



Le Réverbère



L'AATF de Philadelphie

Tome I, No. 1

Automne 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from the Co-Presidents
- 2 Barbara Barnett Appreciation
- 3 AATF National Convention
Saguenay/Chicoutimi July 2015
- 5 Poem: The Lass of Ha Ha Bay
- 6 Back story on The Lass of Ha Ha Bay
- 7 AATF Philadelphia Spring Highlights
- 8 Madeline Tribute to Paris
- 9 America Loves Paris Tribute
- 10 Calendar of Events

Co-President

Edith Guay
guaye@jenkintown.org

Co-President

Chris Kimball-Kelly
ckimball-kelly@wssd.org

Vice-President

Rochelle Ostroff-Weinberg
rlkow813@gmail.com

Secretary

Sally Cushmore
scushmore@soudertonsd.org

Treasurer

Susan Zeager
suza3@aol.com

Chères collègues,

Bonjour! Welcome to the first issue of **Le Réverbère**, your online AATF Philadelphia newsletter. Normally, we post these on our website, <http://aatfphila.org/>. In an effort to reach everyone in one fell swoop, we've decided to not only continue to post them on our webpage, but to send out the newsletters via our listserv. This would be the modern day equivalent of having the newspaper delivered to your doorstep.

We want to shine a light on all the great things you are doing in your classrooms and communities to promote French language and culture. Maybe you'll see something here that will spark an idea.

Please submit your articles/ideas/info to me, Chris Kimball-Kelly, at ckimball-kelly@wssd.org. We plan to publish 3-4 times per year.

Special thanks to Robin Brown, president of the AATF Central New York chapter, for sharing their newsletter with me, which ultimately encouraged our chapter to produce one of our own.

The greater Philadelphia area is fortunate to have such a vast and varied wealth of French related material available to us, from the well-known to the lesser known. We want to share them all with you, especially those tucked away little gems in your neighborhoods, be it an after school French program, a shop, an art gallery, or something food related.

Here's to the continuing support, promotion, and discovery of the francophone world here in Philadelphia. A la vôtre!

Chris and Edith

Nous sommes Paris.





Le Réverbère



Barbara Barnett Appreciation



It is with bittersweet gratitude for all she has done for the profession and, more specifically, the Philadelphia chapter of the AATF, that we have reluctantly accepted Barbara Barnett's resignation from the Conseil Executif of our AATF chapter. Barbara (and her husband George) have recently retired from their combined 88 year teaching careers at The Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont and look forward to new adventures as they enter this exciting new stage of their lives.

While she never was an officer of the Philadelphia chapter during her more than thirty years of service, Barbara, très branchée, served as informed advisor, gracious host, and presenter extraordinaire at more than forty local, national and international conferences and workshops, many for our AATF chapter. She was a presenter at AATF international conferences in Lyon, Paris, Montreal and Quebec, as well as at many other local, regional and national AATF conferences.

Along the way, Barbara has received many well-deserved honors, including the AATF Dorothy Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award and being named *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, by the French Ministry of Education for her scholarly contributions to the teaching of French language and culture, especially her research into France during World War II. Among her many accomplishments, which she has generously shared with those involved in the teaching of French, are dozens of books, articles, lectures and documentaries in which she has interviewed and documented the history of many French Holocaust survivors. She also served as Chair of Modern Languages at AIS for 31 years.

In her letter of resignation, Barbara thanked her wonderful colleagues for their commitment to the teaching of the French language, culture and literature. After 45 years in the classroom, she says that she is still convinced that we are in the best possible profession. We agree, and wish Barbara a happy, healthy and productive retirement following her many passions.



Le Réverbère



AATF National Convention Saguenay/Chicoutimi

This was my 4th conference, and ouaouh! I continue to be amazed by the scope and quality of presentations offered, as well as the locations. From the friendliness of the people to the natural beauty of the land and the Saguenay Fjord, I cannot say enough about how special this conference was.

