

Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

QUATORZIÈME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 1

SEPTEMBRE-OCTOBRE 2008



Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.

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Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: (716) 688-4171

Web Site:

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E-mail contact:

info@afbuffalo.org

TO BECOME A MEMBER:

Contact: Colette Jowdy
Phone: (716) 706-0505
Courriel: cfjowdy@yahoo.com

ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Supporting	\$85
Individual	\$40
Family	\$50
Full Time Student	\$20
Teacher of French	\$25

SEND CHECK TO:

Colette Jowdy
59 Quail Run Lane
Lancaster, NY 14086

Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

Rédaction

Send your articles, petites annonces,
(free for AFB members), travel news,
in English or in French, preferably
in digital format, to:

Jessica Blaser

mlleblaser@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

October 1, 2008

Annual Bastille Day Picnic

Held at the Clarence Town Park in Clarence, NY, July 20, 2008



Clockwise from top: Bill Fenzel and his accordion provide great music and delight Aya and Grant Grasso, Estelle Beaupin, daughter of Bernard and Lynda Beaupin attends her first Bastille Day Picnic, President Patricia Schiavone leads the group singing "La Marseillaise".

Merci to all for making another Bastille Day picnic so memorable and successful, despite the gray weather. We had great company, great music (merci Bill!) and great FOOD! One of our loyal participant, Patricia Dilcher, would like to create a recipe booklet from all the different foods we had those last few years. If you don't mind giving away your secret recipe, please e-mail it to Patricia at lzrdcreations@yahoo.com or mail it to her at 63 Huntington Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14214. Anyone interested in helping her with this task, contact her at 835-7242.
Merci beaucoup! Your president.

Dans ce numéro

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- * **Special Insert:** LaFleur visit, Cooking workshop

A Special Co-sponsored Concert is Planned During French Week this Fall!



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra cellist Amélie Fradette will present a solo recital at the Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall, Buffalo State College, on Nov. 5 at 7 pm. Ms. Fradette, accompanied by Buffalo State Music Professor Dr. Bryan Boyce, will perform an all-French recital featuring music by Debussy, Ravel, Fauré and Franck.

After obtaining "Le Prix avec Grande Distinction" from le Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal, Ms. Fradette studied at the Clevel-

and Institute of Music and Yale University. She has been a member of the Buffalo Philharmonic since 2001. Ms. Fradette's performance is presented by the Buffalo State College Music Department, Modern and Classical Languages Department, the Alliance Française de Buffalo and The American Association of Teachers of French. The performance will be preceded by a pre-concert lecture in French at 5:45 pm in Rockwell Hall room 124. Performance and lecture \$12 general public and AFB members; student and group discounts available. Teachers are invited to organize student groups of 10 or more to attend at the modest price of \$7 per person, or individual full time student tickets (high school or college levels) are offered at \$9. For more information, call the P.A.C. office at 716.878.3005 beginning on August 25, 2008.

Phyllis Comesano

Public Relations Director, Buffalo State College

Une Visite de Chicago!



Left to right, Larissa Rolley, Patricia Schiavone and Marianne Vallet-Sandre

Nous avons eu le plaisir cet été, de recevoir la visite de Larissa Rolley, directrice des opérations à la « Fédération of Alliances Françaises, USA ». Elle était de passage, venant ce jour-là de Chautauqua à Buffalo afin de conduire sa famille à l'aéroport. Nous avons ainsi pu faire la connaissance d'une importante collègue avec qui nous communiquons régulièrement pour planifier certains de nos programmes. Un déjeuner léger servi sur la terrasse ensoleillée de Marianne nous a permis de bavarder, d'échanger des idées, et aussi de mieux faire connaître Patricia et Marianne en tant que présidente et membre de notre chapitre de Buffalo.

Marianne Vallet-Sandre

AFB Member and Teacher of French is Recognized for her Excellence!

