

ALSACE NEW YORK

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

Spring is back with its new positive vibes, after a tough winter. May this new energy help you all to fulfil dreams and goals. The best baker in the world 2014 has just been elected: Antoine Robillard is Alsatian! Some of our members made the news internationally. General Jacques Paul Klein, former chief of the UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, was made Honorary Citizen of the City of Osijek, Croatia. In October, Alex Winter won the Websummit Pitch competition with 500 start-ups competing in Ireland, and a price of \$500 000! Alex Henri Rubin, son of vice-president Lili Rubin, was nominated for an Oscar last month for his movie "Disconnect". Finally, we got a contact with an Alsatian American relative of Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House from 1995 to 1999, and candidate for the 2012 Republican Party presidential nomination. Apparently Newt is very attached, and a full package of L'UnAl will reach him this month. While L'UnAl turned 143 years Feb 19, member Donald Tschirhart represented the association at the California Alsace Wine festival. Since March 12, we have also a new board of 12 officers elected including four new comers. A New Team and new energy to serve the Alsatian community in New York and the East coast. (All those issues are developed inside)

Thierry Kranzer, President of L'UnAl

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In a few months, the Alsace region will be involved in some huge commemorations of the centennial of the beginning of WWI (August 3, 2014). A terrible plight for Alsace-Lorraine. My Great-grandfather Karl-Anton, Kranzer, soldier of the Kaiser Wilhelm II, was killed by the French August 20, 2014 in one of the first WWI battle. 26 years later, in June 1940,

his son Frederic Kranzer, French soldier, was made prisoner by the German in Belgium. This is not only my history. It is also the history of all sons of Alsace who changed citizenship five times between 1870 and 1945. 2014, will also feature the 70th birthday of the liberation of Paris (25 august), Strasbourg and Mulhouse (22nd November) – Colmar only to be liberated Feb 2, 1945. Let us remember how peace is our most precious asset



2014 is also the 20th birthday of the Office for the Alsatian language, which will be celebrated at the outset of the General Assembly of the International Union of Alsatians in Truchtersheim (North Alsace) August 23! A way to remember that our language is the strongest tie between Alsatians through the world.



www.melforusa.com



www.lamarjolainebakery.com

ALSATIAN CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Consul general adjoint France -
Mr. Bernard Faro



Consul of Germany
Mr. Busso von Alvensleben



First Alsatian lunch chaired by both consuls of France and Germany

Dec 7, 2013 Xmas dinner was historical for several reasons. For the first time in decades probably, we reached a participation of 80 people. But the most marking was that for the first time an Alsatian dinner was chaired by both Consuls of France and Germany. A symbol, a few months after the first participation of the French community to the German American Steuben parade and a few months before the centennial of the beginning of WWI. A way to remind us how lucky we were today after 5 changes of citizenship observed in Alsace in 75 years (1871, 1914, 1940, 1945).

Photos by Parisian Lights photography www.parisianlights.com



ALSATIAN CHRISTMAS LUNCH

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2013



MEETINGS AND REPRESENTATION OF L' UNION ALSACIENNE

FOUR NEW OFFICERS AT L'UNION ALSACIENNE

Following 12 members have been elected or nominated to the new board, March 12:

Thierry KRANZER, Président; Benoit MEISTER, First Vice-President; Liliane RUBIN, Second Vice-President; Gisele ZIELINSKI, Executive Secretary; Andrea MARKSON, Treasurer; Blythe KROPF, Trustee, Sylvestre GUG, Trustee; Jean Christophe BAS, Trustee.

In addition to 8 elected members, 4 members were nominated and have kindly agreed to serve on the 2014-2015 board: **Webmaster Florence KOEPPEL, Bulletin Editor Capucine BOURCART, Counsel Accountant Emmanuel JAEGLE, and Assistant Treasurer Iliana HIEGEL-ADLESON.**

OUR FOUR NEW OFFICERS

Ilana ADLESON-HIEGEL - Hello! My name is Ilana Adleson and I am delighted to be the assistant treasurer for the Union Alsacienne. I was born in Mexico City, Mexico and when I was ten, I moved to California. In 2007

