



RETIREE JOURNAL

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FACULTY
NOVEMBER 2013

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



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Front Cover Photo

*Westcott Building - Administration Building
for Florida State University*

November 2013



HOLIDAY PARTY



ARF & Faculty Senate
Tues. - December 10, 2013
FSU President's House
From 5:30 – 7:30 pm



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*For the March issue
of the
ARF Journal
Please submit your publications
and professional activities by
Sunday - February 9, 2014
to: thart@fsu.edu*

Retiree Journal 1

From the President

The Fall Luncheon of the Association of Retired Faculty was a great success. The Alumni Center Ballroom was an excellent setting, and the presentation, "Over Diagnosis: How Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer," by Dr. Kenneth Brummel-Smith, Chair of the Department of Geriatrics of the FSU College of Medicine, was substantive and thought-provoking. The venue, the talk, and a great meal all added up to an outstanding event.

Special thanks also go to the The FSU Alumni Association and The Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Foundation for sponsorship of our meet and greet social hour. Thanks also to the following: Vice President Leo Sandon for organizing the event, Ruth Pryor for her outstanding performance on the piano, Calvin Zongker for photography, Esther and Tom Harrison for nametags, and hostesses, Nancy Turner, Carol Darling, Freddie Groomes-McLendon, Betty Lou Joanos, Sandra Rackley, and Wilma Rosenbloom. ARF Past Presidents were recognized as well as all newly retired faculty and staff. Parking Services again provided parking stickers at our luncheon for ARF members in attendance. Many thanks to the staff of Parking Services.

The Holiday Celebration at the President's House will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. An official invitation from President and Mrs. Barron will be mailed to all ARF members. Please RSVP so that proper accommodations may be made for you.

Best wishes for the remainder of this year and the year to come!

Anne Rowe

**MASTER CALENDAR OF
EVENTS**

**Association of Retired Faculty
The Florida State University
2013- 2014**

*Remember the
Holiday Celebration*

Don't forget the annual Holiday Celebration
on December 10, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
at the
President's House.



Members of the Faculty Senate
and dues-paying members of the Association
of Retired Faculty are invited. The party
will be hosted
by President and Mrs. Barron.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.
Business or holiday dress is the suggested attire.
Members who need special accommodations
should let us know in advance. Golf carts will be
providing rides from the parking lots to the
house for anyone who needs assistance.

Call 644-3568

Leo Sandon
ARF Vice President

Board of Directors

Tuesday - January 7, 2014
2:00 p.m., Cottrell
Conference Room
FSU Alumni Center

Retiree Journal

Sunday - February 9, 2014
Articles due to Editor
(March Issue)

Tour of Campus

Wednesday – February
12, 2014 University Center
-Visitors Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tour of Campus

Thursday – February
13, 2014 University Center
-Visitors Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Tuesday - March 4, 2014
2:00 p.m., Cottrell
Conference Room
FSU Alumni Center

Barbecue

Wednesday – March 26, 2014
FSU Reservation
11:30 a.m.

Spring Luncheon

Wednesday - May 14, 2014
University Center Club, FSU
11:00 a.m. Social, Noon – Lunch,
cost \$22

Joint Board Meeting

Wednesday – May 21, 2014
(old and new board)
2:00 p.m. – Meeting, 3:00 p.m. -
Reception

Exchange of Materials

May 21, 2014 – July 31, 2014
(Time for exchange of materials
from old officers to new board
members)

2013-2014

- Jane Waggamann November 27, 2012
(wife of John (Jack) Waggamann
(Faculty))
- Phyllis Straus April 19, 2013
(Staff)
- Betty Rogers Rubenstein May 19, 2013
Wife of Richard Rubenstein
- Armand Alfred DuPoint, Jr. May 20, 2013
(Staff)
- Richard G. Fallon May 23, 2013
- Larry Jones May 30, 2013
(Staff)
- Eddie Mae Thomas Speight May 30, 2013
(Staff)
- Virginia Caffee Grigg June 4, 2013
(Wife of the Former Charles M Grigg)
- Louise Sinton Clay June 10, 2013
(Staff)
- Henry Casper Martin June 10, 2013
(Staff)
- Michael Kasha June 13, 2013
(Faculty)
- Nancy Ann Powell Dobson June 20, 2013
(Wife of Jack T. Dobson)
- Joseph Harice Hiett July 1, 2013
(Admin.)
- Harold L. Clack July 20, 2013
(husband of Former Doris Hargrett
Clack – Faculty)
- Majorie Frances Sparkman July 21, 2013
(Faculty)
- Kathryn Elizabeth Shaw Flowers July 26,
2013 (Wife of former Dick Flowers -
Staff)
- Donald Ungurait August 2013
(Faculty)

- Charles Huson Betts 08/22/13 (Staff)
- Bessie Mae McClendon 08/22/13 (faculty)
- James Anthony (Tony) Paredes 08/24/13 (Faculty)
- Elizabeth (Betty) Jane Piccard 08/29/13 (Faculty) Former ARF
President 2000/2001
- Opal G. Poppell 09/18/13 (Staff)
- Dorothy Lynn Bell Adair 09/22/13 (Wife of former Charles
Henry Adair Faculty)(She was Staff)
- Shirley B. Baum 10/16/13 Wife of former Dean
Werner Baum (Faculty)
- Laura Lee Porter Herndon 10/18/13 (Staff)
- Rosemary Miller Watson 11/03/13 (Staff)

IN MEMORIAM



A Stained Glass Window in Honor of Retirees by Fred Standley



Our treasurer, Tom McCaleb, reports that we have received \$4100 in donations from ARF members toward the \$5000 we need to pay for the stained glass window to be placed in Werkmeister in honor of all retirees from FSU: faculty, staff, and administration. The project is now in progress with the Master Craftsman Studio as a result of our having paid the initial \$2500 required to start the project.