Mary Ellen Gianturco, French teacher at Depew High School, has garnered two meritorious awards this academic year, in recognition of her excellence in teaching. In June she received the Maryalice Seagrave award for an outstanding foreign language teacher from the Western New York Foreign Language Educator's Council (WNYFLEC), and coincidentally, she was also named "Educator of the year" by the Depew School District. In addition to her excellence in the classroom, Mary Ellen has been a most dedicated member of the Alliance, arranging for her best high school students to perform an original play for the delight of the little ones at the yearly "Goûter de Noël", bringing other students to perform musically, and even others to compete in the famous "Bûche de Noël contest". In recent years, Mary Ellen has also taken over the administration of the AFB "Award for Excellence" scholarship process, held in partnership with the State University of New York at Buffalo Melodia Jones chair, with the help of Patricia Schiavone and Annlouise Cirelli. Mary Ellen also contributed creative thinking and research to the establishment of our new "study abroad scholarship program" brainstormed by our new president Patricia Schiavone, and board member Jean Hill. Mary Ellen encourages her students, makes them aware of opportunities, she imparts the love of learning; her students excel and several show their appreciation and accomplishments by competing for, and obtaining, several of the locally offered scholarships, including the above mentioned brand new "study abroad scholarship" for the summer of 2008!

While Mary Ellen is a qualified attorney, the students of Western New York are fortunate that she prefers teaching French! Congratulations to Mary Ellen and also to Annlouise Cirelli and Nancy Burns who also were awarded the WNYFLEC award for excellence, respectively in 2004 and in 1994.

Félicitations!

Marianne Vallet-Sandre

Le Cercle de Lecture : mai, 2008. *Vanina Vanini* de Stendhal

Nous n'avions jamais été aussi nombreux/ses au Cercle de lecture de l'Alliance: quatorze autour de la table, chez Geneviève James. Il est vrai que l'écrivain à commenter, Henri Beyle dit Stendhal, est fort célèbre, et que le texte, *Vanina Vanini* ou *Particularités sur la dernière vente de Carbonari découverte dans les états du Pape*, par contraste avec son titre interminable, est aussi vif et bourré d'actions que le dernier *Indiana Jones*. Evasion, coups d'épée, coups de feu, déguisement, fuite, meurtres, poison, emprisonnement, le tout mêlé d'une passion amoureuse qui ne recule ni devant le déshonneur, ni devant la trahison. Et dans un cadre italien bien sûr! En un mot, concentré en vingt trois pages, du Stendhal pur, classique mais toujours jeune.

Vanina Vanini, au nom à la fois sonore et doux, est une aristocrate romaine, jeune, belle et si romanesque qu'elle préfère, dit-elle, aux riches héritiers qui lui font la cour, un jeune Carbonaro qui vient de s'échapper du fort Saint-Ange. Un Carbonaro est, dans l'Italie du XIXème siècle, le membre d'une société secrète et armée, dont le but est de libérer le pays du joug étranger. Le dit Carbonaro,

blessé et déguisé en femme, a trouvé refuge dans les combles du palais des Vanini. Vanina le découvre; elle se prend de pitié et d'une douce sympathie pour celui qu'elle tient pour une jeune femme persécutée. Lorsque le blessé avoue sa véritable identité et son nom, Pietro Missirilli, l'amitié devient une passion à laquelle Vanina tente vainement de résister. Pietro, qui se remet lentement, lutte non moins vainement contre le penchant que lui inspire sa bienfaitrice. Les deux jeunes gens ne tardent pas à s'aimer "comme on aime pour la première fois à dix-neuf ans et en Italie". Le devoir exige que Pietro quitte Rome pour reprendre la lutte; mais il hésite si longtemps que Vanina pense: "S'il devait choisir entre la patrie et moi ... j'aurais la préférence".