I studied abroad in Strasbourg, where else?! I liked France, and especially Alsace, so much, that after returning to the US to complete my bachelor's degree, I moved back to Alsace. I lived in Strasbourg from 2008 to 2013 where I taught English and did editorial work. The best part about living in Strasbourg? Meeting my husband, François Hiegel, whom I married in 2012. Almost one year ago, Francois' work brought us to New York, and I recently began work at the French-American Foundation-New York as a policy program officer. The adventure continues

Andrea MARKSON - It is an honor to



have been elected as the new treasurer of L' UnAl of New York. Born in Colmar, October 26th, 1987, I graduated from high school at Lycée Camille Sée Colmar in 2005, before joining Nursing School (IFSI) in the same town. At 21, I moved to Paris to join my husband-to-be David who was a business school student. Registered Nurse in 2008 at the American Hospital of Paris and specialized in endocrinology and pneumology, I became specialized in therapeutic education for children diagnosed with diabetes at Hôpital Robert Debré de Paris in 2010. In August 2011, we decided to leave everything behind, family and great situations, to start a new adventure in New York. I look forward starting my nursing career on this side of the Atlantic and, of course, to dedicate a lot of free time to L' Union Alsacienne!

SYLVESTRE GUG - new trustee in charge of marketing and the beautiful invitations members are now getting is coming from Haguenau. He worked for the Fondation de l' University de Strasbourg.

Sylvestre Gug came to New York in 2013. He is a manager at Trinity Wall Street, the oldest NY non-for-profit, who is keeping archives from 1700. Anybody baptized, married or buried in New York may be recorded at Trinity Wall Street.

JEAN CHRISTOPHE BAS - new trustee born in Colmar, is the grandson of former congressman of Upper Alsace, Andre Bas. Jean Christophe

after 10 years at the World Bank, joined the United Nations where he became the Director of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations a few years ago.



STRASBOURG XMAS IN NEW YORK IN DEC 2014: TO BE CONFIRMED

The City of Strasbourg and New York are still in discussion for the organization of the first ALSACE XMAS MARKET in New York in December 2014. Wait and hope! « If you haven't seen the Alsatian Christmas markets as they thrive each year all along the Wine Road of Alsace, or in the Alsatian capital of Strasbourg, you don't know anything about Christmas. Locals claim that Christmas was born in this region tucked into the Rhine Valley near the Black Forest in the northeast region of France. And when the city's streets and facades are aglow with lights and ornaments, you're willing to believe it. Every year from November 29th to December 31st, 2 million travelers flood to the Christkindelmarkt of Strasbourg for fun and entertainment, but mostly for magic. »





Alsace Wine Study Trip with Thierry MEYER- June 15-20, 2014



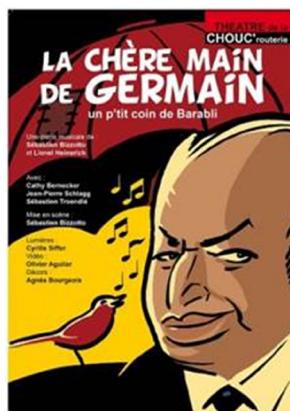
Some highlights of the Alsace Immersion Study Trip, instructed and guided by Thierry Meyer, renowned Alsace expert and resident of the region:

- Visits at top-quality producers including Zind Humbrecht, Hugel & Fils, Weinbach, Marcel Deiss, Marc Tempé, Domaine Schlumberger and Albert Mann
 - Extensive tastings at each producer with specific learning objectives
 - Vineyard walks & terroir studies in Grand Cru vineyards
 - Special tasting of old vintages at Château de Kientzheim
 - An exploration of the region's food culture with fabulous meals ranging from picnics to gastronomic dinners... with a focus on food & wine pairing, Thierry's passion!
 - Visits to the wine villages known for their charm and medieval architecture
 - Final blind tasting to conclude the week and test what you've learned
 - The complete Alsace Master Level program, including the study manual, online webinars and exam
- You won't find a better on-the-ground learning experience anywhere! Contact (202) 600-8022

Des Alsaciens sur la bande originale du blockbuster « Hercule »