If you would like to contribute any amount toward the \$900 remaining to be raised, please send a check to Tom made out to the FSU Foundation and indicating on the bottom "ARF Stained Glass Window." Send to: 3037 Godfrey Place Tallahassee 32309.

Fred Standley, Chair, Stained Glass Window Committee

Poetry Remembered

by Fred Standley

With thanks to Tom Hart as Editor of the Retiree Journal for his enthusiastic support this issue initiates a new feature which will be continued if it is appreciated by ARF members. Namely, each month this new section with the above title will appear and will feature a poem that has been selected by an ARF member along with a brief two or three sentences explaining the reason for the choice. I am pleased to say that Tom has provided the poem for this our first inclusion of this new feature. He has selected "I Still Rise" by Maya Angelou.



Maya Angelou is a celebrated poet, novelist, memoirist, dramatist, actress, filmmaker, and civil rights activist. She is indeed a Renaissance woman. Her novel "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" (1970) has received international acclaim. At his request she composed the poem "On the Pulse of the Morning" and read it at the inauguration of President Clinton. She has received over 50 honorary degrees and is currently the Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.

Tom's rationale for his selection:

"I was fortunate to hear Maya Angelou speak at a School Librarian's Conference in Atlanta in the 1980's. I never really like poetry until then. Even when she speaks, there is a rhythm to her voice that is soothing. She has faced incredible obstacles in her life, but still perseveres. I guess that's when I became hooked on 'special' poems with deep meaning and feeling."

Still I Rise

You may write me down in history
 With your bitter, twisted lies,
 You may trod me in the very dirt
 But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
 Why are you beset with gloom? 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
 Pumping in my living room.

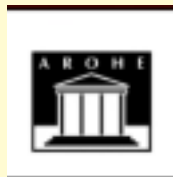
Just like moons and like suns,
 With the certainty of tides,
 Just like hopes springing high,
 Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
 Bowed head and lowered eyes?
 Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
 Weakened by my soulful cries?
 Does my haughtiness offend you?
 Don't you take it awful hard 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
 Diggin' in my own backyard.
 You may shoot me with your words,
 You may cut me with your eyes,
 You may kill me with your hatefulness,
 But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
 Does it come as a surprise
 That I dance like I've got diamonds
 At the meeting of my thighs?
 Out of the huts of history's shame
 I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain
 I rise
 I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
 Welling and swelling
 I bear in the tide.
 Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
 I rise
 Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
 I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
 gave,
 I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
 I rise
 I rise
 I rise.

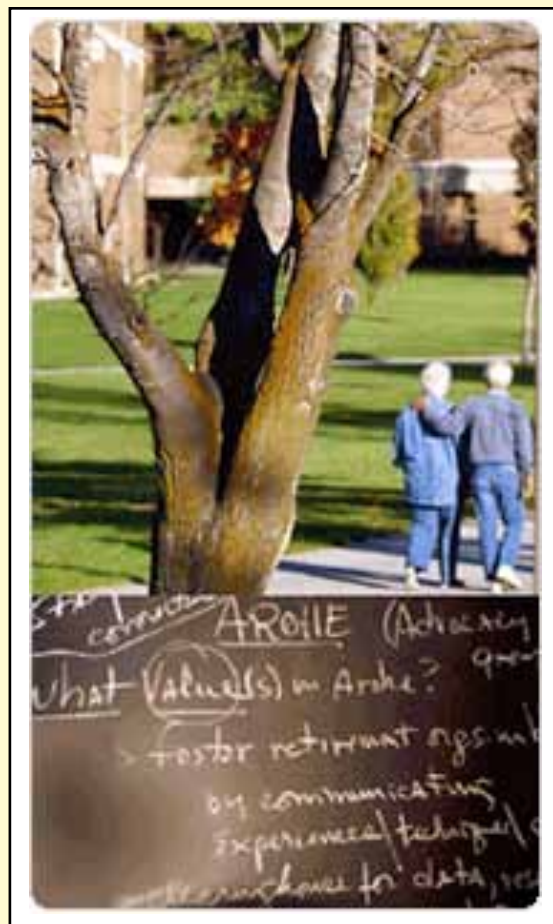


Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

ARF joined the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) August 2008

AROHE
www.arohe.org
 by

Fanchon F. Funk, ARF National Liaison



AROHE Matters

E-newsletter of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education

AROHE Conference 2014 Keynote Speaker

“End of One Way: Beyond Career and Retirement Mystiques”

By Ann Kohner, 2014 AROHE conference planning committee chair.

Professor Phyllis Moen will deliver the keynote address at the 2014 conference.



The AROHE 2014 Conference Planning Committee is pleased and honored to announce that Phyllis Moen will give the Paul Hadley Keynote address at next summer's conference, which will be held August 10 - 14, 2014, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Her address, “End of One Way: Beyond Career and Retirement Mystiques,” fits nicely with the conference theme of “Universities and Retirees: Building Connections.”

