize this moment. We were honored by the presence of our administration and our principal started with greetings in all the four languages we offer in our school!

The challenges kept on going and we canceled a few activities for safety reasons. However, we were still able to hold online members and in person board meetings. Our members volunteered in tutoring underclassmen. We tried bringing excitement into everything, participated in trivia activities and we even participated in the National French week trivia contest, and it was fantastic.

Though we could not do any bake sale to fundraise and to donate to "Médecins sans Frontières" and "Les petites gouttes", towards the end of the school year, after couple of years of no food allowed in school, we were finally approved to make crepes in school. It was awesome a lot of students came to visit us and everyone who came had their own

crepe and were challenged to make their own. Some were round, some were oval, some ... you could not even name their shape... It was fun, and we were able to enjoy them with Nutella, jam, and marmalade of various fruits. We look forward to doing it again next year.

TEACHER: Rosa Esthela Mora

SCHOOL: Valley View HS, Hidalgo, TX

PROJECT: The Richness of a Cultural Exchange



Photo Credit: Rosa Esthela Mora

In an effort to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Valley View ISD Foreign Language department hosted in May 2022 their First Annual Cultural Exchange event. Students from the Spanish and French programs shared the richness of the cultures and languages of their study and their experiences in these classes through the creation of art. Students were asked to paint on canvas or poster an aspect of the culture they like or are passionate about. The outcome? A cultural exchange between the Francophone and Hispanic

students in the Foreign Language department hallway where creativity, passion, and lots of culture were shared and cherished.

Vive la francophonie!

¡Viva la hispanidad!

TEACHER: Candace Thomson

SCHOOL: Enterprise High School

PROJECT: SHF members honor local Veterans

Since the Fall of 2011, our SHF members have worked with the French Club to celebrate Veterans in our community. Our school is located near an international military helicopter training post. So, we have numerous teachers and staff who either are or are related to Veterans. While talking with my husband about our activities, he suggested we do something to recognize local Veterans on Veterans' Day.

When we first began this project, we decided to recognize teachers and staff who were Veterans, now we include family members as well. To be sure we included everyone, I sent a group email to all school faculty and staff, asking them to respond if they were a Veteran and include their branch of service. Our president created a color design for an 8½ x 11"



piece of cardstock with the motto “We (heart) our Veterans” with space at the bottom. We laminated the cardstock, adding the name and branch of service at the bottom afterward. In this way, we can amend the names if there are personnel changes. Around mid-October, members post the signs outside teacher/staff workspaces, offices and classrooms.

Simultaneously, members exchange forget-me-not flowers for donations to the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans. I simply contacted the local DAV and asked them if we could have a supply of the little lapel flowers that are

often distributed by Veterans. They were delighted. We pack them in sandwich bags (12 flowers x .25¢ = \$3) and students exchange them for donations around school. We then run the donations through our financial office and have a check made for a single donation to the DAV.



The DAV uses these funds to help local veterans in whichever way seems most beneficial each year. For example, one year the funds helped defray veteran’s home heating costs, and another year the funds contributed to donations put toward the purchase of a mini-van that could transport local veterans to the nearest Veterans’ hospital. Our DAV liaison even makes a certificate for each participating student, and we send photos to the local news.

TEACHER: Cheryl Herman

SCHOOL: Mishawaka High School

PROJECT: SHF AND NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK



Photo Credit: Cheryl Herman

Each year for National French Week my SHF members plan special events. Mostly they involve French foods to share with the staff and students. In the photo, we were selling croissant and a beverage to staff and students as they walked into school. We also took pre-sale orders. The croissant fillings were a choice of Nutella, jam, almond paste, butter or plain. The beverage choice was coffee, tea, orange juice or water. At lunch we make and sell crepes at a table near the cafeteria. We use a teflon crepe maker which allows you to dip the maker into the batter, then turn it over and it takes 30 seconds for a

crepe to be ready. We then fill it with Nutella, jam, bananas or plain. We also make Eiffel Towers out of wafer cookies and frosting. Then we have a race to see who can make it down the hall without it falling over on the plate they are holding with one hand. We also do French waiter races while holding with one hand a tray and an empty plastic glass. The members enjoy planning and participating in French Week each year.

TEACHER: Wendy Candy

SCHOOL: Westerly High School

PROJECT: WHS Goes Global



Photo Credit: Wendy Candy

Each spring at Westerly High School in Westerly, Rhode Island, the Société Honoraire de Français, the Società Onoraria di Italiano, and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica create an immersive gallery walk celebrating cultures across the globe and highlighting the work of our talented World Language Honor Societies members. They create a world within a room where community members, staff, and students walk around the “globe.”