Les membres du groupe haut-rhinois « La Poupée du Loup » ont figuré sur la bande originale du blockbuster du réalisateur Renny Harlin, « Hercule » diffusé en mars 2014. Le Sundgauvien Mathieu Lavarenne va voir son nom défilé au générique d'une superproduction hollywoodienne. Avec deux de ses compères du groupe La Poupée du Loup, Jacques Saly et Valère Kaletka, il a signé une (petite) partie de la bande originale du film Hercule. Une aventure fruit d'une rencontre fortuite avec le producteur et éditeur bâlois Pat Jabbar, pour lequel les Alsaciens ont fondé le trio Oxalys XL courant 2009. Deux des 25 morceaux enregistrés depuis 2009 à Bâle figureront sur la bande originale du film Hercule. Une grosse production à 70 millions de dollars réalisée par un vétéran des films d'action, Renny Harlin, à qui l'on doit, entre autres, Cliffhanger, Die Hard 2 ou encore Le cauchemar de Freddy. 77 secondes de musique instrumentale enregistrée par le trio se retrouveront dans le film.

THEATRE « La chère main de Germain »,



Le Théâtre de la CHOUC'routerie de Strasbourg et la Maison de l'Alsace à Paris, avec le soutien de la Société des Agriculteurs de France, ont le plaisir de vous convier à une soirée exceptionnelle le mardi 1er avril 2014 à 19h30

Représentation à Paris de « La chère main de Germain », théâtre musical en français et en alsacien sous-titré, hommage à Germain Muller 20 ans après sa disparition (reprise de création).

Présence exceptionnelle de Roger Siffer à l'occasion des 30 ans du Théâtre de la Chouc'routerie.

Lieu : Amphithéâtre Athènes-Services, 8 rue d'Athènes 75009 Paris - Métro : Saint-Lazare ou Trinité

Attention ! Réservation obligatoire par mail à olivier@maison-alsace.com avant le 27 mars dans la limite des places disponibles

EVENTS and more

Past events

- Feb 12, Flammenkuchen party
- Feb 21, International Day of mother language
- March 12, Choucroute Party
- April 5, Spring dinner

Coming events

- May 25, Washington Alsace Dinner
- June 29, Alsace Garden Party in Desmaret (NJ)
- Sept 20, German American Parade

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Alsatian sculptor and German Society of Maryland

Friend of Alsace from Ontario, Horst Gutsche, is informing us that legendary German-American sculptor from Alsace-Lorraine, Hans Schuler was the subject of an article published in the newsletter of The German Society of Maryland in the January, 2014 Issue # 90 (germansociety@verizon.net) Hans Schuler (May 25, 1874 - March 30, 1951) was born in Alsace-Lorraine which was then under German sovereignty, though it is now part of France. Schuler's family emigrated to the United States while he was still a youngster. He graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore,

Maryland, having studied there at the Rinehart School of Sculpture. Schuler won the Salon Gold Medal in Paris in 1901, the first American sculptor ever to do so. Returning to Baltimore, he built his studio at 7 East Lafayette Avenue in 1906. House and studio are still maintained by the descendants in Maryland. The Schuler School of Fine Arts is located in the heart of Baltimore, an architecturally and sculpturally rich city. In addition to fine museums of its own, Baltimore's proximity to the museums of Washington, Philadelphia, and New York make it an ideal place to study traditional painting and sculpture. Since 1951 the Schuler School of fine arts is located in the studio built by Hans Sr. in 1906 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Alsatian NY based painter exhibits in South Korea



Jean Marie HAESSLE just came back from a Museum opening of a show of my work at the "Korea University Museum" in Seoul, Korea. The show on three floors is showing about 50 paintings covering the last 30 years. It will be open until May 18 2014. Jean Marie will travel in the fall to a museum in Tokyo Japan to discuss a potential exhibition opening.



Capucine Bourcart from Harlem to Switzerland

Three exhibitions in Spring

- Member and Artist photographer **Capucine Bourcart** recently presented her art piece "**Their Perfect Woman**" among seven other female artists at an exhibition called "In Her Skin" celebrating women. The exhibition has been curated by Leanne Stella from Art in Flux gallery and takes place at La Maison d' Art from March 21 through May 18, 2014. Capucine Bourcart is working on new "Perfect Women" pieces and is looking for women who are interested in visually donating the favorite part of their body. Please contact her at cbourcart@hotmail.com - www.capucinebourcart.com

- Capucine Bourcart will present her project "**Urban Mosaic: New York**" in a solo exhibition at the Nidau Gallery in Switzerland. From 2008 to 2012, Capucine Bourcart went to each street of Manhattan from State St. to 220th St. to shoot details of walls of New York. She collected about 4,500 photos of details of walls of New York buildings. Based on this huge and unique collection she created collage compositions which will be presented at the Nidau Gallery www.nidaugallery.com from May 10th until June 7th, 2014. The opening will be on May 10th at 5 pm and is supported by l'Union Internationale des Alsaciens, www.alsace-monde.org.