The 2014 conference will offer further opportunities to build connections as it is scheduled to directly follow the Big 10 Retirement Organization conference in Minneapolis. Conference organizers will work to bring both groups together on August 10, the overlapping day.

Phyllis Moen is a highly-respected professor and researcher in the field of careers, gender, families and wellbeing over a person's lifetime. She has authored several books including *The Career Mystique: Cracks in the American Dream* (2005, with Pat Roehling) and *It's About Time: Couples and Careers* (2003).

Professor Moen is a board member on Civic Ventures, a non-profit organization focused on generating ideas and initiatives that redefine the second half of life. She currently chairs the Aging and Life Course section of the American Sociological Association, and has been elected as a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Gerontological Society of America, and the National Council of Family Relations.

About AROHE

AROHE is a nonprofit association that develops, enhances and advances campus-based retiree organizations and programs. By sharing research, innovative ideas and successful practices, AROHE emphasizes service to retired faculty and staff as they continue to make valuable contributions to their academic institutions.

Learn more at [Join](#) or [renew](#) today to connect with retirees and retiree organizations from the higher education community. Memberships start at just \$120 per year for retiree organizations with annual budgets under \$50,000.

Arohe board members are volunteers who are leaders from associations of retired faculty and staff, administrators of campus-based retiree centers or emeriti colleges or other campus department administrators who oversee programs for academic retirees.

Board meetings are held via conference call on the first Monday of each month, 10:30 a.m. Pacific time. Any AROHE member may join a board meeting by contacting the AROHE office for call-in information prior to the meeting.

Fall ARF Luncheon



Large Crowd



Great Fellowship



Ether Harrison & Linda McCaleb



Parking Services Registration Table



Overall view of the Alumni Ballroom



Carol Darling, Nancy Turner & Sandra Rackley



Tom Harrison



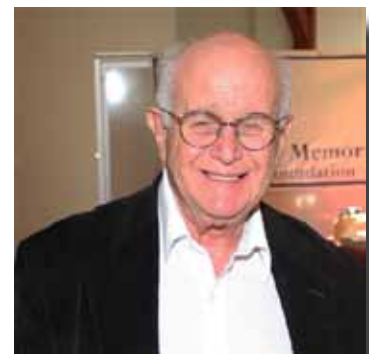
Amy Blankenship



Leo Sandon & Anne Rowe



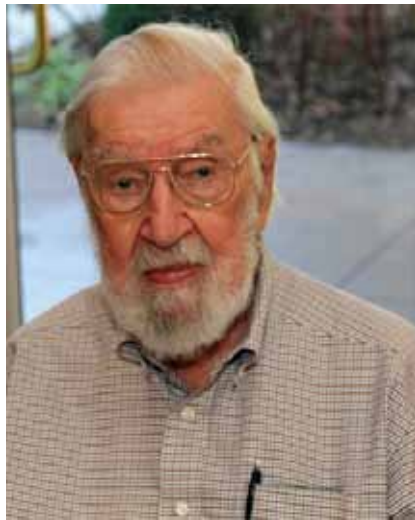
Ron & Genny Blazek



David Greenberg



Johnnye Luebkekmann



Russ Johnsen



Gary Heald



Emily Haymes



Linda Riley



Betty Lou Joanos



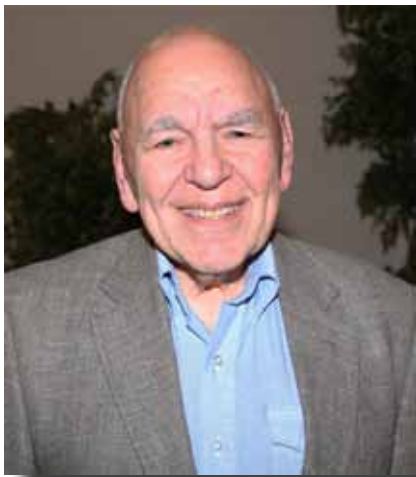
Tamarra & Georges Weatherly



Karen & Bruce Bickley & Linda Schmidt



Carolyn & Steve Shackelford



Charles Nam



Ruth Pryor



Barbara & Ken Kroholz



Gloria Priest & Joan Macmillan



Sally H. Gandy & Judi Taber



Marty & John Larson



Sandy D'Alemberte & Patsy Palmer



Kathy MacWilliams & Ralph Turner



Tom McCaleb



Patsy & Don Rapp & Jodee Dorsey



Hans & Bonnie Braendlin



Carl & Joann Blackwell



Toni Kirkwood Tucker



James Cobb



Walter & Marion Moore



Ken Brummel-Smith, M.D. (Speaker)



Tom Block & Donna McHugh



Myles & Glee Hollander



Kim Galban



Linda Mahler



Marilyn Young & Mike Launer



Dennis McLendon & Freddie Groomes-McLendon



Paul Anderson



Martha Spivey



Anne Rowe



Julia Goldstein & Mildred Trezza



Dr. Adib Akmal Shakir



Cal & Rose Zongker



Nancy Turner & Wilma Rosenbloom

**Two
Americans
in Paris**
by Tom McCaleb

This year, my wife and travel companion, Lynda, and I traded our usual living-out-of-a-suitcase routine for a more settled existence with a week in Paris. Well, it's not quite as settled as our two months in Barcelona last year, but it's still more settled than most of our trips.

