



## USAIRE NEWS – JULY 2006

### Recent Events – News from the Board – Upcoming Events

#### RECENT EVENTS

**Friday, 7 July:** Our annual Cultural Event was focused on the pleasant town of Médan bordering the Seine near Paris. A number of our enthusiastic members, wives and friends met for a convivial lunch at the restaurant, “Les Plaisirs d’été”. Later, a short walk led our members to the home of Emile Zola (1840-1902) one of France’s most renowned authors. He had chosen the tranquillity of Médan, purchased and then enlarged his home to include a park, a farm and a building for his friends. Here he wrote some of his most famous works, “l’Assommoir, Nana, Germinal, La Bête Humaine”. He is probably most remembered for his article, “J’accuse”, in defense of Captain Dreyfus, a French Army Officer unjustly accused and convicted of treason. Our excellent guide told us of Zola’s life and times and led us on a fascinating tour of his home.

Following the visit to Zola’s home, the group walked to the unusual “Château de Médan” where it was met by the current owner’s wife and led on a visit of the grounds surrounding the beautifully restored building. She explained that the Château was originally a hunting lodge built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century on a 9<sup>th</sup> century site. During the Renaissance, it was frequented by the author Ronsard and the poets of “la Pléiade”. Three and one-half centuries later, the site inspired the painter, Paul Cézanne. The Château was abandoned after the war. However, in 1966, it was taken over by the newspaper “Le Combat”, and printed here until its last issue of 30 August 1974 entitled, “Silence, on coule!”. The Château was sold at auction in 1977 and acquired by its current owners. Over a period of years, they completely restored the Château as it is today and tastefully furnished it in its original 15<sup>th</sup> century style. A “pot” in the underground ‘cave’ ended the visit and the thoroughly pleasant and informative day in Médan.

#### NEWS FROM THE BOARD

**Student Award Program:** The Program (see [www.usaire.org](http://www.usaire.org)) was launched in April among selected French “grandes écoles”. By end-May, 23 candidates/teams had submitted summary papers on, “My Vision of the Aerospace and Defense Industry 20 years from now”. Of these, 13 were selected by our jury and invited to submit their 10-page final papers by 15 September. Our Jury will then determine the winner(s) who will share our exceptional prizes of money and two free Cathay Pacific airline tickets A/R to Hong Kong. The winner(s) will also have the opportunity to present their papers at a USAIRE event.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, 21 September:** The **first luncheon** (12h00-14h30) of our new season will be at the Hotel Marriott, Champs Elysées with Guest Speaker, **Claude Allègre**, former French Minister of Education and Research. Having Mr. Allègre address our members is an example of your Board’s intention to invite high-quality guest speakers for our luncheons. Invitations will be sent shortly.

**Thursday, 21 September:** Our **Annual General Assembly** will also be on this date (14h30-15h15) and an official invitation will be sent shortly. All members in good standing (dues paid for the current year) are encouraged to attend. The Board will present a review of USAIRE events of our Sep 2005-Aug 2006 fiscal year. We will also advise of the new composition of the Board, future events, dues revision, etc.

Michel Dubarry, USAIRE President