This past March, Language Honor Society members worked in pairs to each select a country to bring to life at WHS Goes Global. They then created an immersive cultural/language activity from their chosen country. As visitors (students/community members) walked “around the world” they were able to partake in each activity to give them the feeling of actually visiting each country. Groups were organized in the school gym by continent, so you might walk from Greece to India. For example, visitors to Egypt learned about hieroglyphs and wrote their names using a hieroglyphic alphabet. There were approximately 15 countries represented this past year.

Additionally, students researched their country and displayed information and photos (digital or trifold, poster board, etc.) so the school community walked away from the event with an improved knowledge of other cultures.

Each group also selected 5 songs from their country that were added to the global playlist and played during the event.

During the event, donations were collected to support a cause chosen by the officers of the Language Honor Societies; this year we supported Jose Andres’ World Central Kitchen. Officers sat at the center of the “world” (center of the gym) and shared information about World Central Kitchen’s mission and why it was chosen.

Honor Society members and school community members attest to how valuable and memorable they find the day to be. We are fortunate in Westerly to have strong leadership from our district world language coordinator and to have robust support from our school and district administrators; which allows for participation in events such as this.

Our next WHS Goes Global event is scheduled to take place at the end of March 2024, as a culminating event of smaller activities that take place during World Languages Month.

TEACHER: Andrea Leslie

SCHOOL: Ralston Valley High School

PROJECT: A new induction tradition emerged from the pandemic

Our springtime Société induction ceremonies are traditionally very special events. We invite families to our school library where they enjoy French-inspired foods and student entertainment of music and poetry recitations. We also conduct a small silent auction with donated items to fund our activities during the year. We then induct new members in a candlelight ceremony and award honor cords to seniors. We finish with a slideshow highlighting our activities from the year.

When the pandemic hit, I was reluctant to give all that up, so we delayed our induction ceremony to the fall and had an outdoor, distanced event, starting with a trumpeted version

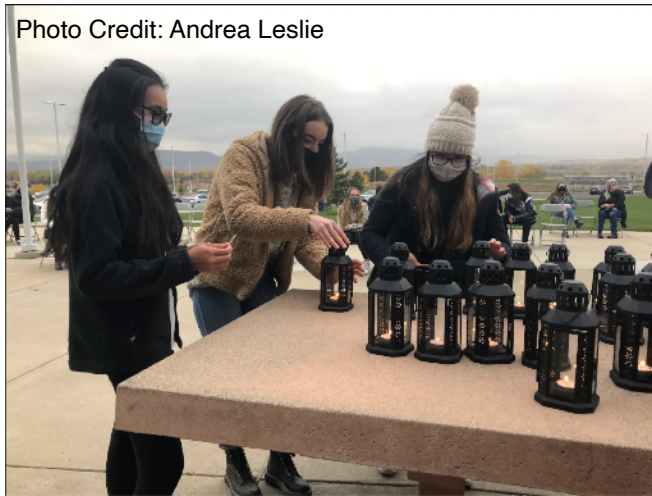


Photo Credit: Andrea Leslie

of the Marseillaise. Since lighting candles was not viable outside, I purchased small metal and glass lanterns at IKEA (about \$4 each) which current members lit then handed to each new member as they were inducted. It was a chilly October evening, but memorable as an actual in-person event when everything else had been online. The lanterns were such a hit, we repeated this new tradition at our outdoor spring induction in April. Students keep the lanterns, which we decorate with red, white and blue ribbons. Several have told me how important these lanterns are to them, and that they have a special place in their rooms to serve

as a daily reminder of their membership in the Société. I have a feeling this is now a new tradition that we will incorporate each year into our annual event, whether outside or back in the library.

TEACHER: Jacqueline Rebok

SCHOOL: Reservoir High School

PROJECT: La cuisine virtuelle avec Madame



Photo Credit: Jacqueline Rebok

During our nearly year-long venture in virtual learning at my suburban Maryland high school, I struggled to find ways to interact and connect with my Société

Honoraire de Français members. In the past, my students would beg me to have cooking demonstrations and I was hindered by restrictions in our building and school system. Offering virtual cooking lessons through Google Meet eliminated these hurdles and we were able to complete three separate lessons (and subsequent tastings).

Our lessons included croque-monsieur, beignets africains (often known as mikaté, puff-puff, or bofrut), and Haitian butter cake (sans rhum). I found simple recipes that allowed substitutions for dietary restrictions. With students cooking in their

own homes, their food restrictions could remain private, which was a surprise benefit of the online format. I gave students in advance a list of ingredients to have ready, as well as tools that they would need.