Unfortunately, as we discovered, it was the week of the Paris Air Show. You wouldn't think any single event could completely dominate the hotel market in a city the size of Paris, but it did. I had some difficulty finding a hotel room in the city at a "reasonable" price. Reasonable turned out to be north of \$300 a night, although admittedly I did upgrade to a larger room. Still, it was no luxury hotel—a perfectly acceptable, but also quite ordinary accommodation in Montmartre.

We had previously visited all the major tourist sites—Notre Dame, the Louvre, Musee d'Orsay, Saint-Chapelle, Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur. Our strategy for this trip was to spend time walking Paris neighborhoods with some day trips out of Paris. We found an outfit named "Paris Walks" on line; I highly recommend it. We took five of their tours with three different guides, all very good and two of them were not only highly informative but also hugely amusing. We walked through Montmartre, of course, but also St. Germain, the Left Bank or Latin Quarter, home to the Sorbonne, and the two islands (Ile de la Cite, the original Paris, now home to Notre Dame, and its upriver mate, Ile de St. Louis). We also took a walk through the 16th Arrondissement, a turn-of-the-(20th)-century neighborhood, that contains Paris's few specimens of Art Nouveau architecture.

There are numerous well-known paintings and photos of the traditional Art Nouveau Paris metro entrances. But we

learned on our tour of Montmartre that the entrance canopy at the Abbess metro stop is one of the few remaining original canopies, although its original location was the Hotel de Ville in the center city.



The Abbess canopy is unique in that it has a glass roof. We also learned that the movie *Amelie* (French with English subtitles) was filmed in Montmartre. After we returned home, even though we are not movie buffs, we found a copy in the library and watched it—strange movie, very French (whatever that means), I liked it, not so sure about Lynda.

A century or two ago, Montmartre was home to a number of working windmills, not surprisingly as it is truly a "mont". But the (in)famous Moulin Rouge was not one of them, even though it translates into "red windmill". However, it was inspired by the Moulin de Galette, a real working windmill further up the hill. A popular bistro grew up around the Moulin de Galette and it became famous as a subject for many impressionist and post-impressionist artists who spent time there. And finally, I learned that gypsum from Montmartre was the basis for a common paste known as (what else?) plaster of Paris.

On our Latin Quarter tour, we visited St. Severin's Church, perhaps the most interesting church in all Paris. It began in the 13th century, was burned and rebuilt in the 14th, and expanded over succeeding centuries. Viewing the interior from back to front allows one to see the evolution of architecture and building techniques through the centuries with changes in the columns and arches and the size, shapes, and design of the windows. The 19th century apse was built with the contributions of rich parishioners who paid to have their faces on the images of the saints in the stained glass windows.

Another interesting Parisian church is St. Julien le Pauvre, which sits on the Left Bank across the Seine from and within sight of Notre Dame. St. Julien was built at the same time as Notre Dame, using rejected materials from Notre Dame's construction. But in contrast with Notre Dame's then more modern, almost pure, Gothic style, St. Julien was built in the more traditional almost pure Romanesque style.

On our tour of the two islands, we came across a small building with ancient iron bars across the front. The bars were crowned with the shape of a grape vine, signifying that the building was in its 17th century heyday a wine bar (surprise, wine bars actually are not a 21st century yuppie invention). In the 17th century, the king decreed that all wine bars must have their facades protected by iron bars to prevent rowdy Parisians from becoming even rowdier. Today, the iron bars still exist even when the premises are no longer used by purveyors of drink because they are protected by historical preservation ordinances.



In St. Germain, we visited St. Sulpice Church, the second largest church in Paris, only slightly smaller than Notre Dame. It is especially famous because of its great pipe organ and its succession of famous organists. The prominent 20th century French composer, Marcel Dupre, was the organist for over thirty years. Before him, Charles-Marie Widor, composer of many well-known organ pieces, presided over St. Sulpice's organ for an astonishing sixty-three years, and Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wély, also a noted composer for organ, served for six years.

St. Sulpice's south tower lacks the adornment of its north tower twin. That wasn't the original plan, but the south tower was never completed, and like the wine bars, it is now protected in its unadorned state by historical preservation

laws. If you like Roman columns, St. Sulpice is for you; the columns on the facade are stacked Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian in ascending order.



As I said earlier, in addition to our walking tours of Paris, we made several day trips out of the city. We had not previously been to Versailles, although it's a short, easy train ride from Paris. We arranged for an "extended" guided tour of the palace that included some areas not open to the general public as well as the public spaces. The palace is, of course, huge, sprawling, and magnificent—in fact, almost obscene.

As it was a Tuesday in June, the fountains in the gardens (they actually call it a park, and that is indeed a more apt description) were operating and piped-in music was playing throughout the gardens. At first, this hardly seemed to justify the extra fee for the day. But, after wandering for a while, we discovered an out-of-the-way set of fountains had been programmed to put on a water-cum-music show, a set of "dancing fountains" well worth the admission fee.

In the lake in the middle of the gardens, we spied a Chinese couple having wedding pictures made in a rowboat. Wedding pictures on location, so to speak, seem to be quite popular in China, most notably at the Great Wall, and in a riverside park in Yichang. It may not be much of a journey for couples in Yichang to bring themselves and their wedding clothes and their friends and the photographer and the photographer's assistant and all the photographer's

equipment to the park. It is something more to bring all that to the Great Wall, which is at least an hour removed from even the outskirts of Beijing (and the photographer has to carry the equipment uphill to the wall). But it really seems far-fetched to bring the clothes and the photographer and the equipment all the way to Versailles.

