



Alliance Française of Greater Orlando



OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

YES WE CAN...

Our readers know that on March 17 AFGO closed its office, cancelling all indoor and outdoor events as well as our in-presence school activities. The following day, we started to reorganize our French courses, using Zoom videoconferencing application. Moreover, since that time we have launched a series of programs. Here are a few:

- A specialized company is designing a new Web site for AFGO, making it more accessible via a multiplicity of devices (computers, tablets, smart phones) and easier to navigate. This project should be completed before Christmas and should lead to an increased number of students.
- At the beginning of September we launched a series of virtual lectures called "Discover France and its Culture", both in English and French. It's quite successful with almost 40 participants.
- We are in process of restructuring our courses for children.
- We have repainted and redecorated our offices as we hope that one day we will resume our indoor events and our language courses on our premises.

However, all these initiatives have a cost. So please renew your membership or become a new member to help us continue to successfully combat the impact of COVID-19.

WATER, WATER, WATER...

Humanity is facing a big and growing problem called ... water.

Climate change is causing more and more desertification in many parts of the world, making water a rarer and rarer commodity. As a result, the quantity of good fresh water is at risk. Meanwhile, other parts of the world experience excessive rain and are inundated.

Moreover, mostly in developed countries, water quality is getting worse and worse. Various types of polluting chemicals are the main causes of this deterioration.

The most commonly used in various industries is PFAS, which is a group of 5000 chemicals that have been manufactured in the US for decades by a trio of corporations: 3M, Dupont and Chemours.

PFAS don't biodegrade and the only way to destroy them is to incinerate them at 2,000 degrees F.

PFAS is found not only in water but also in industrial products and are prevalent in many consumer products, including fast-food packaging, cooking pots sealed with Teflon, carpet coated with Scotchgard and some water-resistant gear. This chemical family has also turned up in artificial turf and fire-fighting foam.

The result of this pollution is that many as 110 million Americans may be drinking PFAS-contaminated water, and 99% of US residents have some variant of PFAS in their blood.

PFAS bioaccumulate in humans, especially in the liver, and exposure has been linked to cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol levels and complications during pregnancy.

Still the EPA has yet to establish an acceptable limit for contamination under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The lack of federal regulation has left states and local governments scrambling to confront the problem on their own, mostly in all their public water supplies.

