

ALSACE NEW YORK

News Bulletin of L'Union Alsacienne of New York and the
Friends of Alsace in America

A NEW TEAM AND NEW ENERGIES FOR 2012-2013

After a busy year 2011 marked by a triple Alsatian-American birthday - 125th birthday of Miss Liberty Oct 28; 140th anniversary of L'Union Alsacienne Feb 21, and the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown - 2012 is filled with lots of new projects, goals and challenges for the 11 new committee members (see page 2) elected March 15. For the first time, a vast majority (7) of the 11 members are women! In another new move, the board is now composed of two communication and social media officers who will help us exploit all the opportunities offered by information technology to reach out to those 3,000 Alsatians living on the East Coast, not to mention tens of thousands of Americans of Alsatian descent.

At its first meeting, on April 11, the new committee tackled a broad set of issues, ranging from organizing email and postal address, to improving the financial situation. It decided to cut some expenses and take new initiatives in order to find innovative financial sources. In July, L'UnAl would like to resume its participation in the Bastille Day street fair July 15, and also join - for the first time - the Brooklyn street fare (Bergen Street). With an average of 100 members, the Committee decided to set a goal of 200 members and 100 "Friends of Alsace" by the end of its two-year term in 2014. Other goals include increasing the number of email addresses for the Friends of Alsace to 500.

A set of events organized in 2011 by the elected team helped us find a network of 140 Friends of Alsace who paid \$20 to take part in May 21, 2011

Red and White Alsace party, which was also an opportunity to honor two pillars of L'UnAl: Germaine Chandelier and Jean Pierre Stoehr.

The set of events included a first-ever trip to the "Two Strasburgs" during the memorial weekend (see pages 8-9) and a trip to the Little Alsace of Texas (see pages 10-11).

On Oct 19 2011, under the leadership of Sophie Schirch, the dynamic team organized a first-ever Alsace Cultural Night in Manhattan, gathering 300 people. The event also marked the 230th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown, where the final charge on the British "redoubt 10" was led by 400 Alsatian soldiers of the Regiment Royal de Strasbourg. With the Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty on Oct 28 - and the Alsatian contribution to the Battle of Yorktown on Oct 19 - October is the most Alsatian month in the USA.

Hazard de calendrier! It was also on 19 October but in 2002, that L'Union Alsacienne and Adrien Zeller, President of the Region Alsace, signed the Liberty Island Declaration by which they agreed to find ways to finance the first kindergarten in total immersion in Alsatian, as a way to preserve the mother language of Miss Liberty. The new committee wanted to move forward with this project by opening a Language Fund to receive donations to promote Alsatian language.

Last but not least, we found 5 sponsors (below) who agreed to cover the 2012 printing and distribution costs for our news bulletin. With those contributions, we will be able to raise - from 60 to over 200 - the number of bulletins and reach out the 50 French associations of New York.

You too can help us! Remember: donations to L'UnAl or its Language Fund are tax deductible!

Let's have a great USAlsatian 2012 together!

LATEST ON THE EAST COAST !

30 June Germaine's Garden Party on the lake

7 June Boston Strasbourg SCA annual meeting

29 Mai Alsace Ambassadors event at French consulate

9 Mai Regular meeting of L'UnAl

29 April Spring dinner @ Picnic-Bistro d'Alsace, Broadway and 101st'

17 April Upper East side dinner @ CAFÉ D'ALSACE

11 April Regular meeting

31 March Seminary @ CUNY on Frances minority languages in cooperation between L'Union Alsacienne, the Britton, Corsican and Basque of New York

22 March Inauguration of Tarte Flambee - 1750 Second Av



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Thanks to our sponsors

A new team for 2012!

March 15, Thierry Kranzer (Obersaasheim) has been elected as the new president of l'Union Alsacienne of New York, with a new and young committee, which composition is following : Benoit Meister (Herrlisheim 68), first vice-president ; Liliane B. Rubin (Mittelbergheim), second vice-president ; Gisele Gratch (Soultz 68), Secretary ; and Florian Nguyen (Kingersheim), treasurer. Other members elected are Anne-Catherine Boudot (Wentzwiller) ; Emmanuel Jaegle (Colmar) and Blythe Kropf (from Strasbourg, but born in the USA). Florence Koeppel (Dehlingen), will be the web officer and Capucine Bourcart (Bergholtz) and Sophie Schirch (Rixheim) in charge of Social media and communication.

Elections were supervised by Francis Dubois and Joan Klips respectively president and vice-president of the Election Committee. The new Committee will have the ambitious task to host an event from the Ambassadors of Alsace, May 29 in collaboration with the International Union of Alsatian.