About an hour by train from Paris lies the town of Chartres, home to Chartres Cathedral, one of the finest examples of French gothic architecture. No doubt about it, the cathedral is an impressive sight, little changed from its 13th century architectural form. The cathedral is renowned for its stained glass windows, which have survived in their original form mostly intact. They are not to be missed if you're a stained glass window fan.

But the most impressive sight in Chartres is "Chartres en lumiere". During the summer, the facades of some twenty-nine buildings are illuminated with multi-colored lights, some with animated displays. The lighting takes place from dark (around 10:00 pm when we were there in late June) until 1:00 am. Without a doubt, the most spectacular is the cathedral. One segment of the cathedral show, displayed on the front façade, is a stylized animation of the construction of the cathedral itself. Little figures scramble up and down the wall, putting various pieces in place, which are then lit up as they are completed, until finally the entire façade is illuminated with "Chartres" spelled out across it. On the south transept wall, I watched a pipe organ being built to the tune of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D. Once the pipe organ was completed, the scene morphed into flowers, which in turn were transformed into the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. This was truly an amazing spectacle, well worth the extra money we paid to spend the night in Chartres while keeping our original hotel room in Paris.

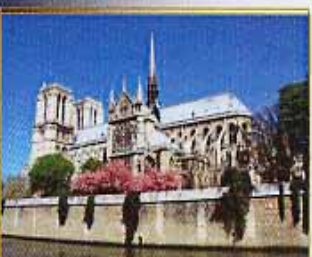


Our last day trip was to Mont-St.-Michel. Mont-St.-Michel is on the Normandy coast, about a four-hour bus ride from Paris, but it is a pretty unique place. It is a high rock, once standing off-shore surrounded by water. Now, it is surrounded by mud, although work is being done apparently to excavate the mud and return the water. The abbey church is at the very top of the rock. The other abbey buildings are just below it, and the town winds around and down from the abbey to the sea. When it was a real working abbey, I suppose, it was a real working town. Today, it's a Disney-esque tourist attraction. Nevertheless, once you've seen all that Paris has to offer, Mont-St.-Michel is definitely worth a day's trip.

We concluded our summer vacation with a week in southern France on a Rhone river cruise, but that's a story for another time. I'll conclude my Paris saga with a few tips for tourists. Paris is big and sprawling, so public transit is often the best choice. The Paris metro is old and few of the stations are equipped with elevators or escalators. Changing trains requires lots of long walks and ascending and descending of steps. But buses, if slower, are frequent and you get to see some of the city above-ground, rather than the tunnels beneath.

As on our past visits, we found Paris to be a very English-friendly city, quite in contrast to its reputation. It helped occasionally that I could speak a bit of French, but it definitely was not essential, and generally, they understood my English much better than they understood my French (French with a Tidewater Virginia accent!). Even many cabbies and metro employees have some basic ability in English, and the French national railroad (SNCF) employees were very helpful and well-versed in English. However, announcements and signs—trains, historical sights, museums—are not in English so my basic reading knowledge of French did come in handy for that. But even Lynda, who knows no French, is often able to piece together the meaning of signs because, by my estimate, fifty percent or more of English words are derived from or clearly related to the French equivalent. So contrary to myth, if you want a foreign language that will help you with English, take French, not Latin.

Finally, I must recant my many previous negative comments about Charles de Gaulle Airport. I once said that Frankfurt was terrible, but I gave it a D because F was reserved for CDG. It is still a sprawling, complicated airport, but the signage is adequate, although it definitely helps to determine from the on-line websites where you need to go before you get there. On arrival, we breezed through passport control; even the Germans could learn from French efficiency in that department. It was a quick ride from the terminal to the CDG train station for a fast trip into the city and a short cab ride to the hotel—plane to the hotel in under 1.5 hours. So neither language nor transportation nor CDG is a barrier for two Americans to enjoy a week in Paris.



PARIS/LONDON IN THE SUMMER – TCC CHORUS

by
Ruth Pryor

Tallahassee Community Chorus members and Dr. Thomas, Artistic Director arrived at Charles deGaulle Airport in Paris, France on July 3, 2013 at 6:30 AM. Upon arrival, the MCI Tour Manager, Marie Agnes Lange directed the group to the awaiting Motor Coach for a panoramic tour of Paris' Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Trocadero and the Louvre. Paris can exhilarate you and is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The next day was the 4th of July and all chorus members attended the flag-raising ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery, Omaha Beach at Coleville sur Mer. A short memorial recital and a wreath-laying ceremony was performed by each choral group at the foot of the 7 metre-high bronze statue representing the souls of the American youths rising out of the waters. In remembrance of D-Day, thousands of people come to visit this impressive cemetery and stand in somber reverence before the 9,386 impeccably aligned white marble crosses. In June, 1944, the beaches of Normandy drew some 160,000 Allied troops who began their efforts to free Europe from the Nazi regime. Normandy is preparing for the 70th anniversary of D-Day—and the arrival of those who want to be part of the experience in 2014. Jan, Smith, President of Tallahassee Community Chorus stated that one of the highlights that moved her emotionally was the ceremony at Normandy on the 4th of July. Jan questioned what this action says about the U.S. that some of our most beautiful memorials have grown from the most violent actions against each other. While group travel is always a challenge, it does provide the opportunity for everyone to get to know each other better and interact on a different basis. It fosters



friendship and forms a great bond between the travelers. Overall, it was a wonderful experience! The ten U.S. Choirs that participated were:

Athens First United Methodist Church, Athens, GA,
Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, Basking Ridge, NJ,
Choral Artst Society of Frederick, Frederick, MD
Heritage Signature Chorale, Washington, DC, Lindsey
Wilson College Singers,
Columbia, KY, Plymouth Congregational Church
Choir, Fort Collins, CO,
Tallahassee Community Chorus, Tallahassee, FL,
VIVACE! Choral Program
Puyallup, Washington, Williamette Master Chorus,
Salem, Oregon, and Winston-
Salem Youth Chorus, Winston-Salem, NC

After viewing the beach at Normandy, the chorus members went to Caen. Today, Caen is the second-largest city in Normandy with over 400,000 residents. The Caen Memorial is the Center for History and Peace. It is a popular place to learn more about 20th century conflicts. We also layed a wreath and sang at the American Cemetery on Normandy Beach.

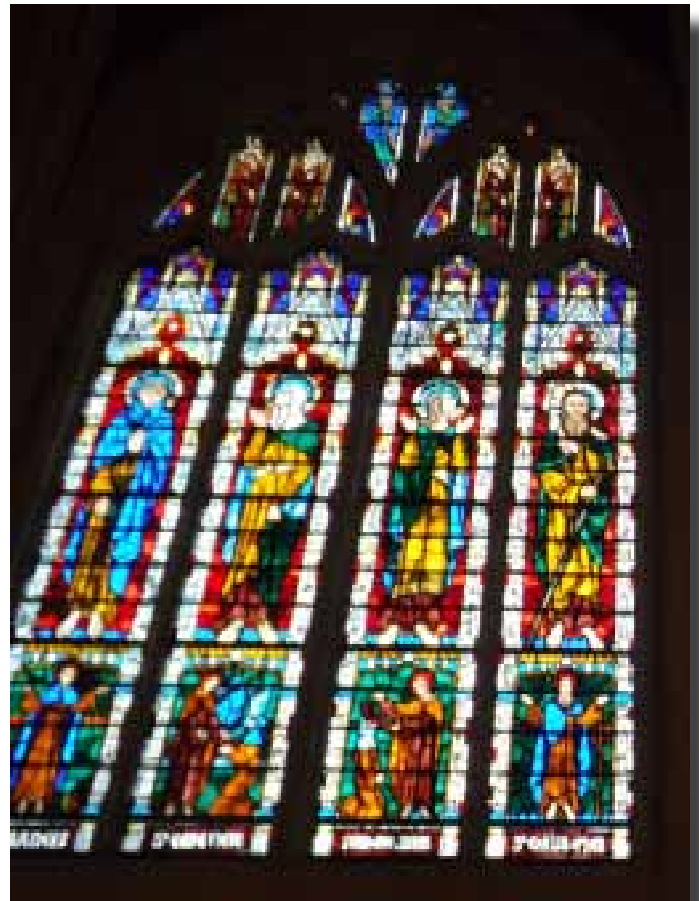


Friday, July 5th, all chorus members began rehearsing at the American Church in Paris (ACP). In 1857, a sanctuary was established in a new church building on rue de Berri. The first American minister was a Presbyterian. Since the end of WWII, the American community became diverse, and the number of English-speaking people of other nationalities has significantly increased.



This beautiful church became our rehearsal location. All choral groups rehearsed 3 hours in the afternoon and 3 hours in the evening every day. Scenic tours were scheduled around rehearsals. The inside chancel of the church is hand-carved Hungarian oak, except for the church's organ, which is relatively new. It was handcrafted at the Beckerath factory in Hamburg, Germany. There are a total of 3,328 pipes. The metal pipes are made of an alloy of tin and lead, and the wooden pipes are crafted from mahogany and oak. The organ weighs 18 tons and is supported by a steel frame secured to the wall with metal bolts. The beginning rehearsals are mandatory for blending each individual voice with sectional chorus members. Dr. Thomas spends a considerable amount of time listening to three singers at a time to obtain the balance that is necessary. He will rotate the chorus until he is satisfied with the sectional voices. The chorus is then formed as a Concert Choir, and not as an individual choral group. You will hear new voices on each side of you, and it may not be a familiar voice from TCC. It is a great way to meet new choristers. This new assignment will be the individual's position for the entire Concert.

The windows are monumental and historical. The three stained glass windows in the nave of the church were installed in 1901. Two of the windows are Tiffany windows from the New York Studio of Louis Tiffany. These windows are classified as national monuments by the French Government and are the only Tiffany windows found in any church in France.



The third window in the back of the church depicts the seals of the Reformed Churches of Europe: France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Bohemia, Hungary, Holland, Ireland, Scotland, and England & Wales. The designs on the third window was taken from colored lithographs representing the insignia of each of the Protestant movements. It should be noted that at the very top is the Jewish menorah, across from the Bible, joined by the dove, or Holy Spirit.

There are over 18 windows that represent, the Reformers, the Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Passion of Christ, Redemption, Resurrection, French-American Alliance War Memorial, Evangelists and the Saints. There were

many famous people who attended services at ACP. Among these distinguished people were: Woodrow Wilson during the World War I Conference, Ulysses S. Grant, Teddy Roosevelt, and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached from the pulpit on 24 October 1965. The ACP celebrated the Commemoration Service in memory of the victims of September 11, 2001.