White and its 8 colors - 2014

- The exhibition "**Urban Mosaic: New York**" will also be presented in Alsace, Hartmannswiller at La Tuilerie from June 14th to June 21st. This group exhibition of artists from the Alsace region is organized by Marie-Laure Collange, an Alsatian painter. The opening will be on Saturday, June 14th.

For more information, please email cbourcart@hotmail.com or go to www.capucinebourcart.com



GENEALOGY

The Barthel from New Orleans

Benoit from Alsace, Haut Rhin and living in Paris is doing genealogy research on Barthel's family. Two BARTHEL came to New Orleans from New York in the 1920's. He is looking for sources about genealogy, birth and death documents and archives. Contact Benoit at : benoit.barthel@gmail.com.

The Kieffer from Missouri

Amazing what one can find on the internet. Here is an example of the Kieffer couple getting 10 children once in the USA. Antoine KIEFFER, Born Jan 1, 1816 in Strasbourg, Alsace, died in 1880 in Missouri. Buried in Black Water Chapel Cemetery, Holden, Missouri. Antoine and Elizabeth (born Jan 10, 1828 in Strasbourg – died Feb 18, 1907 in St. Joseph, Missouri) owned a farm and vineyard on the Rhine River, near Strasbourg, in the Alsace-Lorraine Region of France. They paid the Catholic Church for helping them come to America. It is believed they immigrated to America between 1854 and 1857, taking the Southern Route. They had 10 children : Elizabeth "Lizzie", Daniel, Emma, Phoebe, Edward, Maggie, Mary, Katie, John and William.

Paulette is looking for former members "Bihl"

Paulette is looking to see if any of the Bihl family is still living in the New York area. If you have any information, please email her at : paulettesester@gmail.com.

Sources: We are often contacted for genealogical informations. The american institution that hold the most of genealogical record is the Mormon church (<https://familysearch.org/>). It is public and free, but you'll have to go there (Salt Lake City, Utah) to have access to the document. Our Bureau member Sylvestre Gug can also have a look at the record owned by the Trinity Wall Street, who is keeping archives from 1700. Anybody baptized, married or buried in New York may be recorded at Trinity Wall Street.

ALSACE and LANGUAGE

International Day of Mother Language (Feb 21)

L' Union ALsacienne celebrated the International Day for Mother language Saturday 21 February on Roosevelt Island. Food and wine were offered in exchange of a \$40 cover. \$900 were collected that evening to benefit the International Found for Alsatian Language (www.filalsace.org)

Alsatian language : The spring offensive of General Jacques Paul Klein

General Jacques Paul Klein did solicit the support of 16 Alsatians politicians, mostly mayors of big cities, for the Charte des collect-

tivités territoriales d' Alsace et de Moselle pour la promotion de la langue régionale, by which the cities would engage to become bilingual administrations. « We will have no future as an Alsatian people – and history will condemn us for it – if we do not preserve our language and traditions, and value our history. I hope that I can count on your support » is writing General Jacques Paul Klein. And former Under Secretary General(USG) of the United Nations. Alles beschte un vielmols merci. Denn nur's beschte esch güett genüe fer' s Elsäss, is the Selestat born US General concluding in Alsatian. Full letter published on our blog www.alsacenewyork.wordpress.com



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NY, NY 10128
mathias.peter@yahoo.fr
917 420 5532

ALSATIAN IMMIGRATION



German dialect courses in Pennsylvania

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society dialect classes

Preservation of the distinctive language tradition of early German immigrants to Lancaster County continues at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Keith "Butch" Reigart will serve as instructor for two ten-week courses at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

A beginner class meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays from March 11 to May and an intermediate class is held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays from March 13 to May 15 at 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, on Route 30, beside Tanger Outlet Center. Those familiar with German have an advantage, and can usually start at the intermediate level.

Registration at www.lmhs.org or by calling 393-9745. Basic instructional materials are included in the course fee of \$100 for Historical Society members and \$115 for non-members. Supplemental texts, dictionaries, recordings, and other study aids are available from the society bookstore.