Looking for archives for painter Lucien Vogt (New York, 1891 – Paris, 1968)

The Organization Chester Collections (Switzerland), is looking for archives and iconography about Alsatian painter Lucien Vogt (New York, 1891 – Paris, 1968), Lucien Vogt, born in New York in 1891, returned to France in 1895. After 1910, Lucien Vogt studied under François Flameng (1856-1923) at the Académie des Beaux-Arts. In 1914, having completed his training, Vogt participated in his first Salon des Artistes Français, becoming a member himself in 1922. Whilst advancing his career in Paris, Vogt periodically returned to Alsace, where he maintained a pied-à-terre in Mulhouse. From there he would roam the countryside, painting directly from nature the landscapes of his youth, the banks of the Ill, for instance, and the Vosges forest bordering Soultz. His early landscapes bring to mind those of another Alsatian artist, Jean-Jacques Henner (1829-1905), who showed his work at the Salon until 1903. Any information welcomed @ Bertrand Dumas: Bertrand@chestercollections.com

Looking for Ancestors

Christian Thomas from Alsace is looking for information on possible descendants of Marie Anne Metzelder born 1899 in Heiteren and Husband Jean Krengowski who emigrated from Alsace to Massachusetts in 1919. Contact : Christian Thomas at simonclairejean@wanadoo.fr

Looking for a 1871 immigration story

Christophe Weber is looking for archives or any information on Alsatians who emigrated to the USA in 1871 or 1872 . information welcomed @ : christophe.weber@hotmail.fr

Miss France 2012 expected in New York in May !!!



Miss Alsace/France might be soon in NY for an Alsatian event. More details soon....

Gerard Staedel honored in Strasbourg (France)

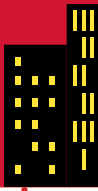


Congratulations to Gerard Staedel, President of the Union Internationale of Alsatians (UIA). Gerard Staedel who has also been a foreign trade advisor was rewarded from Philippe Richert, French Minister for local authorities and received L'Ordre Nationale du Merite, April 16, 2012, one of the highest French distinction. L'Union Alsacienne and Friends of Alsace are very proud for his merits as an international and actif president.

Alsatian Potato



This photo was Taken by T. Kranzer April 9, in Tudor City. Owner Yacine from Algeria, explained that his neighbour a born American gave him this recipe of Alsatian Potato salad with beet that she got from her parents who immigrated from Alsace.



US-ALSACE CONNECTIONS

BOSTON-STRASBOURG

The Boston-Strasbourg Sister City Association (BSSCA) just organized its second TASTE of ALSACE. A lovely party for the promotion of Alsace coupled with a very successful auction: \$8,500 ! The Association chaired by Mary-Louise Burke will have its annual meeting on June 7 followed by the opening of the Par Avion art exhibit. For information about Alsace activities in Boston contact mlburke2@verizon.net

STRASBURG, NORTH DAKOTA

Strasburg (ND) hometown of Lawrence Welk lost 20 % of its population between 2000 and 2009, with a population of 439, including 197 males and 242 females. The average age of the population is 54 years compared to 36 for the state of ND. Estimated median household income in 2009 was \$29,137, while it was \$47,827 for the State.

STRASBURG, VIRGINIA

Population reached 6400 in 2012 from 4,300 in July 2009 with an average median household income of \$41,755 dollars compared to \$59,300 for the state of Virginia. The Town of Strasburg, born in 1761, and which just turned 250 years old, is currently accepting applications to fill the position of Director of Public Works. During Memorial Day, a delegation of L'Union Alsacienne met with Timothy Taylor, mayor of Strasburg, VA.

STRASBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The population was 2789 in July 2009 with an average age of 36 years and an average household of \$63,000 compared to \$49,000 average for the State of Pennsylvania

STRASBURG, OHIO

The population grew by 17% since 2000 to reach 2709 habitants in July 2009; The average household income is \$44,600 per household compared to \$45,300 for the state.

STRASBURG, COLORADO:

Perfect parity. In July 2007 population of Strasburg CO was 1676 including 838 women and 838 men. Estimated median household income was \$70,900 compared to \$56,000 for the state of Colorado.

NEW ALSACE, INDIANA

The Indiana driver's permit and license can now be obtained with New Alsace, Indiana Driver Education! Not sure you have to speak Alsatian to get it.



"MANNALA" (Saint-Niclaus) TO "LAMMALA" (Easter)!

Some very Alsatian Easter "lambs" (Alsatian Pastry) – The Oschterlammele in Alsatian arrived in New York last Easter. Patricia Catenne, member of L'Union Alsacienne, President of the catering company Quintessencia, offered to bake those Lammele during Eastern weekend this year, in three different sizes": 4 to 6 people, 6 to 8 people, or a Lammele on a 12 inch round base for 8 to 10 people. The Osterlammele or Lammele is an Alsatian word meaning "Little Easter Lamb". It's a traditional sponge cake in the shape of a lamb, served on Easter Day. This Alsatian tradition goes way back to the Middle Ages.

Thomas Murner (Catholic Theologian) wrote in a correspondence about its existence in 1519, describing it as a present offered by young men to their future bride. You can find it nowadays covered with confectioners sugar or coated with a sugar glaze and always decorated with Easter eggs and other typical easter candies. Last December 6, for another Alsatian tradition, Member Krim Debbah, joined our Sankt-Niklaus party with 20 "Mannala"!