You couldn't possibly visit Paris without seeing the Eiffel Tower.



You can see its top from all over Paris. The tower rises 984 ft. At the end of the 19th century, it was twice as high as the Washington Monument, and at that time, it was the tallest structure in the world. It is now surpassed by the Chrysler Building in New York. The tower is 1,050 feet in height.

It weighs about 10,000 tons. Approximately 50 tons of paint are added to the Tower every 7 years to protect it from rust.

1889 World Exhibition – The Eiffel Tower was built for the World Exhibition in 1889, held in celebration of the French Revolution in 1789. It is named

after Gustave Eiffel, whose company built the Eiffel Tower. The Tower is so popular that millions of people climb the Eiffel Tower every year and it has had over 250 million visitors since its opening. Chorus members enjoyed the Tower so much during the day that they returned at night to see Paris from the top of the Tower with all of the glittery lights of Paris shining brightly. In the 90's, I had the privilege of watching the Tour de la France bicyclists from the top of the Tower. Amazing!

All of the choristers moved quickly to see as much as possible in between rehearsals. Some of the attractions that were the favorites were: Notre-Dame Cathedral.



This beautiful Gothic Cathedral dominates the Seine and the Ile-de-la-Cite as well as the history of Paris. It was on this spot where the majestic cathedral now stands that the Romans had built a temple to Jupiter, which was followed by a Christian basilica and then the Romanesque Church (the Cathedral of St. Etienne, in 528). Maurice de Sully, bishop of Paris, decided to build a new cathedral for Paris, and he dedicated it to the Virgin Mary. Construction started in 1163, it was not completed until 180 years later in 1345. Built in an age of illiteracy, the cathedral retells the stories of the Bible in its portals, paintings, and stained glass. In 1768, geographers decided that all distances in France would be measured from Notre-Dame. Seventy-six years later, when Paris was liberated during World War II, General de Gaulle rushed to the cathedral after his return, to pray in thanksgiving.

Notre Dame Cathedral is still the center of France. Paris historique tours: Champs Elysees, Place de la Concorde, Luxembourg Palace and Gardens, Latin Quarter, Place de la Bastille, Invalides Hospital, & Montmartre. Versailles (optional). I had been on many of the tours, so I selected other sightseeing locations and shopping areas as I walked along the Seine, intrigued with the artists' painting.

Sunday, July 7th: The Paris Choral Festival Finale Concert is scheduled for 9:00 PM. We had time to rest before boarding the coach. Our concert attire was left on the coach since we would not return to the hotel before the concert. Our dressing rooms were in the catacombs below the cathedral. It was cold, dark, and the smell of mold was very noticeable.



The Eglise La Madeleine was truly one of the most beautiful churches I have ever seen.



It is built in the Neo-Classical style and after the fall of Napoleon, the restored King Louis XVIII, decided that the building should be used as a church, dedicated to Mary Magdalene. After many debates and changes of plans, the building was finally consecrated as a catholic church in 1842.



In this magnificent cathedral many prominent people's funeral masses took place. Such famous composers such as Frederic Chopin (1849) and Gabriel Faure (1924).





At the front of the Church Eglise La Madeleine is the Angel Altar depicting St Mary Magdalene being lifted by angels which evokes the tradition concerning ecstasy, which she entered in her daily prayer, while in seclusion.



Anthony Bernarducci (PhD Student in choral conducting, working with Dr. Thomas) and Dr. Andre' J. Thomas



All ten of the Choral Groups in rehearsal in front of the Altar, directed by Dr. Thomas

This summer Tallahassee Community Chorus spent an exciting week in Paris preparing for a very rewarding concert. The experience was a testament to the universal power music has on the soul, and how it can speak to us all through it's own unique language. The chorus of almost 200 singers came from many different places across America. They were all prepared by their own musical directors and met for the first time in Paris. There are few other circumstances I can think of where 200 strangers can meet in a foreign country and be instantly united to a common cause. Dr. Thomas created an inspiring experience for the singers fostering a sense of community throughout the concert preparation. We were all so excited the day of the concert to have a full cathedral of concert goers ready to hear the music of Faure, Bernstein and our own Dr. Thomas. Music transcended that day and peoples hearts were touched regardless of nationality or language. We closed with a piece by Dr. Thomas which embodied the essence of the trip,



The Festival chorus sang the “Requiem” by Gabriel Faure. The Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein were sung in Hebrew. Two original selections by Andre Thomas were also performed. “Someday is Today” and “Beautiful City”. The French community loved the Requiem and the cathedral was full during the dress rehearsal and the night of the concert.

Canterbury/London

We continued our adventure on Monday, July 8th as we boarded the coach and transferred to Calais for Folkstone via one-way Eurotunnel Le Shuttle. It was a strange feeling to be seated in the coach and surrounded by water in the shuttle. The arrival time to Folkstone is only 32 minutes. We arrived in Canterbury and took a tour of the Cathedral. Canterbury Cathedral is visible from miles around, and is the most important center of pilgrimage in Northern Europe. The first Cathedral to occupy the site was begun in AD 597 by St. Augustine. After several fires, the Cathedral today consists of 11th, 12th, 14th and 15th century architecture.



We continued on to our next destination, London and checked into the Hotel Lancaster Gate. London became an important Roman city when it was established 1,250 years ago. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness.