Pietro part enfin en Romagne où il est élu chef d'une vente, c'est-à-dire d'un groupe de vingt conspirateurs. Il se croit oublié de sa belle jusqu'au moment où l'arrivée de Vanina dans son château voisin est annoncée. Cette nouvelle jette "plus de trouble que de plaisir" dans l'âme de Pietro occupé à organiser une vaste conspiration qui pourrait changer le destin de son pays. Il dit à Vanina "d'un air distrait des choses fort tendres". Mais l'intensité qu'il avait naguère pour parler de son amour, il la réserve maintenant à ses entreprises politiques. Vanina ne peut supporter cette semi-indifférence. Une exclamation de Pietro -- "Si cette affaire-ci ne réussit pas ... je quitte la partie" -- lui suggère le moyen de reprendre l'avantage: causer l'échec de la conspiration en trahissant Pietro et sa vente, regagner ainsi l'attention totale de son amant et retrouver l'intensité vécue à Rome.

Nous sommes au milieu du récit. Après avoir trahi par amour, Vanina tente de se racheter. Elle parvient, à force d'intrigues, à sauver la vie de Pietro et obtient de le rencontrer lorsqu'il est transféré de Romagne à Rome. Mais entre le prisonnier chargé de fers et la femme qui l'a trahi, le courant ne passe plus. Pour secouer la froideur qui les envahit, Vanina confesse sa trahison et arrache à Pietro une exclamation de fureur et un geste violent.

Stendhal a le souci de faire vrai. L'intrigue de son roman le plus célèbre, *Le Rouge et le noir*, est inspirée d'un fait divers. La préface des récits, composés à la même époque que *Vanina Vanini* et groupés sous le titre de *Chroniques italiennes*, déclare que ces récits proviennent de manuscrits du XVIème siècle et relatent des faits véridiques. Le titre de *Vanina Vanini*, avec sa référence à des événements politiques réels, tend à présenter les amours de Vanina comme la cause historique de la défaite des Carbonari.

Stendhal excelle dans l'art d'analyser l'amour: l'exaltation initiale, les doutes, le dépit, le désir de maîtriser l'objet aimé, les premiers signes d'éloignement, l'indifférence. Cependant il semble parfois se moquer gentiment de ses personnages. Dans la scène finale de *Vanina Vanini*, par exemple, il crée une atmosphère digne de Frankenstein: au cours d'une rencontre nocturne, dans la chapelle d'une prison, à la lueur d'une lointaine lampe, le prisonnier emmailloté de chaînes se jette sur Vanina et cherche à l'assommer. Cette scène s'oppose à l'atmosphère pure et aérienne des épisodes précédant la naissance de l'amour et situés dans les combles du palais romain, alors que Vanina croit aimer d'amitié une jeune blessée. Dans la scène finale, le trait est forcé, mais il passe vite. La conclusion suit immédiatement; elle est rapide, elliptique même: "Vanina resta anéantie. Elle revint à Rome; et le journal annonce qu'elle vient d'épouser le prince Livio Savelli". L'art de Stendhal est de ne jamais s'apesantir.

Le texte, gracieusement fourni par Oleg Voronin et Marie-Claude Hébert, a plu aux membres du Cercle de lecture. On en a commenté les péripéties, la peinture des sentiments, le style incisif, l'humour. On a établi des rapports avec d'autres textes stendhaliens, en particulier avec les réflexions psychologiques contenues dans *De L'Amour*. Autour de la table de Geneviève James, le Grenoblois maussade qu'était Henri Beyle est devenu, pour le groupe qui discutait son oeuvre, le brillant Stendhal, citoyen honoraire de l'Italie qu'il adorait. --Gisèle Feal

French Classes

SESSION V

September 8 - October 20

7 week session of French conversation classes on the Canisius College Campus. Reserve a space in a class with a non-refundable deposit of \$50. Ongoing enrollment and prorated classes.

10% DISCOUNT for students who accumulate 12 months of classes (first day of class). **\$20 COUPON** to students who introduce a non-member to a class, who fully registers in an AFB class. **As per the Alliance's policy classes must be paid in full prior to the beginning of the session, or paid to the instructor on the first day of class.**

Welcome | Bienvenue!

