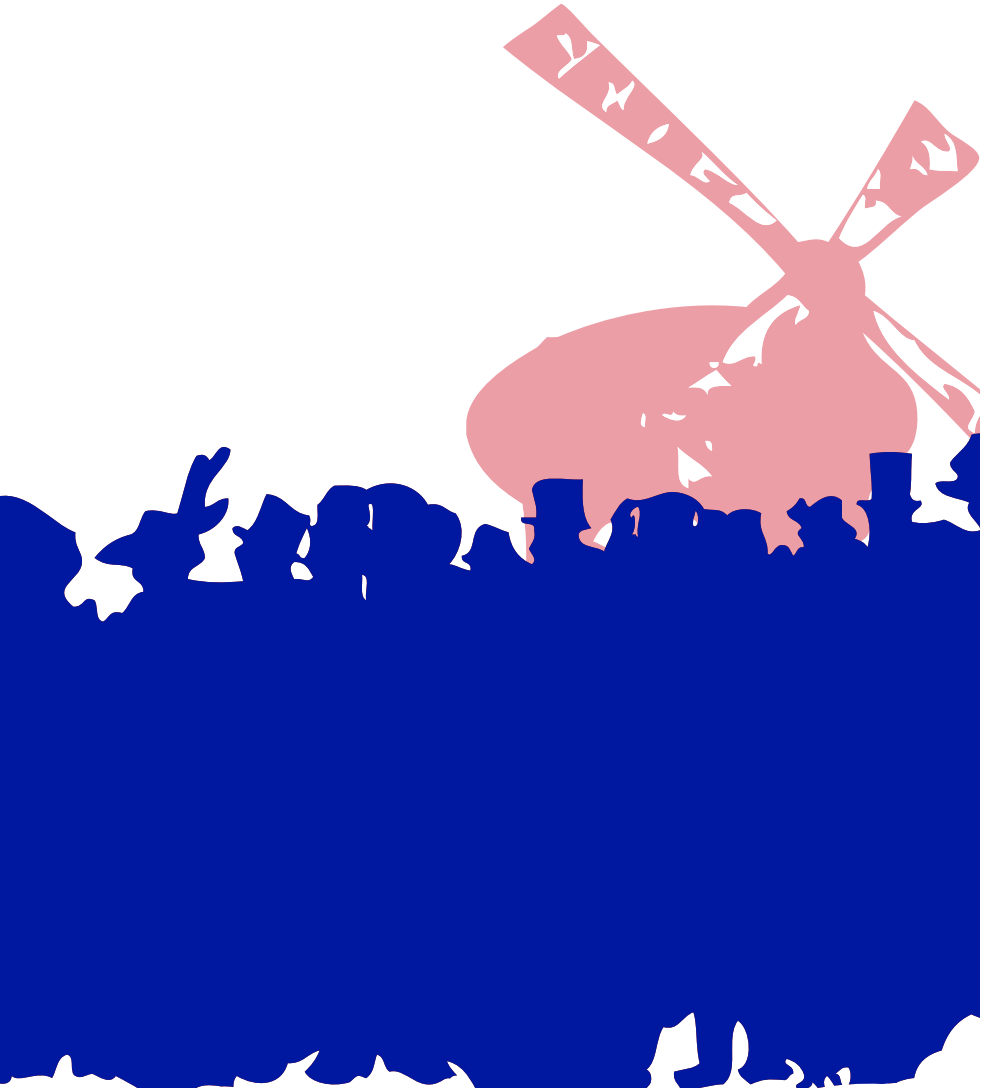




22nd ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

Frou Frou

DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER



“Perspectives on the French”

By ISTP Parent, Ray Renati

In 1989, my life changed drastically for the better when I was introduced to Katie, my future wife, and to the country of France. Before that, I was just a bungling American boy, who ate with his elbows on the table, talked too loudly, didn't greet strangers enthusiastically, and had a clumsy sense of romance. I'm still exactly the same, but at least I'm aware of it.

The French know how to turn everyday experiences into near sacraments. For instance, when the standard American sees someone they know at the Safeway, they may say hello (or pretend not to see them) and quickly make a get-away. After all, we are so busy, right? Who can take the time to stop and talk to an acquaintance? But, a French person faced with the same situation would see this friend in the Safeway as an opportunity.

First, there are the kisses. Two French people meeting each other somehow communicate (I think telepathically) the number of kisses that each cheek will receive. There is never any confusion about this. As far as I can tell there are always between two and four kisses. Usually the smooches hit the air and not skin, but that's not important. What's important is that somehow each party knows precisely how many kisses per cheek, and which cheek is to receive the first kiss. There is never a hesitation or flinching of any kind. Then the conversation begins. And it always goes on for a very, very long time. Finally, when that is over, the goodbye phase commences. This I have dubbed as “The French Goodbye.” I actually plan for it now.

Whenever it's time to leave a party, I always make sure I build in a twenty minute buffer for the inevitable “French Goodbye,” which has multiple phases. The first phase begins with a passing remark that one must soon be going. Then this is dismissed, and both parties pretend that they didn't hear it, or say it. Then after another topic of conversation comes to a close, the person who received the original “goodbye-notice” cautiously brings up the topic of the impending departure. The original “Goodbye Initiator,” acts as though they had forgotten that they had to

leave, and proceeds to thank the “Goodbye Receptor” for reminding them. Then, a physical move is made in the direction of the exit. It’s a slow, gradual move in which the conversation continues often with an increased display of movement and excitement. It’s sort of a distraction, like when a magician doesn’t want you to notice that he’s just pulled a pigeon from his sleeve. Both parties sort of levitate toward the exit. Then a full stop is made. There is a frenzy of small talk, more kisses of a predetermined, but unspoken number, and finally the exit.

My family is from Italy. I remember when I was a little boy, we had a similar way of departing. But over the decades, we lost it. And you know what? I missed it. In a way, being part of the “French Family” has brought me back to my roots, and for me that’s been a very good thing.

Gala News...

Raffle

Purchase a \$20 raffle ticket for your chance to win this beautiful pair of *Chopard* white gold earclips, with two .20 caret diamonds. Valued at over \$4,700!

**Raffle Tickets will be available for purchase at Arts Night!
Don't miss your opportunity to buy your tickets early!
Limited number of tickets will be sold.**



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Gala News Con't...

Donations

We are still in dire need of donations! Here are a few suggestions:

ISTP Global Table items -- culinary delights cooked by the many talented ISTP parents are among our most popular items. These can range from full meals to baked goods; you can do it alone or with another parent or two.

Spas -- who doesn't need a small getaway or pick-me-up? A donation from wherever you go to treat yourself to a facial, hair treatment, manicure/pedicure, or massage is good advertising for them and a great auction item for us.

Restaurants/Dining -- next time you're out dining at your favorite restaurant, ask for a gift certificate or two.

30th Anniversary Theme -- make a donation where the number 30 is relevant, such as a donation of 30 different books, etc.

Underwriting

Please consider becoming an integral part of our Gala, and underwriting a portion of our event. The following key areas need your support:

DJ	\$1,200
Sound System	\$4,000
Auctioneer	\$4,000
Valet Parking	\$1,200
Booklet Printing	\$4,000
Decorations	\$2,500
Invitation	\$3,000
Venue	\$1,500
Postage STD	\$700
Postage Invite	\$1,250
Save the Date	\$365

Advertisements

The deadline for auction booklet advertisements is January 22nd.

Please help us solicit local businesses for ads.

Visit www.istp.org/gala for more information!