I always did a trial run of each recipe to confirm that I, a novice cook at best, could easily complete the dish. I sent my students some pointers after I completed my tests. For the beignets, I asked students to prepare the yeast in advance so it would be ready to incorporate during our Google Meet. For the cake, we closed the Meet while it was in the oven and came back an hour later for our tasting.

The beignets africains were actually completed on Mardi Gras, a little twist to a New Orleans tradition. We created Mardi Gras masks with an homage to the pandemic that made these virtual cooking lessons necessary and possible. We also paired our final cooking lesson with a movie night and I streamed a movie of the students' choice as we sampled our tasty treats.

On s'est bien régalé!

TEACHER: May Wassaf

SCHOOL: Riviera Preparatory School

PROJECT: Activities and Achievements of the Riviera Preparatory School's SHF



Photo Credit: May Wassaf

Bonjour, French Honor Society Members!

As the year starts again, we at the Riviera Preparatory Schools' French Honor Society can reflect on a successful year filled with exciting events and community service.

We started strong with our first board meeting in August, where we brainstormed upcoming events and drives for the year. Our hard work paid off as we had a jam-packed year of activities.

In September, we inducted five new members into our society and held our first annual meeting to discuss our plans for the year, including national events like Le Grand Concours and National French Week.

We were proud to coordinate with Books4You and donate school supplies to underprivileged communities in October. This was a high point for us as we knew that we were making a big difference in the lives of less fortunate students.

As November approached, we celebrated National French Week with a bake sale and a trivia game during lunch periods where we handed out prizes to winners. During Christmastime, we dedicated our time and resources to Feeding South Florida, gathering food items and supplies to donate to the food bank branch under the national NGO Feeding America.

March was important to us as we held our annual Taste of Nations event in conjunction with our Spanish and Italian honor societies. It continued its legacy as the largest event of the school year, and we held a multicultural presentation that featured various cultural dances, songs, poems, etc. produced by our school's talented students. Afterward, we set up multiple tables with food representing a variety of cultures around the world.

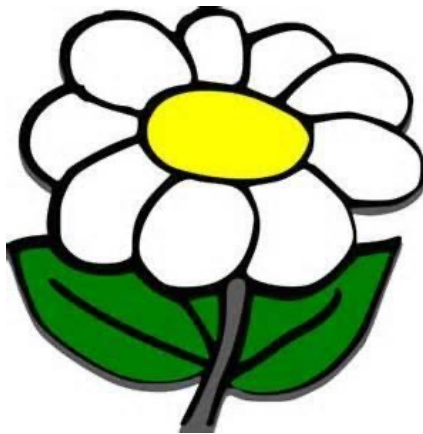
Additionally, our students participated in the national Grand Concours, with multiple awards such as Platinum, Gold, and Silver. One of our students won a Platinum medal and Plaque for her perfect score on the test, making her one of only four students in the entire country to achieve this.

In April, we voted on next year's board and began devising a plan for the upcoming year. Merci beaucoup and bonne chance to the SHF in the next school year!

SCHOOL: Triton High School

PROJECT: Daisies for Happiness

Photo Credit: Triton High School



The French Tradition of La Fête du Muguet is such a charming and genuine addition to the French Labor Day on May 1st: *“According to French tradition, give those you love a little bouquet of Lily-of-the-Valley (Muguet), to wish them happiness and good luck in celebration of the arrival of spring.”*

Our society promotes kindness; how can we recreate the spirit of this beautiful French tradition within our school walls? Lily of the Valley is hard to come by as early as May 1st in our region north of Boston. Chez nous, these charming white bell shaped flowers only bloom and share their beautiful scent towards the last days of May. Fortunately, daisies are not hard to come by!

Throughout the month of April, Foreign Language Honor Society students sell *Daisies for Happiness*. On May 1st, fresh daisies are delivered from our local florist and students spread happiness throughout our school by delivering daisies with messages for happiness in several languages to students, faculty, staff, and administrative members.

Each year, Triton High School Chapter of the Société Honoraire de Français *Tous Ensemble*, in conjunction with the Triton High School Chapter of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica *Todos Juntos*, chooses a charitable organization for which they wish to serve. Most often, one of our chapter officers has had a personal connection with an organization to send all of the proceeds to. Our local florist sells us the daisies for 75 cents a stem; we sell them for \$2 each with a message attached by ribbons. Each Society member is asked to sell ten, turn their orders in by April 20th, then pick up their bundle on May 1st for delivery.

The mission statements of the organizations are included with the daisy order instructions. So far, while spreading happiness throughout the school, we have served the Saint Boniface Organization in Haiti, a Russian Orphanage, Heifer International, Triton's own Gradventure when it was in need, Peruvian Hearts, and the Bhadaj Patidar Dharmada Trust in India.