Ugo & Judith Del Sorbo 348-7582
DeWane Harris 725-0153
Nicholas and Amy Hennig 481-1915
Dr. Deborah Hovland 871-0753
Dr. Sally A Lahm 652-3801
Margaret C. Lew 773-5146
Susan McClure 597-5691
Mark R. Vona 947-4439

Fall Schedule for "Le Cercle de Lecture"

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

La Femme coquelicot by Noelle Chatelet
at the home of Florence Fradin
142 Morris Avenue, Buffalo NY 14214
RSVP 837-8059

OCTOBER 14, 2008

Micromegas by Voltaire
at the home of Michèle Dates
27 Thomas Jefferson Lane,
Amherst NY 14226
RSVP 839-2257

Meetings take place at 7:00 pm

All books are available online from:
www.amazon.ca; www.shoenhofs.com;
www.bookfinder.com.

You may also find the books through the Buffalo Erie County Library and through Librairie Champlain 468 Queen Street East Toronto, Ont. M5A 1T7; Customer service TEL: (416) 364-4345, FAX: (416) 364 8843

N.B. Micromegas by Voltaire can be freely downloaded from: www.litteratureaudio.com

Le Cercle de Lecture will meet monthly to discuss shorts texts.

Atelier de Cuisine:

Sucré-Salé, Une Nouvelle Saison!

(New Season for AFB Cooking Workshops)

After four seasons of successful cooking workshops, presented to many repeaters and occasional visitors, AFB members and outside friends, and in response to various requests over time, Alessandra DeSimone and Marianne Vallet-Sandre have planned a new exciting season. Please note some scheduling and pricing changes.

We will again present two Saturday morning workshops beginning with croissants and coffee at 9 am and ending at noon with a "dégustation" of our products, accompanied by appropriate beverages, till mid-afternoon as usual. But the new concept will be the introduction of two additional Saturday evening workshops from 5 to 7 pm, followed by a leisurely dinner. For the latter workshops especially, we are encouraging attendance by couples, or pairs of friends, working and then dining together, even though singles will be most welcome as usual!

Space is limited, and seats will be reserved as checks are received. Since "things" inevitably occur, we will as always keep a short waiting list to allow late comers to garner a vacated spot. Please note the following schedule and see the enclosed flyer!

Annual Potluck! Dîner à la fortune du pot!

"Our annual potluck "de la rentrée" will take place on Saturday September 20th, 2008. at 6 PM! 9115 Sesh Road, Clarence Center, NY 14032.

We thank Thuy and Norm Murray for once more graciously opening their beautiful home to our organization for this event!

Please note that the capacity is limited to 60 persons, and that this particular gathering is not suitable for children. We hope to see many of you for an evening of fun, friendship, and singing. Norm, who cheerfully leads us in songs with his guitar, welcomes other musicians to show up with their own instruments! This is your opportunity to see old friends and to meet new ones, don't miss it!

Please, call Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415 or write her at panoramabf@msn.com for reservation and to indicate what you will bring. Merci!

Workshops

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, EVENING COOKING WORKSHOP 5-7 PM FOLLOWED BY DINNER

(Open to 6 couples or 12 persons)

"Gourmet dinner for 2, (or more)", a full menu around duck as a central piece!

Members: \$55 (single) \$90 (couple) check payable to the AFB includes ingredients.

Non-members: \$60 (single) \$100 (couple)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, MORNING WORKSHOP 9-NOON FOLLOWED BY "DÉGUSTATION"

(Open to 10 participants)

A technique session: assorted "Terrines" & Pâtés, including meat, fish and vegetarian.

Members: \$60 includes ingredients.

Non-members: \$65

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009, EVENING WORKSHOP 5-7 PM FOLLOWED BY DINNER

(Open to 6 couples or 12 persons)

« Dîner des Mille et une Nuits » A Maghrébin menu and evening.

Members : \$55, (single) \$90, (couple) includes ingredients

Non-members: \$60, (single) \$100 (couple)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009, MORNING WORKSHOP 9-NOON FOLLOWED BY "DÉGUSTATION"

(Open to 10 participants)

A technique session: « Salades, Soupes & Sorbets d'été » (Salads, Soups & Sorbets of Summer)

Members: \$60 includes ingredients.

