

Novembre 2008



**ANNUAL BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU TASTING
LA BOULANGERIE, FIG GARDEN VILLAGE
(AT PALM AND SHAW IN FRESNO)
Join the Alliance Française de Fresno**

**Sunday, November 23, 2008
6:30 to 8:30 PM**

- **Sample 3 different Beaujolais wines selected by Alliance Française members.**
- **Enjoy “hors d'oeuvres” specially prepared by Patrick Bourrel of La Boulangerie.**
- **Cost**
 \$20 for members who RSVP
 \$25 for non-members who RSVP
 \$30 for all others at the door

Note that space is limited so it is important to RSVP in advance.

RSVP by Nov. 19, 2008 to Diana List, 225-6257, diana.list@prodigy.net
or Linda Scambray, 431-3110, scam4@comcast.net

This is always a great evening!



CAFÉS DE L'ALLIANCE

Jeudi, 13 novembre, décembre 11 de 16:30h à 18h à la Boulangerie. Votre rendez-vous mensuel avec vos amis francophones. (Occurs 2nd Thursday of each month).

Interested in learning or improving your French? Contact Alliance School Directress Odette Cohen at 435-3285 for information on adult classes and Micheline Curnyn at 435-5532 for children's classes.



Thanks to everyone who promptly paid their Alliance dues for 2008-09. In case you have forgotten, please mail your check to Colleen Mitchell, 3785 E. Holland Ave., Fresno 93726-3602 (\$30 individual, \$40 family).

Tombola Tickets Now Available
1st Prize, \$2,000 for 2 Flights to Paris
 (details: www.affresno.org)



Additional Prizes

Two tickets Fresno Grand Opera *Faust*
 2 tickets Fresno Philharmonic concert
 2 season tickets Keyboard Concerts
 6 tickets Fresno Film Works,
 Alliance Française French Course Tuition
 Gift Basket, Campos Brothers Farms

Gift basket from Trader Joe's
 Gift Certificate, Ripe Tomato
 Dinner for two at Café Rousseau
 2 Gift Certificates for massage, Tatiana, The Spa
 Gift Certificate, Sephora French beauty products

Call Micheline Curnyn at 435-5532 for tickets or more information.



On October 28, 45 Alliance members and 45 legionnaires welcomed the French Consul Général, Pierre-François Mourier to the American Legion Post 509 and the Merci Train boxcar. M. Mourier spoke of the long history of friendship between France and the US and expressed France's gratitude for US help during WW II. Ralph Bivings, Chef de Gare of the Société des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, and Dennis Matarrese, Grand Directeur of Locomotive and Boxcar, spoke of the history of the American Legion and the arrival of the Merci Train to the US. A touching moment was the presentation of a Commemorative Certificate of Recognition to Roger Vinçon for his work as an Alliance board member, for his services as liaison between the French Consulate and the Alliance, and for his fervent dedication to veterans' causes. After the ceremony, 46 boisterous people made their way to Café Rousseau where they enjoyed a meal together. The French Consul spoke on the importance of Europe, President Sarkozy's role as the EU President, and the upcoming meeting of world leaders to discuss the global economy. Beth Spiegel drove from Pasadena to film the ceremony for a documentary on the Merci Train; she asked to be contacted if anyone has information about the arrival of the Merci Train boxcar to Fresno and about what happened to the French gifts that were inside (bethspiegel@mac.com or 626-791-4336). The Alliance also received a touching letter from Karin Larka with her thanks for this event which was especially touching for her as can be seen from the following quote from her letter: *"We were pleased to be part of the Friendship Ceremony, especially when the last speaker told of his experience at the ligne Magineau in Bitche. We have visited that fortification numerous times, as my grand uncle had a canteen there during WWI. And during WWII, this Fresno soldier helped save my family whose village is not too far away. To meet this man and thank him for my family was very emotional. I was glad to do that, because every time we visit France and are walking through a small village, invariably we'll meet an elder French citizen who profoundly thanks us because our country saved them."*

Tentative Calendar of Events for 2008-09

November 23	Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Tasting, La Boulangerie, 6:30 PM
January 25	La Chandeleur & Tombola, La Boulangerie, 6:30 PM
February	Yannick Himber, A Chef's Tour of Alsace
March	Monique Giroux, Eternal Charles Aznavour et Edith Piaf
April	David Ross, The Plot to Undermine the Old Regime in France
April 3	Pascal Rogé, Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert, CSUF Concert Hall, 8:00 PM
May	Christophe Laudamiel, Fact and Fiction of French Perfume,
July 12	Bastille Day Festivities