Reigart, grew up hearing Pennsylvania German in his childhood home in York County. He received degrees in German and Russian, and served as a foreign language specialist for the US government for more than 35 years. Pennsylvania German is a dialect coming from German-speaking Swiss, German, and Alsatian immigrants who arrived between 1683 and 1808. Today the dialect is often associated with Old Order Amish and Mennonite communities in Pennsylvania. Though historically descendants of Lutheran, Reformed, and other immigrant groups coming from southwestern Germany spoke it widely. The Amish percentage of current dialect speakers is ever increasing as the Amish continue to hold onto and teach the dialect to their children as part of their efforts to maintain separation from the modern world.

Speaking Amish book

Born into a Lancaster County Amish family, Lillian Stoltzfus has been speaking Pennsylvania German all her life. The author of "Speaking Amish" writes on her website, speakingamish.com. Stoltzfus published her language manual, subtitled

"A Beginner's Introduction to Pennsylvania German for Ages 10 to 100," earlier this year through Masthof Press, Morgantown. As of January 2014 The Speaking Amish book has been sold to people in 31 states in the USA, and also in Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Austria. One would be surprised by the widespread interest of the Pennsylvania German language.

Bilingual picture book: English and Pennsylvania Dutch

"Des Haus wu der Jack gebaut hot" is just the thing for ambitious students of the "PA Dutch" dialect who want to supplement their class work with independent reading. It's a bilingual edition of the English nursery rhyme "The House That Jack Built," translated by Walter Sauer. This latest edition was published by Edition Tintenfass with the support of the German-Pennsylvanian Association. The association, interested in Pennsylvania German language, history and culture, is based in Mainz, Germany, in the Rhine-Land-Palatinate, area of origin for many early immigrants to Pennsylvania. Available at Amazon.com.

Alsace cradle of the German literature

Many ignore that Alsace has not only been a German speaking region for 15 centuries. It was also the heart and cradle of the German literature in many ways. If Yiddish and Amish languages are two vibrant expression of Alsace linguistic contribution to the United States diversity, below are some interesting facts about Alsace's contribution to the building of a German literature.



Gottfried von Strassburg (died c. 1210) is the author of the Middle High German courtly romance Tristan, an adaptation of the 12th-century Tristan and Iseult legend. Gottfried's work is regarded, alongside Wolfram von Eschenbach's Parzival and the Nibelungenlied, as one of the great narrative masterpieces of the German Middle Ages. He is probably also the composer of a small number of surviving lyrics. His work became a source of inspiration for Richard Wagner's opera Tristan und Isolde.

Sebastian Brant (1457 – 10 May 1521) was a German humanist and satirist. He is best known for his satire *Das Narrenschiff* (The Ship of Fools). He was born in Strasbourg. He studied at Basel, took the degree of doctor of law in 1489, and for some time held a professorship of jurisprudence there. Returning to Strasbourg, he was made syndic of the town, remaining there for the rest of his life. In 1485 he married Elisabeth Bürgis from Basel, the daughter of a cutler. Elisabeth bore him seven children. Keen for his eldest son Onophrius to become a humanist, he taught him Latin in the cradle and enrolled him in university at the age of seven.

Otfrid of Weissenburg (German: Otfrid von Weißenburg) (c. 800 - after 870) was a monk at the abbey of Weissenburg (modern-day Wissembourg in Alsace) and the author of a gospel harmony in rhyming couplets now called the Evangelienbuch. It is written in the South Rhine Franconian dialect of Old High German. The poem is thought to have been completed between 863 and 871. Otfrid is the first German poet whose name we know from his work. He studied under Hrabanus Maurus at Fulda and had moved to Weissenburg by 830. Apart from the Evangelienbuch, he is the author of a number of works in Latin, including biblical commentary and glossaries. With 7104 couplets, the Evangelienbuch is the first substantial literary work and the first use of rhyme in German literature.

Minesänger some Minnesänger, as indicated by the title Meister (master), were clearly educated commoners, such as Meister Konrad von Würzburg. It is thought that many were ministeriales, Reinmar, also known as Reinmar von Hagenau (Reinmar of Haguenau) or Reinmar der Alte (Reinmar the Elder), was the most important Minnesinger before Walther von der Vogelweide. Reinmar probably was born in Alsace. He arrived at the court of Duke Leopold V in Vienna around 1190, and he accompanied the duke on the Third Crusade in 1190. He died before 1210.