Two former Alsatian soccer professionals from the RC Strasburg and FC Mulhouse

In Great Falls, during their trip of the 2 Strasburgs, the delegation of eight New York Alsatian met up with Roger Schott, former international football referee (FIFA-USA) and former professional soccer player with RC Strasburg, and reached also André Juillet, former FC Mulhouse professional. Both of them have been living in the Washington area for decades, but had never met! This expedition was an opportunity to have them connected for the first time, and they had much in common.

UNITED STATES AND ALSACE

There is probably no other community of 2 million people that brought so much to US history. Following are some extracts of a speech delivered by Thierry Kranzer at a ceremony for the 125th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, sponsored by the Upper Alsace Tourism association at the Novotel, Oct 27, 2011

Two million people, in the heart of Europe, that sounds tiny... But definitely there is no better illustration than Alsace for the expression "small is beautiful". Beside the Statue of Liberty Alsace presence on the East is marked by sister city relations of Princeton with Colmar and Boston with Strasburg. Two millions was the population of the USA in 1776. Since then, Alsatians came by tens of thousands...

Several times in the XIXth century French authorities had to stop authorizing immigration to the US. In 1817, the County of Wissembourg lost 10% of its population to the US. Yorktown : Oct 19, 1781, 400 soldiers from the Regiment Royal de Strasburg made the final assault on the British defenses in Yorktown. General Washington particularly praised "his German soldiers" from the Regiment of Strasburg — German meaning people speaking a Germanic language — not a citizenship.

Matthias Ringmann : In the beginning of the 16th Century, Matthias Ringmann, cartographer, humanist and poet, born in Alsace in 1482 (1511), named America on the map of his friend Martin Waldseemüller. To form the word Amerigen, Ringmann combined the name Amerigo Vespucci with the Greek word gen, the accusative form of a word meaning "earth" and by doing so coined a name that means, as he himself explained, Land of Amerigo. Latinized and feminized, Amerigen became America.

The Amish and Yiddish : At the beginning of your March to the west, America needed Farmers to farm Pennsylvania and Ohio. Alsace sent you the Amish, close to 400 000 Alsatian-speakers in Northern America. You needed diversity, we gave you Yiddish, which was born in the Rhine Valley.



General Pershing : Alsace is also the homeland of the Pershing family. Yes, the most famous missiles of the cold war have Alsatian Roots. It is said that John Joseph Pershing forefathers came to America in 1749 (according to "Balfour, Viviani and Joffre" by Francis Halsey, Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1917 , page 361) with the name of Pfoershing, which could mean PEACH in Alsatian...

Little Big Horn : Alsatians have been on every battlefield on US history, even at Little big horn. If you go to Little Big Horn in Montana, you will be able to find the list of the 200 men who died beside General Custer in the Museum of the battle field and of course there are some Alsatians noted. Alsatian Louis Haegy from Sundgau was killed beside Custer.

In Vietnam, Colonel Larry Biediger, an Alsatian-speaking pilot from the Little Alsace of Texas, was shot down over Hanoi in 1967. He later died in a prisoner camp in North Vietnam, his remains only returned to the US in 1982.

One of the most interesting anecdotes of Alsatian contributions to the US army is the case of US NAVY officer Edouard Izac. Born in Iowa in 1891, Edouard Izac was the first prisoner of war from the US Navy. As the surviving officer in charge, he was taken prisoner on the U-Boat that sunk the USS President Lincoln on May 30, 1918. Izac, whose parents came from Alsace grew up speaking Alsatian.

Thanks to his mother language he understood everything around him and gathered critical intelligence in the U-Boat. He fled his prison camp in Germany through Switzerland and became the first US Navy recipient of the Medal of honor for heroism as a POW. Later he became a US House representative as a Democrat from California. Izac died in January 1990 at age of 98 and was buried with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery.



FIRESTONE : FORD needed to develop the greatest car industry in the world, he found FEUERSTEIN who changed his name in Firestone in Ohio...Harvey created the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in 1900. **BOING** : Wilhelm Boing was born in Germany but settled in Southern Alsace. He created a plane production company called « Aviatik » but was bankrupt due to WWI. He moved to Seattle to create the BOIENG company. His first aircraft were made from parts from the Aviatik company of Mulhouse.

WYLER, MARX BROTHERS AND MARLON BRANDON

The USA needed the first greatest blockbuster film, and Alsace gave the William Wyler (born Weiler in Mulhouse), who directed the first Ben Hur. The « Marx Brothers » came from Schiltigheim — and became Upper East side New-Yorkers who may have been members of L'Union Alsacienne. Later came the Godfather, and Marlon Brando, whose parents Brandeau came from northern Alsace.

THE MOON

When it came to reaching the moon Alsace offered Russell Schweickart (Lembach) who took part in the first manned flight of the lunar module. He served as lunar module pilot for Apollo 9 on March 3-13, 1969, logging 241 hours in space.