TEACHER: Sarah Evans

SCHOOL: CHS

PROJECT: CHS France Study Tour 2024

In June, twenty-one Central High School students from French levels 3-5 participated in a 26-day educational tour around France.

Our trip began with a two-week homestay experience in Mende, a town of 15,000 in the Massif Central mountains in south-central France. The Lozère department, of which Mende is the capital, is the least populated in France, providing a meaningful point of connection for our students from Wyoming. In Mende, CHS students lived with French families and attended French high school with their host students. During this time, they went to class, ate in the cafeteria, participated in field trips, and shared cultural and historical learning about our community with junior high and high school students at our host school. As rural France utilizes public boarding schools, about half of our students experienced dormitory life on weekdays. Our "Wyoming Day" event was attended by nearly 400 French students, who went home with gifts from Visit Cheyenne, the WY Historical Society, the WY State Museum, and the LC Library. Finally, Central students shared an evening of musical and artistic offerings with the host students and their families, including a demonstration from members of our CHS cheer squad, teaching cheers and group dances, and presenting a student-created quilt to our host school. These two weeks happened primarily in French, giving students a tremendous opportunity to use their learning in a real-world setting.

After their host family experience, students traveled through southern France to make connections with French history and visit structures from important architectural periods. In Nîmes, students toured a Roman arena and two Roman temples, saw Roman art and artefacts, and visited the Pont du Gard aqueduct that once provided water to the city. In Aigues Mortes, they climbed through a medieval fortress to learn about defence development during this period, and in Montpellier they saw the progression from gothic to 19th century architecture in a major university city. During our time in the south and traveling to and from Paris students experienced France's public rail system on both regional trains and cross-country high-speed trains.

The trip culminated with seven days in Paris, during which students discovered the city's historic patronage of the arts visiting the Louvre, Musée D'Orsay, and Montmartre quarter and attending a French opera. They connected their classroom learning about European history to important military sites, including Les Invalides, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Place de la Bastille. They also proved their physical fitness by scaling the Eiffel tower on foot

and walking anywhere from six to ten miles per day! Students expanded their knowledge of gothic architecture touring Chateau de Vincennes and the Sainte-Chapelle and seeing the Notre Dame site. We also enjoyed seeing the final stages of construction and preparation for the Paris 2024 summer Olympics. Throughout our visits in Paris and the rest of France, students took turns presenting their own research on pre-assigned historic sites and figures in French to introduce each visit site.

Many CHS participants hope to host their French partner students in Wyoming in the future, as some were already fortunate to do in spring of 2023. We continue to build stronger ties between our two institutions and hope to host a larger number of students from Lycée Chaptal here in the future. Two students in our group, Ryan and Saimaa, were selected to receive \$2,000 scholarships for their travel experience from the Société Honoraire de Français, a national French honor society organization that Central has hosted a chapter of for the last six years. They were two out of nine total award winners from across the US this year. **We are grateful to CHS teachers, parents, and administration for their ongoing support of this unique learning opportunity for our students!**

-Sarah Evans, French teacher CHS



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Students present a quilt to our partner school designed and assembled by senior Kamran



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Students attend a welcome ceremony with the deputy mayor at Mende's town hall and ask interview questions



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Senior Dalton teaches a game that helps French students learn the names of American states



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Graduate Saimaa leads French students and host families in dancing to "Cotton-Eyed Joe"



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

CHS students had a front-row seat to protests in France after European elections both in the South and in Paris as our hotel was adjacent to to the Place de la Bastille. Many went to the polls with their host families to see the French electoral system firsthand.



Photo Credit: SarahEvans

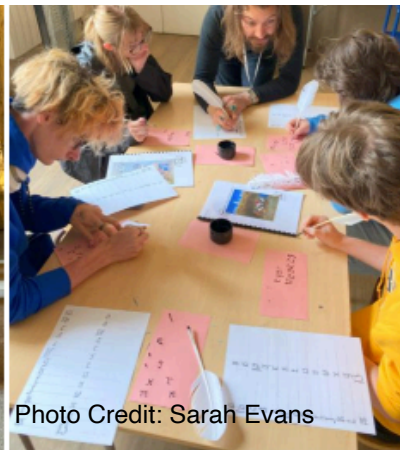


Photo Credit: Sarah Evans



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Senior Andrew and junior Zeman help model the evolution of gladiatorial weaponry in *Nimes*

Students learn about medieval architecture at the Sainte Chapelle

Graduate Kylie presents the life of Napoleon at les Invalides in Paris.