There are about 80 texts by Reinmar still in existence. There are however doubts about the authenticity of a number of them. They are a high point of the traditional Minnesang, and Reinmar is counted as one of the 12 masters of the Minnesang. His poetry represents the supremely suffering knight who pines for a truly unattainable lady.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

President **Thierry Kranzer** published an article in French "L' Alsacien international, un Alsacien libéré" in a publication released March 2014 entitled "Devenir Alsacien" ; A collection related to identity and tourism under the direction of Michel Bentz, Yves Bisch, Gérard Cardonne, Dominique Rosenblatt and the University of Upper Alsace. The book gathering 18 articles of specialists of Alsatian identity and/or tourism is sold 15 euros ISSN 2259-6577. Contact M. Bentz michel.bentz@uha.fr



General Jacques Paul Klein, long time member of L' Union Alsaciennes, United Nations Under Secretary General (ret), was made Honorary Citizen of the City of Osijek in Croatia, Dec 2, 2013. The Award was presented by Mayor Ivan Vrkic and Anton Djapic, President of the City Council, at the Croatian National Theater. The Award was presented in recognition of Ambassador Klein's outstanding leadership as Transitional Administrator of the UN Mission to Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) and the successful reintegration of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium into the republic of Croatia. The Award ceremony was attended by Croatian Prime Minister Milanovic, Foreign Minister Pusic, Minister of Economic Affairs Vrdoljak, United States Ambassador Kenneth Merten and the Croatian Members of the European Parliament.

Alexandre WINTER won a \$ 500 000 price with his startup last fall in Ireland. Alex left LTU Technologies to start working on a new idea that will radically change the way we humans interact with our cities. This is how "Placemeter" was born. While he was working on Placemeter prototypes from his house in Brooklyn, he started looking for other people to share and grow the vision. His friend Alexandre Mars jumped in as the first investor. Then Florent, his co-founder, joined full time the one man-crew and gave it a very impressive impulse. Things started to get real, and fast. 2013 zipped by in a blip: February - Alex Winter's team was accepted into Techstars New York - 11 companies out of 1700, high five! In June - after a "slight" pivot, the group graduated from Techstars - in September - Placemeter received a term sheet from top tier, extremely smart investors who bought into the vision and grew to 6 employees. In October, the Group won the Websummit PITCH competition with 500 start-ups competing. In December - Placemeter's first client was delivered. Placemeter is covering a large part of New York, with the ambition of conquering the world!



Michele LAURITSEN

(daughter of Paulette LEY) and family are moving further north (Sussex County, NJ) the first week of May. Michele has a new grandson, Jason Louis Lauritzen. His middle name is after great-grandfather LOUIS LEY, who was a pillar of L' Union Alsaciennes and soccer player of the Stade Breton at its beginning in the sixties. Always young and dynamic Paulette LEY (She went with L' Union Alsaciennes to the Little Alsace of Texas in 2002 and to the Little Alsace of Ohio in 2003) is turning 80 on May 2nd, 2014!

Patricia CATENNE slowly recovers from a terrible hand cut, which is the worst injury for a chef. Not able to work during one month due to a severe nerve cut she started physical therapy in April. We are wishing her a fast recovery. We invite you to check her business link. We invite your to check her wonderful site www.quintessencia.com

Member **Patrica WERSINGER** published a wonderful article in www.beautynewsnyc.com the first online beauty magazine in December 2013. She was part of a group show at the Skylight Gallery in Chelsea. Her painting Cythere was reviewed enthusiastically in Examiner.com by art critic Alison Martin. The show will remain at Skylight Gallery, 539 west 29th street until April 4, 2014.

Alexandra ROTH just received her Associate in Art & Graphic Design, at the age of 47 via Pen Foster College, after studying nights and week-ends after working 10+hours day shifts. Congrats Alex!

Painter **Jean-Marie HAESSLE** was featured in the alsacenewyork.com blog with a wonderful article by Capucine Bourcart. Born in Buhl, near Guebwiller (68), Jean-Marie Haessle is a recognized artist who paints huge paintings in his loft in Soho. He started his career as an apprentice adjuster in the potassium mines in (MDPA) Guebwiller. He then passed an industrial drawing NVQ and became an industrial designer. He wanted to go to Paris, because that is where he thought his dream could become come true. Finally he made it to New York.