THE MOST FAMOUS BLACK ALSATIAN

Even when the US needed its first black American president, or "Black Alsatian", Alsace provided the ancestor of Barack Obama, from a little town called BISCHWILLER... strange coincidence, Barack Obama's first official trip to France was to Strasbourg, capital of Alsace few miles away from Bischwiller. Going back to the sixth generation of the maternal branch of Barack Obama's family, Johannes Gutknecht, from Switzerland, settled in Bischwiller in 1715 where he married Marie-Madeleine Grünholtz. Once in America, Christian changed his surname into Goodnight and lived as a farmer in Pennsylvania. American genealogists assess Obama's Germano-Alsatian roots to 4.6865 %, finding that another part of the family came from Heilbronn, in Germany.

TOMI UNGERER Honored in New York Oct. 27, 2011

Alsatian illustrator Tomi Ungerer was honored in New York on Oct 27, 2011 by receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award established in 2005 by past chairs of The Original Art.

Nominees must be judged to have a body of work that documents an innovative and pioneering contribution to the field of children's book illustration, and final selection is made by artists whose work has been juried into the previous year's show. Two awards are given annually: one posthumously and one to a living illustrator.

Tomi Ungerer was born in 1931, in the Alsace region of France, and grew up under Nazi rule during WWII. Self-trained as an artist, he moved to New York City in 1956 and worked as an editorial and advertising illustrator. One year later, he made his first mark in children's literature with *The Mellops Go Flying*, published by Harper & Row. Other distinctive children's books followed, including *Moon Man*, *The Three Robbers*, *Cricter*, *The Beast of Monsieur Racine*, and *Otto*. He continues to create new children's books to this day, with *Making Friends* and *Zlots* soon to be published by Phaidon.



This price was presented at the Society of Illustrators in New York Oct 27, one day before the 125th birthday of the Alsatian Statue of Liberty and 8 days after the 230th anniversary of the battle of Yorktown (Oct 19, 1781), where the final assault was led by 400 soldiers of the Regiment Royal of Strasburg...October definitely a great month of Alsace in the US...As a consequence November 1 and 2 editions of the New York Times were featuring articles about Alsace Wine, the Statue of Liberty but also portraits of Jean Georges Vongerichten and Tomi Ungerer.

3 Alsatian Chefs mentioned in the New York Times

Also featured in New York Times November 1st, 2011, Chefs **Jean-Georges Vongerichten** and **Gabriel Kreuter**.



In March 2012, another chef, **Andre Soltner** (former Lutece) was featured as well in the New York Times.

Alsaciens, Basques, Bretons et Corses de New York s'indignent de la situation des langues régionales en France et de la persistance d'un « monolinguisme institutionnel archaïque »



Une France qui peut préserver ses 400 fromages doit trouver les moyens de sauvegarder ses 75 langues minoritaires », a déclaré Charles Kergaravat, le président de BZH New York, au cours d'un séminaire sur les langues régionales de France à la CUNY University de New York, samedi 31 mars à 13 heures. Organisé en collaboration avec l'ONG « Endangered Languages » dans le cadre d'une série d'événements de soutien aux manifestations nationales organisées en France pour la reconnaissance des langues régionales, ce séminaire – animé par Mme Blevins, docteur en linguistique de la CUNY University, et Daniel Kaufman de l'Alliance des langues menacées – a été l'occasion de regretter l'absence de tout statut de protection des langues régionales en France, pays qui présente la triste particularité de demeurer, depuis 1992, le seul Etat officiellement monolingue du monde occidental.

De son côté, le président des Alsaciens de New York, Thierry Kranzer, a précisé que 54 de ces langues minoritaires étaient des langues « d'Outre-mer » (Réunion, Guyane, Antilles, Polynésie et Nouvelle-Calédonie) et a rappelé que les sept principales langues régionales métropolitaines (allemand d'Alsace-Moselle, flamand, celtique, basque, catalan, occitan et le corse) sont toutes langues officielles ou nationales de pays voisins. S'appuyant sur son expérience d'ancien assistant parlementaire ayant travaillé sur la question de l'adoption de l'article 2 de la Constitution en 1992 et de l'adoption de la loi Toubon en 1994, il a regretté une « ignorance et un aveuglement de civilisation », qui vient mettre à néant le potentiel économique et d'intégration européenne de ces sept langues, qui sont toutes transfrontalières.

Aux cotés des présidents des Alsaciens et des Bretons de New York intervenaient aussi le professeur Jason Sander-son de la Georgetown University (Washington) pour présenter les grandes lignes d'une étude socio-linguistique en cours en Bretagne. En outre, Mme Michela Cresci, chargée de cours à la CUNY, a mis en exergue les très instructives spécificités de la République italienne, elle aussi « une et indivisible », mais qui a su marier « unité et diversité » en reconnaissant le français langue officielle au Val d'Aoste et l'allemand langue officielle au Sud Tyrol, sans oublier les autres langues minoritaires devenues officielles comme le frioulan et le sarde, cousin du corse. Ne maîtrisant que quelques rudiments de basque, Lisa Gouffrant ainsi que Pierre Despoux ont souligné toute l'importance de cette langue pour leur culture et leur identité. Le basque est pour le moment la seule langue de France sur le point d'être sauvée avec 40% de classes bilingues. Tous ont jugé déterminant le développement de l'enseignement immersif en langue régionale pour sauver ces langues.