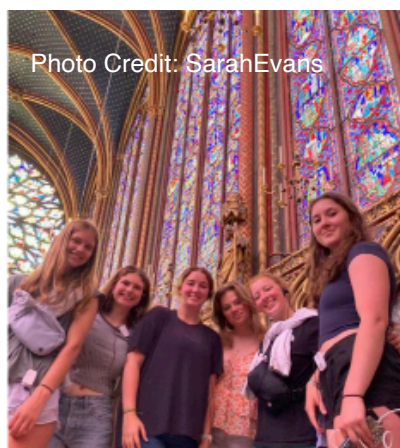


Photo Credit: SarahEvans

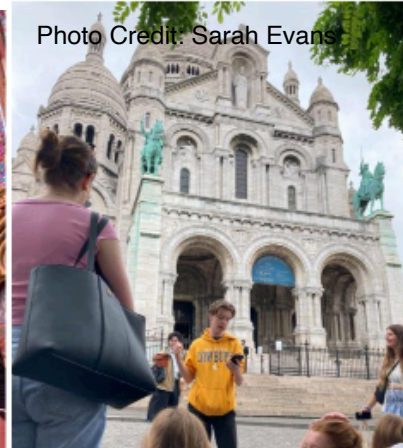


Photo Credit: Sarah Evans



Photo Credit: Sarah Evans

Students learn about medieval architecture at the Sainte Chapelle

Senior Ryan explains the history of the Sacré Coeur Basilica

On the site of notre Dame restoration, set to reopen in December

TEACHER: Regina Symonds

SCHOOL: Triton High School

PROJECT: Société Honoraire de Français Brings "Be Our Guest" to Trunk or Treat



Photo Credit: Regina Symonds

This fall, the Société Honoraire de Français (SHF) brought a touch of French magic to our school's annual "Trunk or Treat" event. Using my car as the centerpiece, our SHF students transformed the trunk into a stunning "Be Our Guest" banquet inspired by La Belle et la Bête (Beauty and the Beast).

The setup included glowing candles, vibrant roses, and two small café tables adorned with roses, glow sticks, stickers, mirrors, crowns, and, of course, plenty of Halloween candy. The ambiance captured the enchanting spirit of the classic tale.

Dressed as iconic characters from La Belle et la Bête, our students welcomed young trick-or-treaters with warm French greetings such as "Bonsoir! Joyeuse fête d'Halloween!" and "Voulez-vous/veux-tu des bonbons?" They distributed treats while engaging in fun and festive French practice.

This activity allowed students to combine service with language learning. They earned service hours, improved their conversational French, and had a fantastic time connecting with younger students in the community.

We hope to continue this activity in future years, building on its success and creating a beloved tradition for our SHF chapter.

TEACHER: Joshua Cabral

PROJECT: Joshua Cabral Podcast



Saviez-vous que Joshua Cabral propose un podcast spécialement conçu pour les enseignants de langues étrangères ? Ce podcast regorge de conseils, d'outils et de ressources pour aider vos élèves à progresser en maîtrise linguistique et à communiquer avec assurance.

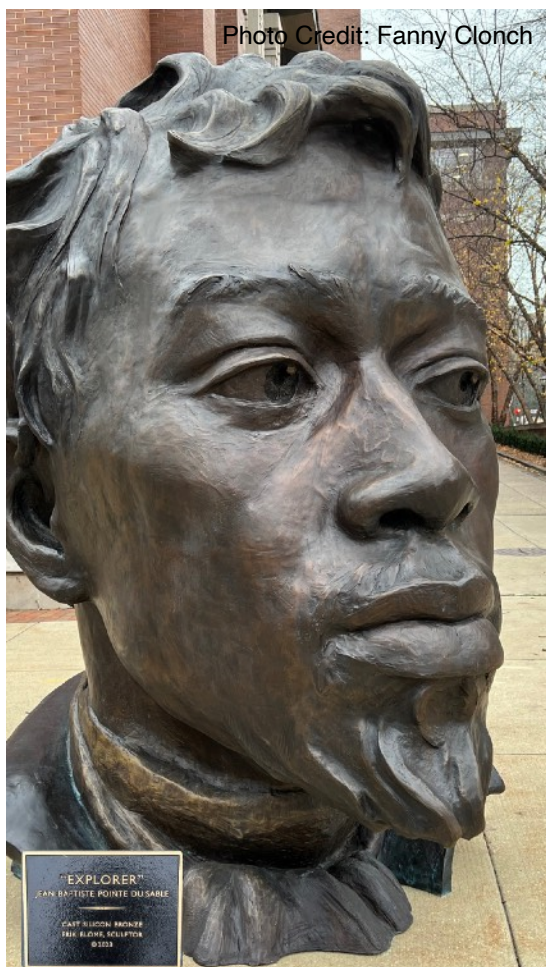
C'est une excellente source d'inspiration pour renouveler vos pratiques pédagogiques et motiver vos élèves. Je vous invite à l'écouter et à découvrir des idées innovantes pour enrichir vos cours.

