Le Cercle Français De Tampa Bay



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Bulletin d'information – Juillet 2026 – July 2026

A farewell tribute to our President

C'est avec beaucoup d'émotion que les membres du **Cercle Français de Tampa Bay** disent ***au revoir*** à Jean-Pierre. En moins de deux ans à la présidence, il a insufflé une nouvelle énergie à l'association, favorisé sa croissance et renforcé les liens de notre communauté française. Son dévouement, sa bienveillance, son enthousiasme et son sens du rassemblement ont marqué tous ceux qui ont eu la chance de travailler à ses côtés. Les nombreux témoignages reçus soulignent non seulement son leadership exemplaire, mais aussi les qualités humaines qui font de lui un ami précieux. Bien que son départ laisse un grand vide, nous sommes heureux de le voir retrouver sa famille en France et lui souhaitons santé, bonheur et réussite dans cette nouvelle étape de sa vie.

Merci, JP, pour tout ce que tu as apporté au Cercle Français de Tampa Bay. Tu resteras toujours l'un des nôtres. Bon retour en France et *ce n'est qu'un au revoir ! nous nous reverrons !*

Dear Jean Pierre



It is with both sadness and gratitude that we say ***au revoir*** as you prepare to return to France and be closer to your family. After 34 wonderful years in the United States—from Virginia to Florida—you embraced your adopted country while remaining deeply connected to your French roots. Along the way, you touched countless lives through your warmth, generosity, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment to the French community of Tampa Bay.

As President of the Cercle Français de Tampa Bay, you have been much more than a leader. You have been an ambassador of friendship, a tireless volunteer, and an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of working with you. Through your dedication and vision, the Cercle experienced a remarkable renewal of energy and growth. In less than 18 months under your leadership, membership increased significantly and the club flourished, thanks in large part to your personal outreach, your welcoming spirit, and your genuine desire to bring people together.

The admiration and affection expressed by our members speak for themselves:

"We will all miss you terribly. Such sad news but happy for you. Bonne chance et bon voyage."
Margot & Charles

"Happy trails to you! All the best to you and going home, especially to be with your family. Have a wonderful life in the best of health and happiness."
– Donna & Les

"Tu vas beaucoup manquer au club. Nous sommes désolés de te perdre, mais nous te comprenons et te souhaitons tout le mieux dans ta nouvelle vie."
– Bob & Béa

"All the best JP. Enjoy your life back home. Au revoir."
– Wayne

"Thank you for giving your all to this club and charging it with a new vitality. You will be missed, as well as your energy and support for new endeavors. Best wishes for your new life in France."
– Wendy

"Merci ne suffit pas pour exprimer ma reconnaissance à vos efforts pour assurer la réussite de notre petite communauté française. Je vous souhaite une bonne santé, une vie très heureuse et une abondance illimitée."
– Yanie Dubouchage

"I have benefited from interacting with you in four different roles. As a Tai Chi instructor, as a guide at the Dalí Museum, as President of the Cercle Français, and above all as a friend. Knowing you as a friend is the greatest reward. Bon voyage mon ami!"
– Jean DeCotret

"Ce n'est qu'un au revoir mon frère."
– Aline et Gilbert

The sentiments expressed during our last Board meeting reflected exactly how everyone feels:

"Everyone was stunned by the news of JP's resignation. We will miss him sorely. He gave our group a big boost in vibe and energy. Of course, we all wish him good luck."

As Gilbert noted, many other members are joining these messages of gratitude and affection. The overwhelming response illustrates the lasting impact you have had on our organization and on each of us personally.
Though an ocean may separate us, you will always remain a cherished member of the Cercle Français de Tampa Bay family.

Merci, JP, pour ton amitié, ton dévouement et ton extraordinaire contribution à notre communauté. Bon retour en France, bon voyage, et que cette nouvelle aventure t'apporte santé, bonheur et sérénité. Au revoir, mais jamais adieu.

Le Cercle Français a célébré la Fête Nationale Française du 14 Juillet et le 250 Ilème anniversaire des Etats Unis d'Amérique at the Voilà, Merci Bistro.

Le Cercle Français Celebrates Bastille Day and America's 250th Anniversary

Le Cercle Français recently gathered at Voilà, Merci Bistro to celebrate both France's National Day (14 Juillet) and the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The event was a great success, bringing together 63 members, including 4 new members, reflecting the continued growth and vitality of our organization.

With these new additions, Le Cercle Français has now reached 106 members. A special milestone was marked during the evening as our 100th member, Paul Habib, received a welcome gift.



