



# Franco-American Centre Franco-Américain

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**Preserving Our Past • Celebrating Our Present • Building Our Future**

The Board of Trustees and I are pleased to send you this Franco-American Centre newsletter. In it, you will find reports on recent Centre events and descriptions of past and scheduled events.

In this age of E-Mail and texting, it's nice to have something concrete and readily at hand to read. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

*Edward Moquin*

President

Le conseil d'administration du Centre Franco-Américain est heureux de vous faire parvenir le nouveau bulletin d'informations. Sous-plis, vous trouverez des articles décrivant les événements conclus et prévus.

Dans l'ère électronique où nous vivons, ils est parfois agréable de recevoir une copie papier que l'on peut garder à la portée de la main. Nous attendons avec impatience vos commentaires et suggestions.

*Edward Moquin*

Président

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### LE VENT DU NORD VISITS SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE by Rebecca Mullin



On November 14, the Centre partnered with Saint Anselm College's Dana Center to sponsor a concert by Québécois folk / rock band *Le Vent du Nord*. Back for the second time, the band put on a show that was fun, exciting, and conducted in French! *Run Boy, Run* was the evening's opening act. A very talented group, originating from Arizona, they played a mixture of traditional and contemporary folk music. Together, the two bands gave a lively and entertaining concert.

### BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU WINE PAIRING DINNER by Maurice Demers

The Franco-American Centre held its Fifth Annual Beaujolais Nouveau Wine Pairing Dinner at the Stonebridge Country Club in Goffstown, NH on November 22. This black-tie-optional event celebrates the release of the young and fruity Beaujolais Nouveau red wine which, by French law, cannot be released for sale before the third Thursday in November.

Nearly 60 FAC members and guests attended. They enjoyed a sumptuous four-course meal, introduced by the chef, featuring *Chateaubriand de boeuf* and carefully selected wine pairings for each course. The diners were serenaded by pianist Roger L'Heureux. Entertainment included a stirring rendition of this year's theme song, *Plaisir d'Amour*, sung by Sylvio Dupuis in French, and Carolyn Maheu in English. They were accompanied by Cecile Dupuis on piano.



Attendees received our new *fleur de lis* lapel pin, and numerous door prizes were awarded. The evening concluded with a traditional French Christmas carol sing-along to usher in the holiday season.

### THIRD ANNUAL CHILDREN'S OUTING by Pauline Guimond Grant



Join us at *Finesse Pastries*, 968 Elm St. in Manchester, NH on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at noon. *Finesse Pastries* has been offering cooking classes to our FAC children's classes for the past two years. Thanks to the generosity of owner Chelsey Erickson and her wonderful staff, our students have had an opportunity to prepare and sample authentic French *pâtisseries*. The staff is always eager to welcome our young people, offering everything from aprons, to hygiene lessons, to baking instructions. The first year, the children helped prepare *chaussons aux pommes*, and last year they created their own uniquely decorated fruit tarts. *Finesse Pastries* offers an array of authentic French pastries because Mlle Erickson studied under an accomplished French chef. *Délicieux!*

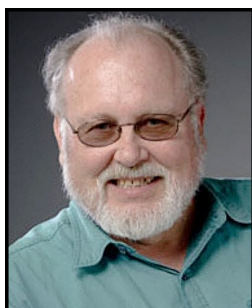
This event is free but reservations are required. Priority is given to currently enrolled French students but is open to FAC members' children or grandchildren between the ages of 4 and 13. Each child must be accompanied by a parent / guardian and photo permission slips will be available at the event. Attendance is limited to 15 children and is sure to fill up quickly. For more information or to register, contact Madame Pauline Guimond Grant at [cpgrant@comcast.net](mailto:cpgrant@comcast.net).

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### FAC/INSTITUTE OF FRANCO-AMERICAN STUDIES LECTURE SERIES by Maurice Demers

This lecture series — a FAC / Institute for Franco American Studies initiative — has proven popular from the start. The first lecture was a presentation on the historic *Merci Train* boxcar housed on Manchester's West Side. Two members of the 40 and 8 Society, an American Legion organization, described of how the boxcar — a thank-you gift from France after World War II — came to New Hampshire. The boxcar contains many historic and artistic artifacts. A ceremony is held annually to recognize the sacrifices of both countries in World War II.

The most recent lecture was given by Scott Eaton, an avid student of aviation history, on the life of Antoine de St. Exupéry, the author of *The Little Prince*. While best known in the USA for this children's book, St. Exupéry is most remembered and revered in France for his exploits as a trailblazing airmail pilot and aerial reconnaissance pilot in World War II. Shot down off the French coast during the war, the wreckage of his plane was discovered only recently.