Non-members: \$ 65 includes ingredients.

For any one or all workshops, send your appropriate check payable to the Alliance Française, to Marianne Vallet-Sandre at 52 Lexington Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. Include your name, postal address, e-mail address (if any), phone number, and specify which workshop you are planning to attend & how many will be attending.



ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE BUFFALO

Bastille Day Picnic 2008

2008 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting took place as planned on June 12, 2008 at Hallwalls on Delaware Avenue. President Patricia Schiavone gave a summary of salient activities having taken place during the academic year about to close, and gave the audience a hint of things to come for the following year, starting with the Bastille Day picnic. Treasurer Bryan Kamuda gave a report on the financial status of the organization, assisted by former treasurer and board member Paul Carroll, and Secretary and board member Steve Curvin. Elections for the new slate of board members took place and were announced (the full listing can be found on our web-site, with corresponding portraits soon to follow) and the business part of the meeting concluded with Patricia inviting comments and suggestions from the audience for the good of the organization and to improve its promotion. Some members did indeed offer recommendations and Patricia is working on implementation.

Mary Aiken, our long serving board member, second vice-president and editor/designer extraordinaire was thanked and presented with a small token of our appreciation as she formally handed the designer/editor hat to Shelly Bronson and Jessica Blaser respectively. Thank you Mary for 9 years of excellent and dedicated service!

Members along with some invited visitors, then adjourned to a lovely reception prepared by Doris Hill and Patricia Schiavone assisted by Kathryn Missert and Nancy Burke. We enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones as well!

Marianne Vallet-Sandre

Changes In Our Yearly Raffle

"Dear Members, as you will have realized by now, through e-mails, by telephone or word of mouth, there will be some changes in our 2008 annual fundraising raffle. With the approval of the board, and in order to present a more attractive concept, as well as to generate sufficient funds to finance our newly successful study abroad scholarship, we have decided to separate the two major prizes (which are the one-week stay in Cannes and the one-week stay in Paris) from the other wonderful prizes (which will be sold as it has been in the past with an unlimited number of tickets at \$ 1.00 each or \$ 5.00 for a booklet of 6).

In order to provide the two winners with the actual capability of accepting and enjoying their trip, we have added airfare for 2 persons for each destination and limited the sale to only 500 tickets, thus giving many more opportunities to each buyer (mathematically speaking). The ticket price for this special raffle is \$ 20.00 Each winning ticket will entitle the holder to 2 round trip airfares to France and a one-week stay in a condominium. The first winner shall have the choice of the destination; the second winner will automatically win the trip non-selected by the first winner.

Therefore, at our holiday dinner, on December 7th at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, there will be 2 separate raffles and one silent auction, one raffle to identify 2 winners for the two destinations in France (Cannes and Paris) and one raffle (with tickets priced as usual) for the other wonderful prizes.

As stated above, the reason for the changes is mainly to guarantee the continuation of our brand new yearly study abroad scholarship for a deserving Western New York high school student (most successful on this, our first year) a project which requires a minimum of \$4,000.00 including airfare, home stay and tuition. Additional funds are also needed to continue serving the community with cultural events of quality as we have done historically. We are grateful to Dr. and Mrs. William James, and Dr. and Mrs. Alain Eluard for their generous major donations making this special raffle possible.

As a reminder, or to help you publicize this special raffle to persons who may be interested, please refer to the flyer enclosed in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support of the organization!

Your president, Patricia Schiavone.



Susan Fiden, Kathryn Missert, Molly Fiden & her son Henri Thompson (both visiting from Chicago)



Patricia Schiavone, Mary Aiken, and Marianne Vallet-Sandre

Petites annonces

STAYING IN TOUCH & SHARING INFORMATION:

I have compiled a master e-mail list of AFB members from the last directory. If your e-mail address has changed, please submit the new one to me at Dorhill666@aol.com If you do not wish to receive e-mails from AFB (announcements or reminders), please let me know and I will remove you from our list. Thank you. Doris Hill

NEW AFB T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!!!!!!