The incredible encounter of member **Isabelle SITTERLE**. Isabelle who arrived in New York 20 years ago from Habsheim moved to Los Angeles 27 December 2013 to boost her actress experience. The 14th of January 2014 as a new staff of the restaurant where she just started, she meets a new colleague just arriving from Australia.

Isabelle: Where are you from?

Kate: Sydney, Australia, and you?

Isa: France

Kate: oh my boyfriend is French

Isa: from Paris?

Kate: No from Alsace

Isa: No way me too. Do you know which village he is from?

Kate: Yes, Habsheim, do you know Habsheim ?

Isa chocked : yes I know, it's my village too !

Kate: No way! I met my boyfriend Julien in Sydney 7 years ago. We came from Australia a few months ago !

Next Day, Isabelle is learning that her mom (teacher) had Julien in her class! Either is the world small or Alsace is big. By the way Isabelle experienced her first earthquake in L.A mid March. 4.4 shake at 6:25 am was pretty neat & surprising, did she write!

Rachel SCHARLY est devenue "correspondante USA" pour le Groupe Chronos, cabinet d'études et de prospective dont les travaux s'articulent autour de quatre grands thèmes - les mobilités, les territoires, le numérique et le quotidien. Ce cabinet est dirigé par Bruno Marlloff, grand sociologue français.



The Bureau of L' UnAl met member **Isabelle LENOT**, end of Feb 2014 at Bistro d' Alsace. Former secretary of L' Union Alsaciennes, Isabelle and Husband Alain Baumann moved back to Alsace a few years ago. Born in Picardy, Isabelle is actually a member of the Bureau of the International Union of Alsatians (UIA).

Laurence PIERRON organized 2 cultural events under the month of the Francophonie, for 2 Luxembourg artists: One is going on till April 9th (painting exhibition at a gallery). The other was on March 11th at Weill Recital Hall/Carnegie Hall with soprano Claudia Galli & French pianist Gregory Moulin (they both live in Metz).

Joan KLIPS is the literary editor of an upcoming songbook called "The power and joy of community singing". It will be published by the American Ethical Union, of which she is a member. The American Ethical Union is the parent organization for 24 Ethical Culture societies within the United States. The Ethical Culture Movement is a religious humanist movement whose mission is to improve life on earth for all people. The book will be dedicated to the work of Pete Seeger, who believed, as we do, that music can be a vehicle for social change.

Maxime son of webmaster **Florence Koeppe** is born Jan 18, 2014



NEWT GINGRICH, the former Speaker of the House with Alsatian roots

An American Alsatian friend from Chicago informed us that he was related to Newt Gingrich and that they had a common Alsatian heritage. Mathias Schleighermacher who came from Alsace in 1715 and created Strasburg(PA) is the ancestor of our friend Woody Slaymeker and Newt Gingrich. You understood that Schleighermacher became Slaymaker. Newt Gingrich born Newton Leroy McPherson in June 17, 1943, served as the 58th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999. Gingrich was a candidate for the 2012 Republican Party presidential nomination. Major leader in the Republican victory in the 1994 congressional election, Time named him "Man of the Year" in 1995 for "his role in ending the four-decades-long Democratic majority in the House" .



Barack Obama was not the only Alsatian presidential candidate in 2012 ! Newt Gingrich 2012 campaign media strategist was Rex... Elsass ! (ALSACE in Alsatian). Elsass was a media strategist Rep. Michele Bachmann before she dropped out of the presidential race. The CEO of the Strategy Group for Media, is also a media adviser to Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

Regarding Mathias Schleighermacher, he was the very first settler of Strasbourg PA along with a French woman. Later, Slaymertown was founded. The Slaymaker lock Company was the largest lock manufacturer in the world until the end of WWII. There are several published books on the history of the Slaymaker and Life Magazine did a 12 pages article on the Slaymaker ancestral home "White Chimney' s" , where 7 generations of slaymaker' s have lived. Mathias is Newt Gingrich' s 7th great grandfather. "Mathias had a son he also named Mathias that would be our 6th great grandfather and his daughter was Elisabeth Slaymaker who would be our 6th grandmother" quoted Woody Slaymaker to Alsace New York!