I enjoyed every session that I attended, such as: **Catherine Ousselin's** presentation on how to do a food unit complete with a food day, **Towela S. Okwudiv'e's** session on using French-Canadian immersion resources to teach middle school totally in French!, **Nitya Viswanath's** almost innumerable websites to use with 1:1 devices, **Nicole Naditz's** use of numerous websites for incorporating video such as Zaption with the ability to add pauses with questions to be answered, **Megan Diercks' fast-paced and fun 10/5/3 minute games**, **Cheryl Brown's** "Mon Album de photos" with ideas for developing guided writing assignments and oral presentations, **Margarita Dempsey's** diving into the IPA world, Integrated Performance Assessment, **Charlene Smith's** Get Them Talking by using such websites as Voki/Blabberize/Fotobabble/Voicethread/google voice/audacity/sound cloud/twisted wave/Vocaroo/Cahoot/Screencastify/Powtoon/Go animate/movenote/youtube editor/We video, **Audra Merfeld-Langston's** Blending and Flipping your language courses by putting instructive videos on line to leave more class-time for communicative activities such as having students create their own playlist of French language songs and posting comments on a discussion board, **Joanne Barnett's** Stromae presentation, and **Jeremy Patterson's** fascinating session on Linguistic Trauma + French Poetics in Québec and Martinique.

If you would like more information about all of the fabulous sessions, please visit the following link for access to various presentations: <https://goo.gl/5Qqrpw>

Everyone knew we were in town. Both the president, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba, and the Executive Director, Jayne Abrate, were interviewed several times on radio and TV.





Le Réverbère



This year, in Chicoutimi, we were treated to a performance of *La Fabuleuse Histoire d'un royaume*. The musical debuted in 1988 and continues to be performed every year on the largest stage in Canada, built specifically for this production. Over 100 performers, plus assorted horses, cows, pigs, geese, and dogs, all from the area, take great pride in sharing their history. It's a living fresco of the past 500 years, beginning with the Amérindiens, the visits of Cartier and Champlain, to the present. They change the play according to what's happened recently. For example, after the great flood of 1998, it was incorporated into, or should I say literally onto the stage. They built a river and 2 story waterfall that impressively "flooded" with cascading waters at that point in the timeline. Imagine the incredible Cirque de Soleil productions mixed in with local history and you'll have an idea of the quality and jaw-dropping magnitude of this undertaking. If you are ever visiting in the summer, this is a must-see event.



From Washington D.C, Bill Rivers from the Joint National Committee for Languages, spoke to us about Language Advocacy and the View from Washington. Some of the more positive information is that kids with 2 languages are more likely to graduate college, earn more, make better financial decisions, and develop stronger executive function in the brain which, later in life, can slow down the progression of dementia, the higher the proficiency, the better.

He also noted that languages are becoming more popular in Engineering. The University of Maryland now has 20% of its engineering students enrolling in a program abroad where the coursework is done in a language other than English. They graduate with a minor in that language. That's what today's companies are looking for; a language and another content area. He gave the example of the American company John Deere operating in Kazikstan.

An interesting comment came from an audience member who lives on the NY state/Canada border. He said that we're not addressing a population that is underserved language-wise, those who work blue-collar jobs, such as auto shop workers, the hotel industry, – they want to learn too.

Mr. Rivers also stated that 80% of Americans support language instruction but don't necessarily want to pay for it. He feels that when the business community says their needs aren't being met, only then will financing follow.



Le Réverbère



The Lass of Ha Ha Bay

Of late we came to Saint Alphonse
On lovely Ha Ha Bay;
I never saw the spot but once,
Nor deep, dark Saguenay.

Behold a maiden and a man!
The damsel young and fair;
The gallant, lithe, with coat of tan:
And speech that's chaste and rare.

Yet many tours thro many climes
Have never left a mark
More pleasing unto me at times
Than Saguenay, the dark.

Win out, my friend and claim the lass!
Whose sires were French and Scotch;
Where fleur-de-lys and heather mass
Their petals! Knights, keep watch!

The air is fine, the bay is wide,
A horse-shoe curve outspread,
Which mountains rim on every side,
While clouds float over head.

We saw her blush of joy for you;
Her smile of gladness sweet
At your return, her glance so true,
From blue eyes, when you'd meet.