Or le constat est dramatique s'agissant de l'offre de l'Éducation nationale. Un tableau a montré que sur les deux millions d'enfants concernés par ces langues en primaire et maternelle en métropole, seulement 3% (70 000 enfants, dont 20 000 en Alsace et 14 000 en Bretagne) ont accès à un enseignement bilingue à parité ou immersif, et ce, bien souvent uniquement grâce à l'engagement et l'investissement des secteurs associatifs et privés. Parmi les situations les plus graves, Thierry Kranzer a cité la Flandre française et la Lorraine germanophone (Moselle) comme des cas pratiques de « génocide culturel » et une illustration de l'absence de volonté politique pour sauver ces langues, voire d'une réelle volonté d'en finir avec ces langues. La Flandre – département du Nord – ne dispose toujours d'aucune classe bilingue à parité alors que l'Académie de Moselle a réussi l'exploit de diminuer de 120 à 80 en deux ans le nombre d'élèves ayant accès à un enseignement bilingue à parité public français-allemand.

Tout en saluant l'augmentation progressive des effectifs bilingues, Charles Kergaravat a noté que le chantier de reconstruction était immense puisque seuls 2% des enfants bretons sont actuellement bretonnants. Sont également intervenus au cours de ce débat des défenseurs du Yiddish, une langue qui puise ses racines dans la vallée du Rhin et notamment en Alsace. Ces derniers ont expliqué combien le yiddish était vivant à New York, où le nombre de locuteurs ne cesse d'augmenter grâce à un enseignement immersif dès la maternelle. Si un intervenant a opposé les droits des langues régionales à celle des langues des migrants, Isabelle Barrière, spécialiste des questions d'éducation en charge de l'enseignement de 15 langues à New York, a dit, qu'avec de la volonté, il a de la place pour tout le monde. Sur le même ton, un visiteur de Boston, se présentant comme un « métis alsacien-breton », a noté que les « gourous du monolinguisme » ne se préoccupaient pas de telles distinctions, en indiquant qu'en 2011, l'Etat a supprimé en même temps le CAPES de basque et d'arabe. Rafraîchissant témoignage aussi de Marie Reine Jezequel, présidente de NY HABITAT qui, dans une autre vie, a été la deuxième institutrice à ouvrir un jardin d'enfants en breton (Diwan), en 1978, avec 4 élèves, qui sont aujourd'hui 14 000. Initiatrice du « miracle breton », Marie Reine a expliqué les difficultés, oppositions et conséquences traumatiques des brimades subies à l'époque en se remémorant des incantations du type « il est défendu de cracher par terre et de parler breton » ou encore « soyez propre, parlez français ».

Le soir les représentants des communautés des quatre communautés se sont retrouvés autour d'un événement festif agrémenté de plats traditionnels.

MOTION

DES ASSOCIATIONS ALSACIENNE, BRETONNE, CORSE ET DU COMITÉ BASQUE DE NEW YORK POUR LA RECONNAISSANCE DES LANGUES RÉGIONALES DE FRANCE

Alors que les Régions de France manifestent le 31 Mars 2012 POUR LA RECONNAISSANCE DES LANGUES REGIONALES DE FRANCE à Bayonne, Toulouse, Perpignan, Poitiers, Quimper, Ajaccio, Metz et Strasbourg, les associations des Alsaciens, des Bretons et des Corses, ainsi que le Comité basque de New York s'associent à cette manifestation nationale pour dénoncer la précarité du statut des langues régionales de France, victimes d'un véritable mépris.

Notant que le cas de New York est une démonstration statistique de la valeur ajoutée des identités régionales et de leur contribution au dynamisme de la France et à son image à l'international, nous souhaitons que soit mis un terme à un véritable « aveuglement de civilisation » au sujet des langues régionales de France et que l'on cesse de confondre « unité nationale » avec « uniformité linguistique ».

Alors que l'insertion en juillet 2008 des langues régionales dans la Constitution n'a finalement eu qu'un effet cosmétique, nous jugeons indispensable l'officialisation des langues régionales de France et la ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales. Nous disons notre « indignation » face à l'incapacité de notre pays de ratifier une timide « Charte » bourrée de précautions, en raison d'une relation quasi-religieuse à la langue nationale (Une Langue, Une Nation).

Nous soulignons l'apport des langues régionales à un multilinguisme aisé par le biais d'un bilinguisme précoce et inné, ainsi qu'à la coopération transfrontalière et au dynamisme économique, sachant que les sept principales langues régionales de France sont toutes langues officielles ou nationales de pays européens voisins.