Vous trouverez le lien ici [Joshua Cabral Podcast](#). Bonne écoute et bon enseignement !

CONGRÈS ANNUEL 2025

A NE PAS MANQUER

Venez découvrir Chicago lors de notre prochain congrès.



Chers collègues,

C'est avec enthousiasme que je vous invite au prochain Congrès de l'AATF qui aura lieu à Chicago, la ville où je vis et que je redécouvre sans cesse. Que vous soyez passionnés d'histoire, d'architecture, de musique, de théâtre ou simplement curieux de découvrir une métropole riche en diversité, Chicago a tant à vous offrir.

Chicago est une ville dont son histoire francophone est quelque peu méconnue. Saviez-vous que Chicago doit ses origines à Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, un franco-haïtien ? Considéré comme le fondateur de la ville, il a laissé une empreinte durable sur ce territoire. Aujourd'hui, le DuSable Museum of African American History rend hommage à sa contribution et à l'histoire afro-américaine de Chicago. Le mot "Chicago" provient d'un terme amérindien, probablement dérivé de "shikaakwa" en langue miami-illinoise, qui signifie « oignon sauvage » ou « ail des bois », une plante abondante dans la région à l'époque. C'est bel et bien Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, qui a fondé le premier établissement

permanent dans cette région à la fin du XVIIIe siècle. Mais pendant longtemps, on a dénié à Du Sable sa place dans l'histoire officielle de la ville, attribuant la fondation de Chicago à John Kinzie, un colon britannique qui s'y est installé bien après Du Sable. Ce n'est que récemment que la contribution de Du Sable est pleinement reconnue, notamment avec des monuments en son honneur et le DuSable Museum of African

American History, dédié aux contributions des Afro-Américains à l'histoire des États-Unis.

Chicago, aujourd'hui c'est une mosaïque de quartiers culturels qui en font l'une de ses grandes richesses. Au nord de la ville vous y trouverez **Devon Avenue** qui est un fascinant mélange de cultures indienne et pakistanaise. Vous pourrez y flâner entre boutiques aux vitrines colorées, épiceries regorgeant d'épices exotiques, et restaurants où déguster des plats comme le biryani ou le butter chicken. Une promenade sur Devon Avenue, c'est une véritable immersion dans ces cultures riches et vivantes.

Dans le nord on trouve aussi le quartier vietnamien surnommé **Little Saigon**. Il se situe autour d'Argyle Street dans Uptown. Il s'est développé à partir des années 1970 avec l'arrivée de réfugiés vietnamiens après la guerre du Vietnam. Chicago était une des destinations pour les réfugiés grâce à des programmes de réinstallation soutenus par le gouvernement et des organisations religieuses locales. Ce quartier est aujourd'hui un centre culturel dynamique, connu pour ses restaurants servant des plats vietnamiens typiques comme le pho et les bánh mì, ainsi que pour ses marchés asiatiques et ses boutiques. Little Saigon célèbre aussi des événements comme le Têt (Nouvel An vietnamien), et reflète la diversité d'Uptown en accueillant d'autres communautés asiatiques. C'est un symbole de résilience et de préservation culturelle à Chicago.

Un peu au sud du downtown vous avez **Chinatown** et dès que vous traversez son portique rouge vous découvrez un monde mêlant traditions chinoises et vie moderne. Avec ses restaurants authentiques, ses boutiques animées, et ses fresques murales, ce quartier offre un dépaysement garanti. L'histoire de Chinatown remonte à la fin du XIXe siècle. Les premiers immigrants chinois sont arrivés à Chicago dans les années 1860, principalement pour travailler sur le chemin de fer transcontinental. Dans les années 1870, les premiers Chinois s'étaient installés dans le quartier de **Near South Side**, qui rapidement est devenu un centre pour cette communauté qui faisait face à des discriminations et des préjugés raciaux, ce qui a mené à l'émergence de réseaux de soutien mutuel, comme des restaurants et des commerces, et à la création de liens solides au sein de la communauté. Au cours des décennies suivantes, le quartier a évolué sous l'impact des politiques d'immigration, de l'expansion urbaine et des bouleversements économiques. Dans les années 1920, Chinatown a été déplacée vers sa localisation actuelle, au cœur du quartier de Bridgeport, à cause de la construction de nouveaux bâtiments et infrastructures dans le centre-ville. Ce déménagement a permis à Chinatown de se développer dans un espace plus vaste, tout en conservant ses traditions culturelles et son rôle comme centre de commerce et de services pour les immigrants chinois. Au XXe siècle, Chinatown a connu une croissance rapide suite à la levée des lois d'immigration restrictives, telle la Loi d'Exclusion des Chinois de 1882. A Chinatown vous pouvez visiter le Chinese American Museum of Chicago, faire des emplettes et déguster des mets traditionnels dans des restaurants réputés pour leur haute cuisine chinoise.