A guided tour of London included the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. We went past Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. We continued down Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we saw the "Changing of the Guard." Then we continued along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral and the 900-year old Tower of London. We dined at the Sherlock Holmes Pub.

On Wednesday, July 10th, we were scheduled for an excursion to Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, which was built 900 years ago by William the Conqueror to guard the Western approach to London. Today, it is England's largest castle and also the largest inhabited stronghold in the world. Highlights of the visit will be St. George's Chapel and the State Apartments. Unfortunately, since July is the peak tourist season and the children are on vacation, the lines were too long and we had to make a change in our agenda and get the tickets for the State Apartments in lieu of the Castle.

London Eye Ferris Wheel: In March 2000, the EDF Energy London Eye was built only to be used as a temporary celebration of the millennium. But it was too popular to take down and the Queen discovered it was bringing in a lot of British pounds. More than 3.5 million people visit it every year (about 3 times as many as visit Stonehenge). The Eye is much easier to get to. This attraction was one of the most visited by the chorus members, and everyone raved about it who had ridden the Eye. I decided to give it a try. Crawling through the sky like a cloud snail, looking down on the milk chocolate Thames, it was the best 18 pounds, 90 pence I had spent so far. I always loved ferris wheels. It took seven years to build the Eye and it takes about 30 min. to make a rotation at the speed of 0.6 miles/hr. Each capsule weighs 10 tons and the spindle, (the shaft that holds the wheel), is 23 metric (over 75 feet) tall. Together the spindle and the hub weigh 330 tons. It is 20 times heavier than Big Ben. Some of the landmarks can be seen from the highest viewpoint of the Eye.



Thursday, July 11 the chorus departed from Heathrow Airport in London for Tallahassee and other cities in Europe. I went to Frankfurt, Germany via Lufthansa Airlines to visit family in Neuhausen. The itinerary that my family arranged for my visit was historically and majestically situated in the middle of the Rhine-Neckar Triangle and at the periphery of the Swabian Alb. The Hohenzollern Castle rises majestically on the mountain peak with a panoramic view over the countryside.



The castle was the home of Georg Friedrich, Prince of Prussia, and Sophie Princess of Prussia. Numerous concerts, open-air cinema, exhibitions and one of Germany's most beautiful Christmas markets make the Castle into an attractive cultural event all year round. What a wonderful treat to visit this magnificent Castle.

My next surprise was a trip to Strasbourg, France. It is a city with 265,000 inhabitants whose historical centre nestles between the arms of the river Ill, a tributary of the Rhine. Embedded in the heart of the old city, is another famous Notre Dame Cathedral which is characterized by its single tower, whose spire reaches a height of 142 metres.



Inside the cathedral is the famous astronomical clock with its automated figures. Tourist boats offer trips through Petite France. There is nothing better than a boat tour to get to know the old town. All traffic through the navigation canal must pass the lock. It was relaxing to take the boat tour around the Centre of Stasbourg for an hour. The towers of all the principal churches in Strasbourg are silhouetted against the sky. In the foreground rises the most remarkable of all, St. Pierre-le-Vieux, with its two bell towers, one Catholic, the other Protestant. The next adventure took us to Ladenburg – one of the oldest cities of Germany. It is situated in the middle of the Rhine-Neckar Triangle, the old Roman town is completely preserved and is surrounded by the River Neckar and the Odenwald. Traces of its Roman past are intertwined with medieval charm and has given the town its character. While in Frankfurt, an interesting museum to visit is the Städel Museum established by the banker and businessman, Johann Städel in 1815. This museum holds the rank as Germany's oldest museum foundation and houses one of the world's most important art collections.



Next we went to the city of Bacharach to see the oldest house in Germany and the beautiful shops along the narrow streets.



The trip to Oberwesel was an eventful one. Inside the Liebfrauenkirche Church, the organist was practicing, and we were privileged to have an organ recital while we viewed interior of the church.

Our final destination was the Schönburg castle which has been watching the Rhine for more than a thousand years.



There are 22 comfortable rooms inside the castle that are tastefully furnished, lounge with open fireplace, prison tower, small library, Rhine terraces, beautiful castle garden, elegant rooms for conferences. The view overlooking the Rhine is indescribable. We were treated for lunch in this elegant setting. What a great honeymoon gift this would be for our children. As my visit was coming to an end, we decided to go to a town that was the royal seat of counts and princes of Nassau-Idstein from 1255-1721. In the 1800's, it became an Educational Centre of teaching, agriculture, architecture, and attracted many artisans and tanners. It became the centre of an important leather industry. A 14th century protestant Union Church is a real jewel.



Beautiful buildings surround the centre made up of eleven independent villages. It is convenient by rail, road and motorway. On my last day in Kelkheim, we decided to drive to the beautiful village of Oberursel. A Bach concert was going to be performed at St. Ursula at the Leibfrauenkirche with organ, violin, and violin-cello. It was a perfect way to end an inspirational journey through Paris/London/Germany and surrounding areas and receive the quality of the music of that region. This is a small village, but the church was filled to capacity.

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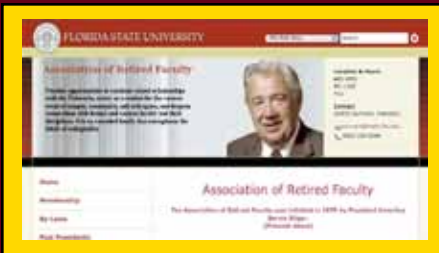
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