Congratulations and welcome to Paul

Although the venue proved to be a little small for our growing group, it created a warm and familial atmosphere that everyone appreciated. Some members found the seating somewhat challenging, and parking required a little patience, but these minor inconveniences were quickly forgotten thanks to the outstanding hospitality of the restaurant. Chef Philippe and his staff provided excellent service and a delicious meal that was enjoyed by all. The desserts were especially appreciated and received enthusiastic praise from attendees.



Miam miam !!

Adding to the festive ambiance, an accordionist provided delightful music throughout the event, creating a truly French atmosphere and enhancing the convivial spirit of the celebration.

A raffle was also held, featuring a special prize generously provided by MONIN. Our sincere thanks go to the MONIN Company for its support and to Jean-Charles, who helped make this special contribution possible. Pierre Morin, one of our newest members, was the lucky winner of the MONIN gift basket.



Bravo Pierre - Bienvenue

The evening also included a poignant moment as JP announced his departure for France and his resignation as President of Le Cercle Français. Members warmly thanked him for his dedication and leadership. Until a new President is elected, the Board of Directors will continue to oversee and maintain the activities of the Cercle.

Finally, members were reminded that August and September are vacation months. Consequently, there will be no regular gatherings during that period, and Le Cercle Français will reconvene in October.

It was a memorable evening of friendship, celebration, and community spirit, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.



August – September :

Summer Break – No events scheduled

OCTOBER EVENT

Potluck & Antique Road Show

Join us on Saturday, October 10, at Trinity Church for an afternoon of friendship, good food, and wonderful memories.

Our October gathering will begin with a **potluck lunch featuring an Oktoberfest theme**. We invite everyone to bring a favorite dish inspired by the flavors and traditions of Oktoberfest and enjoy a festive meal together.

Following the great success of last year's event, we are delighted to bring back this event: **Our Own Antique Road Show!**

Inspired by the popular *Antiques Roadshow*, this activity is not about appraisals or sales. Instead, members are invited to bring a cherished object, family heirloom, souvenir, or keepsake and share the story behind it. Whether your treasure is valuable or simply meaningful, we look forward to hearing the memories, history, and personal stories that make it special.

Come ready for an enjoyable afternoon filled with good food, fascinating stories, laughter, and the warm camaraderie that makes Le Cercle Français so special

NOVEMBER EVENT

"Better Than Beaujolais" Party

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 15, and join us for our annual **"Better Than Beaujolais" Party**!

As we celebrate the spirit of the traditional Beaujolais Nouveau season, we will gather for an afternoon of good food, great company, and conviviality in true French style. Members and guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of wines, share lively conversation, and celebrate friendship within our growing Cercle Français community.

To make the occasion even more festive, we are exploring the possibility of adding **dance music** to the program, giving everyone a chance to dance, socialize, and enjoy the celebration well into the afternoon.

More details will be announced as the event approaches, but for now, save the date and plan to join us for what promises to be a fun and memorable gathering. After all, it wouldn't be Le Cercle Français if it weren't **"Better Than Beaujolais!"**

More details will be announced as the events approach

Le saviez-vous ? Did you know ?

La ville de **Lutece** a été créé au début du premier siècle de notre ère, après la conquête de la Gaule par Jules Cesar. Il a fallu plusieurs siècles pour que la ville soit renommée : son nouveau nom est :

Paris



The city of Lutetia (Lutece) was founded at the beginning of the first century AD, after the conquest of Gaul by Julius Caesar. It took several centuries for the city to be renamed; its new name is:

Paris

*La fête nationale Française célèbre **la prise de la Bastille le 14 juillet 1789**. Forteresse et prison d'Etat, la Bastille était le symbole du pouvoir autoritaire de la monarchie et de l'Ancien régime. La prise de la Bastille a marqué le début de la Revolution Française et la chute de la monarchie.*

The French National Day celebrates the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, symbolizing the end of absolute power, the end of the monarchy and the beginning of the French Revolution.

PAYMENTS AND RSVP : How to pay with Zelle: *To pay with **Zelle,** first enroll your email or mobile number through your banking app. Add new recipient (Cercle Français de Tampa Bay). Then, select the recipient, enter the amount you want to send, and confirm the transaction; the money will typically arrive in their bank account within minutes.*

USE ONLY THE CF EMAIL FOR YOUR ZELLE PAYMENT:

Cfdetampabay@gmail.com

To Pay by Check: Make your check payable to: **Cercle Français de Tampa Bay** and mail it to: Wayne Rychak, 1419 Briargrove Way, Oldsmar FL, 34677