

In France, new clientele gives dance halls a twirl

BY DEVORAH LAUTER
 Special to Tribune Newspapers

CHAMPIGNY-SUR-MARNE, France — A few feet from an overgrown path that hugs the banks of the still, green Marne River, two fishermen doze in a small wooden boat under the buzzing wings of insects. Awakened late on a humid afternoon, they raise a beer and shout, “*Bonjour!*”

A little farther on, the riverside path winds toward a tiny island covered with trees, and the muffled sound of music.

Through a clearing is a terrace set with red-and-white checkered tablecloths on picnic tables under wisteria-covered trellises.

On an accordion and guitar, two musicians play old French tunes. Strings of colorful lights and paper lanterns glow against a darkening sky as guests arrive.

Cross a pale blue metal bridge and enter the past. The Ile du Martin-Pecheur *guinguette* brings to life the open-air dance halls that thrived along the rivers around Paris in the early part of the 20th century. Now *guinguettes* are finding

new fans in a fast-paced, modern world.

This is a place that feels far removed from the capital, where people come to feast on fish and wine and, in the middle of the day, dance to songs their grandparents knew by heart.

“We’re looking for authentic things, simple things, that give us a real break from the weekday stress at work,” Nathalie Cicoella, 47, said as she leaned over a table where she sat with two friends at the Martin-Pecheur, a 20-minute train ride from central Paris in Champigny-sur-Marne.

“This is our patrimony, our French heritage, and it’s still here,” she said.

In their heyday, hundreds of *guinguettes* (gan-GET-ts) were situated along the banks of the rivers that loop through the Parisian countryside (where owners avoided town taxes).

During a nearly 100-year span encompassing the belle epoque and the first half of the 20th century, they were magnets for young, working-class people drawn by the low prices, fresh air, cheery accordion music and hourglass-shaped women flirting in

their Sunday best.

Pierre Auguste Renoir famously painted one of his favorite *guinguettes* in “Le Dejeuner des Canotiers” (“Luncheon of the Boating Party”).

By World War II, most *guinguettes* had disappeared. Still, they never became extinct.

“One hundred years ago, people ate this,” said Philippe Pannier de Belle Chasse, pointing toward the terrace at Chez Fifi (short for Philippe), the *guinguette* he opened in 2001 in Neuilly-sur-Marne. “Fried fish, white wine. That’s it.”

On a recent Sunday, Pannier cooked for a packed crowd, sweating in his cap and apron. He served steaming mussels, roasted veal, lamb and more seafood, calling out as he walked into the dining room and almost simulta-



Patrons dance at Chez Fifi, a *guinguette* along the Marne River east of Paris. In their heyday, hundreds of *guinguettes* were situated along the banks of the rivers that loop through the Parisian countryside. They never became extinct, experiencing a revival in the early 1990s.

DEVORAH LAUTER/
 PHOTO FOR TRIBUNE
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neously hugging and kissing the female partyers.

Pannier had always wanted to run his own *guinguette*.

“I grew up around the working-class (dancing) balls in the countryside,” he said. “And you remember where you were the first time someone flirted with you, when you were 15.”

BURR OAK CEMETERY PERPETUA TRUST NOTICE

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
 IN RE: PERPETUA-BURR OAK HOLDINGS OF ILLINOIS, LLC
 CASE NO. 09-34022

NOTICE OF PERPETUA TRUST CLAIMS DEADLINE

To: All Class 7, Class 8 and Class 9 Claimants pursuant to the Debtors' Modified Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Debtors' Modified Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation (“Plan”) became effective on June 16, 2011.¹ Pursuant to the Plan, Class 7, Class 8 and Class 9 Claims shall be distributed by the Perpetua Trust according to the terms of the Plan and supporting trust documents.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to Section 12.3 of the Plan, all Trust Claim Forms for Class 7, Class 8 and Class 9 Claimants must be received, if sent First Class Mail, by BMC Group, Inc., Attn: Perpetua Claims Processing, P.O. Box 3020, Chanhausen, MN 55317, or if sent Overnight or Hand Delivery, by BMC Group, Inc., Attn: Perpetua Claims Processing, 18750 Lake Drive East, Chanhausen, MN 55317, no later than August 15, 2011.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a Trust Claim Form will be deemed filed only when actually received by BMC Group, Inc. on or before August 15, 2011. A Trust Claim Form may not be delivered by facsimile or electronic mail transmission. Any facsimile or electronic mail submissions will not be accepted and will not be deemed filed until a Trust Claim Form is submitted by one of the methods described above. A Trust Claim Form which is received by BMC Group, Inc. after August 15, 2011 shall be denied and no Distribution shall be made on such late received Trust Claim Form.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that failure to provide adequate support to your claim as required in the Trust Claim Form may result in the denial of your Claim. If you are unable to obtain the necessary documentation, please explain your reasons in writing on a separate piece of paper.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to Section 3.1.7(b) of the Plan, “if the aggregate amount of Allowed Class 7 Claims that elect the Automatic Payment Option exceeds the amount of the Automatic Payment Allocation, then each Distribution on account of such Allowed Class 7 Claim shall be reduced from \$100 on a Pro Rata basis.” The Holder of any Allowed Class 9 Claim shall receive a Pro Rata Distribution on account of such Allowed Claim pursuant to Section 3.1.9(b) of the Plan.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that to receive a copy of the Trust Claim Form, you may obtain it from the website: <http://www.bmcgroup.com/perpetua> or you may call BMC Group Inc.'s toll free number, 1-888-909-0100, to request that a Trust Claim Form be provided to you.

¹ All capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Plan. To obtain a copy of the Plan and related documents, please visit <http://www.bmcgroup.com/perpetua>.

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