Enrapt, the soul in romance dwells,
One drifts on dreamy seas,
And fairy fancies cast their spells
On all the vision sees.

The lad in Cornwall had his birth
The lass at Ha Ha Bay.
Her music filled his soul with mirth,
On many a winter day.

O happy little Saint Alphonse!
I loved thee on this stay;
Perhaps again we shall ensconce
Ourselves on Ha Ha Bay.

At convent in Quebec, by nuns
Taught music's wondrous charms,
From ivory keys at Saint Alphonse
She draws its soothing balms.

Dear children are your choicest charm,
The boys and girls who shout
And play, whose hearts beat, free, and warm,
Exempt from care and doubt.

The glorious views of mount and vale.
The zephyrs fraught with health,
Give to her cheeks a hearty, hale,
Increase of beauty's wealth.

Their church within the village set,
Like jewel-treasure rare,
Doth ward their souls from carping free
And lift the load of care.

Give to her eyes their azure hue,
Give to her hair the gold,
Sing in her heart the message true
Of love as yet untold.

The maidens sweet and village youths
Come hither oft, and find
That peace of God, that best of truths
Which calms the heart and mind.

Luck to you, Lass of Ha Ha Bay!
Love, joy and peace to you!
And should you with the lad away,
Good angels tend you two!

And we – we came to Saint Alphonse
Just at the time to read
A poem of life that's writ but once;
And it is sweet indeed!

- by: *Wether Leigh Kinsolving*
- from: *The River of Thought & Other Verses*
- c. 1914 (the year the lad and lass married!)
- Composed while staying at the McLean Hotel, (owned by the lass's family), in Saint Alphonse on Ha Ha Bay. They, Jeanne McLean & Robert Carr, later moved to Fulton, NY.
- As shared with me by their grandson, Roy Carr.
- AATF Conference in Chicoutimi/Saguenay, July 2015.
- Submitted by Chris Kimball-Kelly, AATF Philadelphia



Le Réverbère



The real life story and inspiration for *The Lass of Ha Ha Bay*

It really is a small world. Believe it or not, this couple about whom the poem was written has ties to Central New York. I started my teaching career in Solvay, NY. One of my former colleagues, Roy Carr, has family in French-speaking Canada, but I couldn't remember where. I sent him an email, telling him I would be attending the AATF National Conference in the Lac-Saint-Jean/Saguenay/Chicoutimi area of Québec, and asked where his relatives were from. Of course the answer came back with Lac-Saint-Jean/Chicoutimi!

He then forwarded the poem to me, written about his grandparents by an Episcopalian Priest from Virginia who was staying at the renowned hotel of the time, **Hotel McLean**, in Bagotville, St. Alphonse, looking down on Ha Ha Bay. He was witness to the courtship of Jeanne McLean and Robert Carr and recorded it for us to enjoy 101 years later. Roy's grandmother's family owned the hotel which later burned down in the 1920s and is now the site of McLean Park. He said it's called Ha Ha Bay because when they were looking for the Northwest Passage, they thought they had found it until they realized it was a bay. Ha ha!

There was no secondary school at that time, so his grandmother went to a convent school in Québec City for what we would consider high school. She left in the fall and could not return until spring. There was no road to Chicoutimi and she traveled by boat down the Saguenay Fjord to the St. Lawrence.

His grandfather traveled to get lumber contracts for pulp for Armstrong. At times the train would drop him off in the forest on the way to Chicoutimi and he would hike into the logging camps, hunt for deer, moose, etc. for the loggers and get contracts signed. He stayed at the **Hotel McLean** when in the area, where he met his future wife.

What a world they lived in!

Once married, Roy's grandfather brought his new bride home to Fulton, NY, where they raised their family. She spoke not a word of English when she arrived.

Many thanks to Roy Carr for sharing this poem and family history with me. It made the trip even more special than it already was. If you've never traveled to the area before, I highly recommend it. The poet truly captured the natural beauty of the Saguenay region, so named in 2002 when the cities of Chicoutimi de la Baie and Jonquière merged.