The AFB is now selling white t-shirts with the AFB logo for only \$ 15.00. Sizes are adults S, M, L, XL. Contact Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415 if you want to purchase one...or more!"

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to our members Anne-Marie Carmichael and Marc Skop on the occasion of their marriage, celebrated in July. We wish them many years of happiness.

If you would like to place an announcement, please contact Marianne Vallet-Sandre, mv52@verizon.net or Jessica Blaser, mlleblaser@gmail.com. This service is free for current AFB members or for a fee of \$30 for non AFB members.



Journée At La Fleur Restaurant!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 2008!

Join us on a fabulous, carefree gastronomical venture to the beautiful Mayville compound and restaurants on Lake Chautauqua, described in our last newsletter. A comfortable bus will take you to the destination, a first stop at the "Boulangerie" will please those who cannot wait for lunch, and the Chef/owner, Alliance Française member will guide us through his organic "jardin potager", his Culinary Institute, and his little shops replete with antiques and goodies imported from France and available for sale. A luscious meal is the center piece of this event, crowned by "un jeux de pétanque" for those who care to play! When the day is over, get back on the bus and leave the driving to us! (That is the professional bus driver!)

Please see the flyer enclosed in this letter for details and to sign up ASAP. Some spots are already reserved!



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Alliance Française de Buffalo, Inc.
PO Box 721, Buffalo NY 14207

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Les Nouvelles de l'Alliance

QUATORZIÈME ANNÉE, NUMÉRO 1

SEPTEMBRE-OCTOBRE 2008

Septembre

GROUPES DE CONVERSATION

MATIN : tous les jeudis

HEURE : 10 h15 - 11 h 45 • **LIEU** : Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.

CONTACTEZ : Paul Carroll au (716) 883-9378

SOIR (Williamsville) : tous les lundis

HEURE : 18 h 30 • **LIEU** : Café Starbucks, 5429 Main St., Williamsville

CONTACTEZ : Layla Beaini : lilotresor@yahoo.fr ou 836-9159

BOARD MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 10 **TIME**: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: 103 Eastland Parkway, Cheektowaga

CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at 716 895-0415 or panoramabf@msn.com

PLAYGROUP

DATE: TBA **TIME**: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **PLACE**: TBA

CONTACT: Celine Nganga at celinenganga@hotmail.com or 716 884-4354

CLUB DES COPAINS FOR CHILDREN

DATE: September 19 - November 14

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Nichols School, 1250 Amherst St, Buffalo

CONTACT: Kathryn Missert at 632-2709

ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER

DATE: September 20

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Norman & Thuy Murray's home, 9115 Sesh Rd., Clarence

CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415

VISIT TO LAFLEUR RESTAURANT

DATE: September 27

CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415

Octobre

GROUPES DE CONVERSATION

MATIN : tous les jeudis

HEURE : 10 h15 - 11 h 45 • **LIEU** : Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.

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HEURE : 18 h 30 • **LIEU** : Café Starbucks, 5429 Main St., Williamsville

CONTACTEZ : Layla Beaini : lilotresor@yahoo.fr ou 836-9159

BOARD MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, October 8 **TIME**: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: 103 Eastland Parkway, Cheektowaga

CONTACT: Patricia Schiavone at 895-0415

COOKING WORKSHOP

DATE: Saturday, October 18 **TIME**: 5:00-7:00 p.m. (followed by dinner)

PLACE: 52 Lexington Avenue, Buffalo

CONTACT: Marianne Vallet-Sandre at 886-0886

PLAYGROUP

DATE: TBA **TIME**: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: TBA

CONTACT: Celine Nganga at celinenganga@hotmail.com or 716 884-4354

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PLACE: Nichols School, 1250 Amherst St, Buffalo

CONTACT: Kathryn Missert at 632-2709

*Save
the Date*

NOVEMBER 5

Cello Concert

NOVEMBER 18

Wine Lecture & Tasting

NOVEMBER 22

Cooking workshop II

DECEMBER 6

Goûter de Noël

DECEMBER 7

AFB Holiday Dinner &
raffle drawing