Nous rappelons que ces langues et identités régionales sont de formidables énergies dont la durabilité est aujourd'hui menacée, faute d'un véritable cadre institutionnel de protection notamment en matière d'enseignement bilingue précoce.

Nous attirons l'attention sur le fait que, contrairement à un cliché jacobin bien établi, « le moins de breton, le moins d'alsacien, le moins de corse, le moins de basque » ne se traduit pas par plus de France mais par une perte d'énergie dommageable à l'ensemble de la communauté nationale.

Nous demandons une loi de protection des langues régionales et la mise en place de programmes visant à éliminer toute conception stéréotypée des langues régionales, afin de montrer combien ces identités et ces langues sont un élément de la modernité et de la compétitivité de la France.

L'Union Alsacienne de New York
BZH New York

L'Association des Corses des Etats-Unis
Le Comité basque de New York





Visiting two Strasburg in one weekend : a World Premiere

Visiting two Strasburg in one weekend (Pennsylvania and Virginia), as well as the temple of Alsatian cuisine of the Washington area — L'Auberge chez Francois — that's the world first accomplished by a group of Alsations from New York on Memorial Day Weekend (27 to 30 May 2011) as part of a series of events tied to the 140th anniversary of the Alsatian Union of New York. One regret — the group wasn't able to reach Colmar, too far West in Pennsylvania. After having gotten themselves to Little Alsatice in Texas end of April, the delegation of eight Alsations from New York tackled the historic weekend of the two Strasburgs : Strasburg, Pennsylvania, founded in 1693 by Alsatian Huguenots, and then the one in Virginia founded in 1761, which this year celebrates its 250th anniversary. Many trips with one purpose — to seize the occasion of this 140th anniversary to rally all the Alsatian energy in the north-eastern United States, from New York to Washington!

Strasburg, Pennsylvania...and its Alsatian dialect-speaking children

An encounter with the Pennsylvania Amish is an occasion for philosophical reflection on the quality of life, but also holds a big surprise: thanks to their upbringing, which has not yet ceased to be bilingual (German and English), nearly all the Amish children speak dialect. And those whom we came across in the Amish markets and farms understood us and responded. Here, potatoes are not "Erdaepfel" but "Grum-beera", which says something about the dominance of north Alsatian. On the other hand, one doesn't say "Ditsch", mais "Daitsch" (for German) as in northern Alsace. And this German fluency looks like it has some future left. According to demographers, with an average of 7 children per couple, the Amish — 150,000 individuals in 2010 principally in Pennsylvania and Ohio — will become 7 million dialect-speakers in 2100.... A preserved language tradition is one of the symbols of that quality of life which is promoted despite the pressures of the dominant capitalist model: the health of the spirit meeting that of the body. No cars, no TV, no telephone...less stress and a life in harmony with the environment. As a result, the Amish are today the community with the best health statistics in the northern hemisphere . It's the community with the least cancer, the least heart attacks and the the least illnesses...something to think about.





Strasburg, Virginia, at the foot of a chain of mountains that astonishingly resemble the Vosges.

After breakfast in Strasburg PA, Sunday morning May 29, the group arrived at Strasburg, Virginia around 2 in the afternoon. Just in time for attending one of the most impressive Civil War re-enactments ever done. The capture of a Yankee locomotive pulled by horses for nearly 10 kilometers by the Confederates of Strasburg. Strasburg was in 1861 one of the four priority objectives for General Ulysses Grant because of its strategic location and its communications nexus between the North and the South, less than 100 kilometers from Washington. Under a torrid sun, nearly 40 degrees in the shade, the appearance of the name Strasburg is exotic: Strasburg Fire House, Strasburg Gas Station, etc....In front of the town hall, we found the mayor, Tim Taylor, who introduced us to an audience assembled in the firemen's shed for a historical presentation on the 1861 battle. The Strasburgers applauded the Alsatians. At 5 PM, the time to depart had already come, along with another hour-long ride to Washington.

The restaurant from Obernai, the best restaurant in the Washington area!

Before reaching Washington, for an historic picture in front of the Capitole with the Alsatian flag, the group enjoyed an incredible Alsatian gastronomic dinner at "L'Auberge chez Francois" from Jacques Haeringer originated from Obernai. At the menu, Flammaküecha, toasts of Bibbalakàs, Fish and meat Sauerkraut, and not to mention Alsatian pinot blanc in the newly inaugurated Alsatian winstub in the lower level of L'Auberge. At L'Auberge, when you order champagne, there is no discussion, it is crémant d'Alsace that you get. Jacques is a star in the US, where he made numerous TV shows. He is preparing his next culinary TV show for the fall. L'Auberge who turned 35 years in 2011 was created by François Haeringer, Jacques Father ! François, who was so passionned by Alsace, province he left after the war, stayed in L'Auberge's kitchen till his last day in mai 2010. He was 91. François will stay a legend of the international Alsatian cuisine. And we were so proud to spend this day with his son Jacques who is as talented as François. A real Alsatian dynasty of quality of life.