L' Assemblée nationale favorable à la ratification de la Charte des langues régionales

Le 22 janvier 2014, l' Assemblée nationale a débattu d' une proposition de loi pour la ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales. Aux côtés des députés Alsaciens HETZEL, REISS et STRAUMANN, notre député des Français d' Amérique, Frederic LEFEBVRE a appuyé mercredi 22 janvier à l' Assemblée nationale la ratification de la Charte européenne des langues régionales.

Extrait de l' intervention du Député Lefebvre : "De même, il existe dans ma circonscription des associations d' Alsaciens, de Bretons, de Corses ou encore de Basques établis en Amérique du Nord, à New York, San Francisco ou Montréal. Elles m' ont transmis leur motion conjointe du 31 mars dernier par laquelle elles jugeaient indispensable la ratification de la Charte européenne. Ce débat, chers collègues, doit dépasser les clivages politiques traditionnels. Si je me félicite que ce texte vienne aujourd' hui en discussion et si je m' apprête à le voter, je regrette néanmoins, monsieur le président de la commission des lois, que votre audace ne vous ait pas conduit, avec le Gouvernement, à ratifier ce texte, car c' est cela que nous attendons"

Passant au vote sur le texte le 28 janvier, l' Assemblée nationale a adopté par 361 voix contre 149 cette proposition. Ce texte devrait être transmis au Sénat à l' automne. Il faut trois cinquième des voix des parlementaires pour traduire ce texte en modification de la constitution.

FIGURES and more

11 000 !

Number of click on the "Alsace New York" blog on 2013! Some of the article posted on the blog have been read by more than 1000 people

\$ 11 000!

The total amount of checking and saving accounts of L' UnAl March 1, 2014 compared to a level of \$3500 in March 2012, meaning a + \$7500 in 2 years, including a \$600 donation of honorary president Christian Rolling. Big thanks to treasurer Florian Nguyen who helping us save so much money!

\$2000 of accountancy fees in two years.

Special thanks to Emmanuel Jaegle for helping us save \$2000 in storage fees by taking all our material in office basement . And also to let the UnaL use its meeting room for the regular UnaL meetings for FREE!

200 !

Number of members reached by L' Union Alsacienne in 2013

400 !

Number of email addresses of L' Union Alsacienne database including Friends of Alsace

80!

Highest number of participants to the last Xmas dinner. Highest in decades.



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NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Kevin WITTMANN has been elected member March 12, 2014. Born in Colmar 21 April 1986, Kevin is leaving in Secaucus, New Jersey. Actively looking for a job in the sports business industry. His family is from Colmar and Wolfgantzen. Trilingual International Sport Business Professional with knowledge of International Sport business industry acquired through University as well as industry experience in the USA and France. Sports Marketing and Management Intern at IMG Evert Tennis Academy. Project Manager Associate at INSEEC - Master in International Sport Management Project Bilingual Customer Relations Specialist at The Men's Wearhouse, Inc. Student Assistant Coach Varsity Team – Head Coach JV Team at Bellhaven College.

Catherine FALLER-VOLLMER, sales agent for Dutch tile manufacturer applied was elected member during the March 12 meeting. She is born in Mulhouse. Catherine randomly met member Monique Dubois-Inzina in a New Jersey Supermarket in February. She immediately filed for membership.



**L'UnaL is looking for volunteers
please contact us:
unionsacienne@yahoo.com
facebook - UnionAlsacienne**

REMEMBER FORMER UnaL EVENTS



Washington Alsace wine tasting, **April 2004**,



Bureau members Gisele Gratch and Capucine Bourcart around Justin Jungman, President of the Alsatian Club of the Little Alsace of Texas **May 2011**, at the 140th birthday of L'Union Alsacienne



Washington Alsace wine tasting, **April 2004**,
with members Cecile Schlur and Paulette Ley



Chef and member Michel Keller, hosting l'Union alsacienne at a gastronomic dinner in Chester (CT) in **April 2005**



Coming back from Liberty Island With Richard Riehm, Mayor pro tem from Colmar and Adrien Zeller, President of the Region Alsace, where l'Union Alsacienne and 300 invitees did commemorate the centennial of Auguste Bartholdi's death - **Oct 4, 2004**



Centennial - The invitees of **Oct 4, 2004**

THANKS



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