



JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNEE

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Mr. Dominique LEFEVRE, Président, les membres du Conseil d'Administration, et la Direction de l'Alliance Française des Bahamas vous présentent leurs meilleurs voeux pour 2010!

Mr. Dominique LEFEVRE, President, the members of the Board and Management of the Alliance Française des Bahamas wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ALLIANCE ACTUALITÉS - Décembre 2009

The Alliance Française would like to thank its sponsors, members, students and friends for their support this past year. Thanks to your time, participation and support, we have been able to continue to offer activities and classes in French.

Our goal is to promote the French language and culture in as many ways as possible. We have tried to do so to the best of our abilities and limited financial resources.

Please find below a report from our Administrator for the year 2009.

OCEAN MOVIE SERIES:

Les Enfants de la Mer: Old Fort Club and Government High School

The first movie in a series entitled "Ocean Series" proposed by Dragan Popov, was held at the Old Fort Club in January. This was a means of recruiting members for the Alliance Française in a relaxed atmosphere. The documentary was also shown free of charge at Government High School in the afternoon and was a success with the students.

The film was in French and Dragan Popov commented and gave explanations in English at both venues.

Le Grand Bleu: Balmoral Club (Movie and Art Exhibition)

This was the second movie in the Ocean Series. There was no showing at Government High School as there was no school, and it was also noted that some of the scenes in the movie was not appropriate to be show in a school in The Bahamas.

42 persons attended this event at the Balmoral and were enchanted by both the movie in French (English subtitles) and the venue. Anyes Adams, a French artist living in Exuma and her husband Paul Adams, a sculptor exposed some of their work at the event, all with the theme of the Ocean.

OPEN HOUSE: SG Private Banking Building

On March 19th the Alliance opened its doors to the public for an evening of social mingling over wine and cheese. The event was quite successful and attendees showed interest in Alliance events, in particular cultural activities. Persons expressed the need for conversation classes, and as a result of the evening, a conversation class was organised to accommodate them.

CINE CLUB:

The Cine Club has been meeting regularly since June of this year. It features French movies with English subtitles on the first Friday of every month at 6:30 pm. for a token fee of \$5. Members and friends have seen, on a monthly basis, the following movies: *Disco*, *Molière*, *Ne le Dis à Personne*, *Les Choristes*, *Deux Frères*, *Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles* and *Jean de Florette*. Movies are held at the Alliance's office in the SG Private Banking Building on West Bay Street. Several were held at the British Colonial Hilton, but due to economic constraints, it was felt to be more feasible not to rent space for these events. An average of 30 – 40 persons attend these events.

SOIREE 14 JUILLET:

The Alliance celebrated the French national holiday, Bastille Day, with members of the Bahamian and French speaking communities of the Bahamas at the Provence Restaurant in Sandysport on July 14, 2009.

SG Private Banking, Burns House, BNP PARIBAS and Credit Agricole were sponsors for the evening which attracted over 100 persons was a success.

14th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL WEEKEND

The International Cultural Weekend organised by the International Cultural Committee, comprised of numerous representatives of different nationalities residing in The Bahamas and chaired by Mr. James Catalyn for 13 years has been re-baptised as the International Cultural Festival. His Excellency, the Honourable Brent Symonette, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs is the National Chairman and Janet Johnson chairs the present committee. France has participated in the past festivals, and won 1st place for Europe in 2006. Italia Watkins-Jan is the representative on the committee.

This year, the stand for France had the theme “**LA FRANCE: L'ART DE VIVRE**” and won first place again for best booth in Europe through a showcase of language, food, culture and the talent of French artists.

Participating French artists par excellence residing in The Bahamas included: Mr. Thierry Lamare, artiste peintre, and Mme Caroline Grandpierre Anderson of Acces-Ocean jewellery.

The Perfume Bar and Clarins provided literature and information on their exclusive, high-end beauty products for women and men and distributed free samples and gift baskets as prizes. French cuisine was provided by Chef Jacques Carlino of Blue Caviar. Jacques is a French chef who resides in The Bahamas. Wine was provided by Burns House.

The Embassy of France in Jamaica provided literature and information on the different Regions in France and how to study there and the Alliance Française distributed information on our activities.

The Alliance Française des Bahamas would like to thank their sponsors, SG Private Banking, Credit Agricole, The Perfume Bar and Clarins, Burns House and all of the volunteers who worked so hard over the weekend. THANK YOU. Without your generous support and efforts, none of this would be possible. MERCI BEAUCOUP

CLASSES

An announcement was placed in the media to recruit French teachers for the Alliance and several candidates met the professional and legal requirements and are on call. Several persons desisted for personal or financial reasons

Two class sessions were finalized in April 2009. One for children at Lyford Cay, and a conversation class for adults at the Alliance's office.

The SG Hambros signed up for corporate classes for ten of its staff members, and two groups of 5 met on Mondays and Thursdays. Certificates of Completion were awarded to participants who successfully passed their exams. The method being used is Connexions.

A second session of classes started in September 2009 and a French teacher, Mme Stéphanie Gauthier (diplomée d'une *Maîtrise FLE*), was recruited on a part-time basis.

Beginner's I classes for the general public (adult), After School for children at Lyford Cay, and Corporate Classes for SG Private Banking and Crédit Agricole took place from Monday through Friday.

Exams were held at the end of the session, and the majority of students passed their exam and may move on to the next level.

Persons wishing to start classes in January should register now as space is limited or call us at 302-5141 for more information.

Upcoming January

The first activity of the Year will be the Ciné Club on Friday, January 8, 2009. The film programmed is ***Manon des Sources***. Visit our website for details at: http://www.afbahamas.org/files/Alliance_Movie_-_Manon_des_Sources2.jpg .

Classes will resume on the week of the 4th, so if you have not as yet registered, please do so as places are limited. <http://www.afbahamas.org/Classes.html> Please do not hesitate to visit us in the SG Private Banking House on West Bay Street or give us a call at 302-5141.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR –

JOYEUX NOEL ET BONNE ANNEE!