1st Ever ALSACE CULTURAL NIGHT in NYon OCT 19th, 2011

Alsatian wine, Alsatian food, Alsatian anthem and flag, Alsatian singers and artists...a first ever "Alsatian Pride" experience was organized Oct 19, 2011 in New York, a date marking the 230th anniversary of the battle of Yorktown. That day in 1781, 400 Alsatians of the Regiment Royal de Strasburg led the final assault that gave a reality to the Independence of the USA.

The event saw the participation of Alsatian artists : Painter Patricia Wersinger, Photographer Capucine Bourcart, Interior Designer Isis Delomez, Photographer Sophie Schirch. Alsatian anthem was sang by Opera singer Jordan Gumucio.

This venue was part of a set of ten events organized in the context of 140th anniversary of L'Union Alsatienne.

Alsace New York blog reaching 15000 click

Our new communication tool launched in the context of the 140th anniversary of L'Union Alsatienne February 21st, 2011 reached 15000 clicks April 6th, 2012. 30 articles have been posted in English and French. Latest article posted in French regarding an event coorganized by L'Union Alsatienne, the Corsican and the Breton association has been read by 1300 people in a few days. April 6th, 2012 we had 223 clicks, including 23 from France, 22 from Spain, 22 from Macedonia, 12 from Poland, 9 from UK, and only 8 from the US...Your article and comments on Alsatian issues are welcomed. We would love to post your articles, the stories of your families as they came from Alsace : www.alsace-newyork.wordpress.com



The Little Alsace of Texas... since Sep. 12, 1844



In an arid and baking South Texas, which has not seen a drop of rain for seven months, a delegation of eight Alsatians from New York got themselves to Castroville — the Little Alsace of Texas — from April 27 to May 1, 2011. The goal : create ties with Texan Alsatians in the context of several events related to the 140 years of the New York Alsatians.

Main reason of this identity, cultural and touristic four day journey, a BBQ evening with Alsatian songs and jokes, in D'Hasis, the other Alsatian community in Texas, a little town which could be a perfect scenery for a western movie, and which is sistercity of Oberentzen. Within the host, Guy Holzhaus, last Alsatian speaking Mayor pro-tem of Castroville, Justin Jungman, Founder and President of the Alsatian club of the area, and also some Tschirhart, Bendele, Hützler and the five sisters Nehr, whose great grand-father François Joseph Nehr left Saint-Amarin to land in Texas in 1846. After the decease of his second wife, François Joseph pushed the obsession to return to Alsace to find his third wife. A trip of several months at the time, including several weeks in chariot – before reaching the closest harbor (Galveston). ...160 years later the five sisters Nehr are still speaking Alsatian, and are representing a beautiful heritage of this odyssey.

Given over generation after generation since 1844

Besides numerous jokes, we also heard this touching poem entitled, «Diä schéni Kenderla, mét éhra vulli = Wéndala» (those beautiful little children with their dippers full) told by Leslie Tschirhart who got it from his father in law Paul Haass, who passed away in 2009 at the age of 95 ans. Brought from Alsace in 1844 this poem has been given over generation after generation in the Haass family. The conclusion of this trip went far beyond everyone's expectations, in the group of young New York Alsatians, who will never have spoken Alsatian as much as in Texas ! Within the group Liliane Rubin, born Braesch, Sophie Schirch, Isabelle Serve, Catherine Dubourdieu, Capucine Bourcart, Emmanuel Jaegle, Florian Nguyen and Thierry Kranzer. At the outset of this trip, Isabelle Serve, from Mulhouse, who has relatives in heiteren writes her first postcard in Alsatian. Emmanuel, the King of French-American taxes in New York and born in Colmar, recognized that he had never spoke as much Alsatian as in New York.

Guided by Thierry Kranzer, who went to Castroville for the eighth time, the group at its arrival, Thursday 28 April, was honored by Castroville's Mayor, M. Lee, who is considered as a « Fremda » though he has Alsatian roots on his mother side. After welcoming speeches and gifts exchanges at Castroville's City Hall, including pieces of embroidery given by the Seybold family of New York, the Eight Alsatians of New York where elected « Honorary citizens of The Little Alsace of Texas».



By this they promise to be Ambassadors of the Alsatian culture of Texas.

The Alsatian House, oldest building in Texas...

During their trip, the Group, couldn't miss the historic Fort Alamo, where David Crockett fell, hero of the independence of the Republic of Texas and the sinuous River Walk of San Antonio, with its trendy cafes, restaurants and others stores with Mexican style. Must of cultural trip, The Alsatian bakery from Sammy Tschrihart and the Steinbach Alsatian House (1618-1648), dismantled in Walhbach in the Sundgau and rebuilt in Texas en 1998, where its Grand opening has been celebrated with the presence of M. Adrien Zeller, President of the Region Alsace, April 8, 2002. Built between 1618 and 1648, this house is probably the oldest building in the United States, certainly in Texas.

The group visited the Garden of the Roots in the Regional park, a garden of 100 yards long where trees are representing the map of Alsace. It is under the shadow of the tree representing Strasbourg that the group decide to take a picture.