Le quartier de **Pilsen** a été fondé à l'origine par des immigrants tchèques qui avaient quitté leur pays en raison de la pauvreté et des bouleversements politiques dans l'Empire austro-hongrois au milieu du XIXe siècle. Les Tchèques s'étaient installés en grand nombre, attirés par les opportunités économiques offertes par l'industrie en plein essor, notamment dans les usines de transformation de viande car Chicago était le centre de l'industrie de viande grâce à ses abattoirs comme ceux de Union Stock Yards, mais aussi grâce aux usines de textiles, les fonderies métallurgiques, les entrepôts de stockage et de marchandises situés non loin du quartier. Le nom Pilsen fait référence à la ville de Plzeň (prononcée Pilsen en allemand), en République tchèque, célèbre pour son industrie de la bière, notamment la Pilsner, un type de bière blonde. Les immigrants tchèques ont choisi ce nom pour rappeler leur pays d'origine. Au fil du temps, le quartier a vu arriver d'autres vagues d'immigrants, principalement des Mexicains, qui en ont fait aujourd'hui un centre culturel vibrant de la communauté latine à Chicago. Aujourd'hui, le quartier est réputé pour ses fresques murales vibrantes et son patrimoine mexicain. Pilsen est un quartier qui respire la créativité. Ne manquez pas le National Museum of Mexican Art et les nombreuses taquerias locales

Vous serez certainement ravis de découvrir le quartier de **Hyde Park** qui est situé sur la rive sud de Chicago. C'est un lieu emblématique à la fois pour son histoire, sa diversité culturelle et son importance intellectuelle. Il abrite notamment l'Université de Chicago, l'une des institutions académiques les plus prestigieuses au monde, et de nombreuses institutions culturelles comme le Musée des Sciences et de l'Industrie. Hyde Park est également reconnu pour son rôle dans les mouvements sociaux et politiques tels que le mouvement des droits civiques dans les années 50 et 60. Hyde Park a été le premier quartier à adopter des politiques de ségrégation volontaire dans le logement pour n'en citer qu'un exemple. Le quartier est aussi reconnu pour son architecture unique, qui combine des maisons historiques et des bâtiments modernes. Ce quartier est un exemple de la diversité de Chicago, attirant des habitants issus de milieux variés. Un projet qui va renforcer la notoriété de Hyde Park est la Barack Obama Presidential Library, actuellement en construction dans le Jackson Park, à quelques pas du quartier. Cette bibliothèque présidentielle, la première à être située dans le Midwest, sera plus qu'un simple espace d'archives. Elle comprendra un musée interactif retraçant la présidence de Barack Obama, des espaces communautaires, un centre pour les jeunes, et des jardins accessibles au public. La bibliothèque Obama est également conçue pour être un moteur de développement économique pour Hyde Park et les quartiers environnants. Elle devrait attirer des millions de visiteurs tout en créant des opportunités pour les entreprises locales et en célébrant l'héritage de l'ancien président, profondément ancré dans l'histoire de Chicago.

Je suis sûre que vous ne manquerez pas le **Loop**, situé au cœur de la ville, un quartier central qui se distingue par son architecture remarquable, son dynamisme économique et sa scène culturelle vibrante, notamment dans le domaine théâtral. Les gratte-ciel de Chicago, nés d'une combinaison de nécessité et d'innovation, ont non seulement redéfini la ville, mais aussi marqué l'histoire de l'architecture mondiale. Le Loop est souvent considéré comme un musée à ciel ouvert de l'architecture moderne car il

rassemble certains des gratte-ciel les plus célèbres et influents au monde, notamment la Willis Tower, que les locaux continuent d'appeler la Sears Tower, l'un des bâtiments les plus hauts des États-Unis, offrant une vue spectaculaire depuis son Skydeck. Chicago est considérée comme le berceau des gratte-ciel, en raison de l'innovation architecturale qui a suivi le Grand Incendie de Chicago de 1871. Malgré cet événement dévastateur qui avait détruit une grande partie du centre-ville, l'incendie a été une occasion de reconstruire avec des matériaux plus résistants, comme l'acier, et de répondre à une demande croissante d'espaces commerciaux et résidentiels. Il a permis la naissance des tout premiers comme le:

- Le Home Insurance Building (1885) : Conçu par William Le Baron Jenney, il est souvent considéré comme le premier gratte-ciel au monde. Ce bâtiment de 10 étages utilisait une ossature en acier, une innovation qui a permis de construire plus haut tout en réduisant le poids des structures.