Laurence Armand French, PhD

The next lecture in this bi-monthly series will be on January 14 at 7:30 PM at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics on the Saint Anselm College campus. Laurence Armand French, PhD, will discuss his newly published book, *Frog Town – Portrait of a French Canadian Parish in New England*. The book is a geopolitical-historical study of French-Canadians in "Yankee Land," focusing on the Parish of St. Jean Baptiste in Suncook, NH. Dr. French is Professor Emeritus of psychology at Western New Mexico University and a researcher and affiliate professor at Justiceworks, a research and development group in justice studies in the College of Liberal Arts of the University of New Hampshire.

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### FRENCH CLASSES AT FAC FOR EVERYONE by Pauline Guimond Grant

The Franco-American Centre's 2015 winter session of French classes offers more than 15 courses, for children and adults, from beginners to advanced conversationalists. The 2015 schedule includes a literature class and a few day classes. Private and semi-private sessions are available for students who have difficulty fitting our regular classes into their schedules. Most winter classes begin in late January (true beginners should start in the fall of each year).

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### **FRENCH CLASSES AT FAC FOR EVERYONE** by *Pauline Guimond Grant (cont.)*

Our courses provide a relaxed pace wherein students come for the joy of learning French. There are no tests, exams, or credits. Homework is limited to helpful practice. Also, classes are smaller than traditional classes, usually averaging three to eight students, thus ensuring ample opportunity to speak, to listen and receive individual attention from instructors.

The FAC is proud to be affiliated with the Alliance Française. However, we do not follow the AF curriculum (although a number of our students have passed AF exams). We are more flexible and better able to “tweak” our courses to meet student needs. The FAC’s goal is to teach French to as many students as possible. Our knowledgeable and committed teachers are eager to share their love of the French language and culture with students.

FAC student membership (\$35) and registration are required before starting a class.

Our rates are competitive, especially compared with current university tuitions. For more information, contact Madame Pauline Guimond Grant at [cpgrant@comcast.net](mailto:cpgrant@comcast.net), and review course descriptions at [www.facnh.com](http://www.facnh.com). Get started now on your exciting journey to learn French in a comfortable and fun environment.

The Franco-American Centre – The Place to Learn the French Language and Culture



Le Centre franco-américain – l'endroit pour apprendre la langue et la culture françaises

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### **RÉVEILLON CELEBRATION CHEZ MADAME GRANT FOR FAC STUDENTS** by *Pauline Guimond Grant*



Each year in December, Madame Pauline Guimond Grant and her students gather at her home to celebrate a mini-Réveillon. A Réveillon always includes traditional dishes from both France and Québec. The students volunteer to bring a dish while Madame supplies la soupe à l'oignon and French wine — of course. Dishes that have become *essentiels* include *Bûche de Noël*, *tourtières québécoises*, *poutine*, *fromages français*, and *baguettes*. Last year, the students began a tradition of *un échange de cadeaux* with a French twist. Students must identify the gift they select in French. If the vocabulary escapes them, the student who brought the gift comes to the rescue.

Everyone loves experiencing some typical French Christmas cuisine and learning about traditional French Christmas customs such as *santons*. Madame always proudly displays her two authentic *santons* from Provence and encourages students to sing French Christmas carols.

The mini-Réveillon is a nice way to bring the FAC fall semester to a close and usher in winter classes. It also gives students an opportunity to meet students from other classes, and share experiences in preparing their specialty for the Réveillon, as well as travel experiences to foreign countries.

No one ever goes home hungry and there are always plenty of leftovers to bring home and share with families.

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### **KETCHUP OR GRAVY?** by *Jo-Ann Belanger*

This time of year makes me think of my Franco-American family. Growing up, we celebrated the Réveillon on December 24 at my *mémère* and *pépère* Blais' house in Suncook, NH. The whole family was there, all of us dressed up in our best outfits. *Mémère* baked and cooked all day — preparing *tourtière*, homemade candies, chips with French onion dip, meats, punch, sweets and pies. If you left hungry, it was your own fault. Someone would be in the living room playing the piano and we'd sing carols. Others were scattered throughout the house catching up or sharing stories and reminiscing.

As we got older, we would attend Midnight Mass, then return home for more *tourtière* – with ketchup. I did not realize how controversial this was until last year. After my mom's Christmas concert with the Lakes Region



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**KETCHUP OR GRAVY?** by Jo-Ann Belanger (cont.)

Symphony, she and my Dad hosted a party — complete with *tourtière* and ketchup. I pointed out to one guest that he did not have any ketchup, and asked if he wanted some. He replied, completely astonished: “*Mais, mais, on ne met jamais le ketchup sur une tourtière! Il faut du jus de viande!*” (One never puts ketchup on a *tourtière*! It must be brown gravy!). This started a small but lively debate.

Ketchup or brown gravy? I had never heard of brown gravy but I LOVE the old-fashioned chunky “ketchup” one can only find in Canada. A good bottle of Heinz ketchup is a suitable substitute.

Just before my parents’ Christmas party last month, I wondered if I should find brown gravy to put with the *tourtière* or leave it with the ketchup — served in a beautiful crystal bowl and silver spoon, of course.

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FAC members and friends with the Stanley Cup during the December 27th Monarchs-Bruins Game



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