Other trace of the Alsatian presence, the Alsatian Inn, a 3-star hotel on the top of the hill over Castroville. On its terrasse beside the swimming pool, the New Yorker are ordering a Gewürtztraminer from Marlenheim. The two girls from Northern Alsace are appreciating.

During the dinner, the group is surprised by their neighbours. A couple who is offering the group a bottle of

Alsace Wine, realising that we were Alsatians « Thanks for visiting us », they said. The man is a Bourquin, whose uncle Clinton, who passed away in 2000, was a pillar of the Alsatian identity of Texas, and the Alsatian language which he was readin and writing perfectly. Being offering a bottle of Alsatian wine 9000 kilometres from Strasbourg by some people, who didn't forget the value of their Alsatian origins, 167 years after the departure of their ancestors... What an experience. Some would say that the world is small, but others would also assess that Alsace is huge, and that its identity has something magic, by its capacity of promoting conviviality and brotherhood.

During a check point from a drug control special unit close to the Mexican border, a policeman with dark sunglasses is stating : « I know Alsace very well, I did

culinary school before joining the police »... A another demonstration, if needed, that Alsace stays, in the world, one of the biggest gastronomic reference. While debates are going on in Alsace on the issue of an official "Alsace Brand", one could be inspired of what is hapening in Texas, where the reference to Alsace show perfection, beauty and luxury.

From the luxury Ville d'Alsace to the Alsatian golf course

Not to mention the « Ville d'Alsace », a luxury estate between Castroville and Quihi, with houses between 300 and 500 000 dollars spread over Saverne, Strasburg, Colmar and Eguisheim Streets. Just a few blocks away, you will find the « Alsatian Golf Course ». For \$4, you can order an « Alsatian Chili dog » at the Golf's club House, where you can also buy T-shirts, caps and other artifacts stamped with the mention



"Alsatian Golf Course ». Posters are ambitious : « Wedding at the Alsatian Golf course » .

As per usual, all those contacts have been coordinated by Christiane Wood, born Hoffmann, from Obernai and Marmoutier and who settled in Castroville en 1996. Christiane who is called by the people from Castroville "The Yankee" because of her accent from Northern Alsace, is in texas a real honorary Consul of the Big Alsace i the Little Alsace of Texas.

Tireless worker at the service of the Alsatian international cause Christiane will again, there is no doubt, be a decisive element of a coming exchange planned in the fall 2011. This time, it will be the International Union of Alsatians (UIA), under the presidency of Gérard Staedel, who foreseen to land in the land of the Mesquite, the Winchester and....imported storck. Emotions before leaving, the group began to sing instinctively the texan anthem . In the Little Alsace, people are proud to be Alsatian, Texan and American. While leaving one of the Nehr sisters, who has never been in Alsace, calls the alsatians, with sad eyes, « Kumma wedder » (come again). A promise that the whole group is incline to honour....

Special THANKS to our Sponsors

Dear Members and Friends of Alsace , our two 2012 news bulletin will be published thanks to the support of following 5 Alsatian restaurants :

CAFE D'ALSACE (Second Av - 88th st),

OPIA (130 E 57),

PICNIC-BISTROT D'ALSACE (Broadway and 101),

TARTE FLAMBEE (1750 Second Av on 91st) and

PIERRE'S RESTAURANT in Bridgehampton.

We strongly recommend those restaurants and invite to visit them. You will find below the pictures of their owner and Alsatian Friends.

PicNic

Bistrot d'Alsace
Jean-Luc KIEFFER



Cafe d'Alsace

Philippe ROUSSEL



Pierre's restaurant

Pierre Weber



Opia

Antoine BLECK



Tarte Flambee

Mathias PETER



Friends of Alsace : a new network initiative

The new committee has been working on an ambitious development project in the past few months. Its main objective is to expand the reach of l'Union Alsacienne and eventually become known to a larger part of the estimated 3000 Alsatians on the East Coast. We are expecting to achieve this goal by opening up the audience of l'Union Alsacienne to everyone who has ties to Alsace and is interested in discovering the Alsatian culture. We revived the long-standing (and almost forgotten) status of "friends" of l'Union Alsacienne, which is given to non-members who support l'Union Alsacienne and participate in our activities.

Behind this effort is a simple logic: the higher number of participants in events of l'Union Alsacienne, the more new members we will be able to reach by word of mouth. We are making targeted efforts towards social groups such as alumni of Alsatian Universities (University of Strasbourg, Université de Haute Alsace), other Alsatian Associations on the East Coast (as for instance the Boston-Strasbourg Sister City Association) and people and institutions who are interested in working with us here and back in Alsace. A sister association, "Friends of Alsace" was founded in Alsace to facilitate such interactions. Its members are both in the US and in Alsace, and it is lead by UA committee member Sophie Schirch.

A specific commission is likely to be created to focus on these objectives. Our short-term plans are to reach out to our broader audience through Alsace-relevant thematic events.



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