- Le Rookery Building (1888) : Avec ses fondations solides et son design mêlant tradition et modernité, il est un exemple précoce de la transition vers les gratte-ciel. Son intérieur redessiné par Frank Lloyd Wright, illustre l'élégance des styles architecturaux de la fin du XIXe siècle.

- Le Monadnock Building (1891) : Construit en deux phases, il combine une structure en maçonnerie au nord et une ossature en acier au sud, illustrant l'évolution des techniques de construction.

Le Loop, c'est aussi un véritable centre culturel pour les arts de la scène, offrant une riche variété de spectacles, des pièces classiques aux productions modernes. Parmi ses lieux les plus notables vous trouverez le **Chicago Theater**, reconnaissable à son enseigne lumineuse, avec ses spectacles variés, allant des concerts aux comédies en passant par des pièces de théâtre. Le **Goodman Theater** réputé pour ses productions innovantes et son rôle dans la promotion du théâtre contemporain. Le **CIBC Theater**, une adresse de choix pour les comédies musicales de Broadway comme Hamilton ou The Lion King. L' **Auditorium Theater**, conçu par Adler et Sullivan, est célèbre pour sa programmation éclectique qui inclut danse, opéra et théâtre. En plus de son architecture et de sa vie théâtrale animée, le Loop est un centre économique majeur et un lieu d'attraction pour les habitants comme pour les visiteurs. Avec des sites phares comme le Millennium Park, le Cloud Gate (ou "The Bean"), et des restaurants de renommée internationale, il reflète à merveille l'énergie et l'innovation de Chicago. Une balade dans le Loop est une immersion dans l'histoire, l'art et l'avant-garde architecturale, tout en profitant d'une scène théâtrale.

Situé tout près du Loop, le musée de **L'Art Institute of Chicago** est mondialement connu pour sa collection impressionnante de peintures impressionnistes, parmi les plus importantes au monde. Des œuvres de Monet, Renoir, Degas, Cézanne et bien d'autres y sont exposées, grâce à la passion et à la générosité de riches collectionneurs américains du XIXe et du début du XXe siècle et notamment grâce à Bertha Palmer qui

a joué un rôle clé dans l'enrichissement des collections impressionnistes de l'Art Institute de Chicago. Passionnée par l'avant-garde artistique, elle a acquis des œuvres majeures de Monet, Renoir et Degas lors de ses séjours à Paris, avant que l'impressionnisme ne gagne une reconnaissance internationale. Grâce à sa vision et son mécénat, elle a aidé à faire de Chicago un centre culturel de premier plan et a laissé un héritage durable, établissant l'Art Institute comme l'un des grands gardiens de l'art impressionniste dans le monde.

Aucune visite de Chicago ne serait complète sans une Croisière Architecturale sur la rivière de Chicago et le lac Michigan. Depuis la rivière Chicago, vous pourrez admirer de près les gratte-ciel iconiques qui bordent ses rives tout en découvrant l'histoire et les anecdotes derrière leur construction. Une fois sur le lac où vous découvrirez le Navy Pier qui pendant la Première Guerre mondiale et Seconde Guerre mondiale servait de base d'entraînement pour l'US Navy, vous constaterez que la vue imprenable sur le skyline de Chicago est tout simplement spectaculaire, particulièrement au coucher du soleil.

Bien entendu la ville est à explorer selon vos envies car au-delà des quartiers et musées, Chicago regorge d'autres quartiers et d'autres trésors à qui je ne peux malheureusement pas faire justice. Au passage, il y a les ponts basculants qui enjambent la rivière, et qui sont de véritables prouesses d'ingénierie. Le Temple Bahá'í à Wilmette est aussi une œuvre architecturale à couper le souffle. Les maisons de Frank Lloyd Wright à Oak Park rendent hommage au génie de ce visionnaire.

Je réitère que le congrès de l'AATF est une occasion idéale pour découvrir Chicago, une ville vibrante et accueillante, où chaque coin de rue raconte une histoire. Chicago saura, j'en suis sûre, vous séduire par son énergie, sa diversité et sa richesse culturelle. N'oubliez pas votre maillot de bain pour aller faire trempette dans le lac et vous doré au soleil.

À bientôt au congrès, dans cette ville pleine de surprises !

Fanny Clonch

« Calendrier »

February 5, 2025

[2024-2025 Francophone Studies
Stipend](#)

March 20, 2025

La Journée Internationale de la
Francophonie

July 7 - 10, 2025

[Annual AATF Convention](#)
Palmer House Hotel, Chicago Illinois

November 4 - 10, 2025

NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK



L'ÉLAN