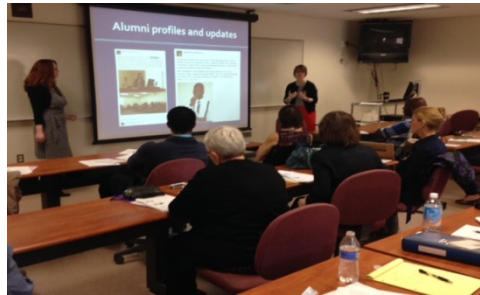


Le Réverbère



AATF Philadelphia Spring 2015 Highlights

APRIL 2015



Stephanie Schechner and Anne Bornschein from Widener University presented their enormously engaging **Facebook** page that they have set up for students and teachers alike. Their goals are community building and to promote French in the broadest sense, using a wide range of topics. They emphasize working with students and their interests and goals. Students graduating with French majors and minors are nowadays finding jobs in banking, insurance, technology, etc, no longer just the time-tested teaching and translating professions. Therefore the scope of the page includes art, politics, sports, movies, music, Francophone countries, sexism, racism, etc. They have a correspondent in France who works in the music industry so that the page is always quite up-to-date with the latest news on many fronts.

It is very user friendly, especially for beginners. The initial posts are in English, but with links to French websites/videoclips/etc. One of the attendees says she's already using the link to pop culture events in her classroom.

Stephanie and Anne commented that one of the biggest benefits to their facebook page is that students can interact with French outside of the classroom during their down time. They've noticed that nothing sparks a student's interest more than seeing a post from someone you sat next to in class!

*Join them at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FrenchatWidener/>

You'll also notice that they have a link to "**On-campus events**" such as the 5 cafés and 5 films that they offer each semester, as well as "**Events and class trips in our region**". On that page, you'll see a posting for the wildly popular European singer Stromae who unfortunately cancelled his concert in Philadelphia in September. He was born in Belgium to a Flemish mother and Rwandan father. His sound is one of dance/electronic/hip hop/global. Check out the [video](#) for his song "Papaoutai". Very popular with fans and American students of French with over 267,000,000 views! There was even an AATF National Conference session on Stromae, (verlun for "maestro").

MAY 2015

We once again celebrated our students' achievements on the National French Exam. Nearly 500 family members and friends came out to Chestnut Hill College for the awards ceremony. A French teacher in attendance commented that it was wonderful for everyone there to be able to see that there are so many other people studying French. In these current times when schools are sacrificing their French programs to the economic knife, it's heartwarming to know that French is alive and well in so many of our greater Philadelphia area public and private schools.

We were also reminded that night that you never know when your French will come in handy. After the terrorist attacks on the satiric magazine offices of *Charlie Hebdo* in January, Secretary of State John Kerry visited France to offer our country's support. And he did so in French, not via an interpreter but speaking it himself. [Seeing \(and hearing!\) is believing.](#)



Le Réverbère



In an old house in Paris that is covered with vines, live twelve little girls whose country still shines.



Le Réverbère





Le Réverbère



Calendar of Events

- 5 JAN 2016 Philadelphia Flyers French Heritage Night v. Montréal Canadiens, at the Wells Fargo Center, 7:30 pm
- 11 JAN 2016 AATF second annual movie night at Bryn Mawr Film Institute, 6 :30 – 9 :30 pm, movie to be determined, info will be sent our via our listserve
- FEB 2016 MCATFL Oral Proficiency Contest (www.mcatfl.org)
- FEB-MARCH 2016 National French Contest
FLES : FEB 14-28, Levels 01-5 : FEB 20 – MARCH 21 (www.frenchteachers.org)
- 16 APRIL 2016 AATF Philadelphia Spring Conference with Jonathan Shee, 3 hours, “Triple-Play French PD with Jon Shee: 3 Sessions of Strategies That Rock!” at Chestnut Hill College, time tba (www.aatfphila.org)
- 17 May 2016 Distribution des Prix at Chestnut Hill College (www.aatfphila.org)
- 3-6 JULY 2016 AATF National Convention in Austin, TX (www.frenchteachers.org)