



At the last minute, I deleted most of the text for this month's STUFF and started again due to the horrific events in France. In the 5 years I've been doing this newsletter, my goal has been to inspire benchmark attitudes, positive mindsets and provide insights that challenge the comfortable and comfort the challenged. I've tried in my humble way only because I've been inspired myself by far greater people who came before me. Perhaps it's that, or my Libran predisposition for balance and fair play that make me mourn harder than ever due to the abject waste of life and love and the sheer grief that cruelty, ignorance and senselessness inflicts on the world. Dickens once wrote, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Ironically, the setting for his "Tale of Two Cities" was the French Revolution. This bulletin is dedicated to France.

Last month, I offered 20 nameless faces that have inspired me. They are products of the best qualities of humanity. Not one reader was able to name them all. I'll explain my choices another time. Suffice to say, they're Innovators, misfits, rule breakers, and entrepreneurs. Garret John LoPorto calls them "Wayseers". They saw the way and paved it. They're the cure for the evil and ignorance that plagues our lives and dominates the headlines. Where current events are concerned, grieve certainly but let's not regret. As birth is painful, so is evolution and change. This month, STUFF pays tribute to those French men and women who have given so much more than those genetic abominations tried to take away. This month, they're named!

- 1. LOUIS PASTEUR:** His breakthrough discoveries about germs and disease prevention saved countless lives. Pasteurization is but one of his legacies.
- 2. HENRI BECQUEREL:** Nobel prize winning discoverer of radioactivity.
- 3. RENE DESCARTES:** Philosopher, mathematician, scientist. He's been dubbed the father of modern philosophy. He pioneered "rationalism".
- 4. JOAN of ARC:** Saint Joan is nicknamed "The Maid of Orleans."
- 5. ALEXANDRE DUMAS:** Immortal writer. Works include "The 3 Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Cristo."
- 6. VICTOR HUGO:** "Les Miserables" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" makes Mr. Hugo equally immortal. Say no more.
- 7. JULES VERNE:** A personal favourite. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" was the first Sci-Fi I ever read and inspired my imagination.
- 8. PAUL CEZANNE:** Classic post-impressionist painter. Throw in Matisse, Renoir, Gauguin, Toulouse-Lautrec - take your pick. French immortals all!
- 9. CLAUDE MONET:** Another artist but rates a special mention as my favourite. Check out "Springtime" or "La Grenouillere" to see why. Wow.
- 10. CHARLES de GAULLE:** Resistance fighter, statesman, President and General. France's Churchill rallied his people in their darkest hour.
- 11. EDITH PIAF:** Her unique voice was matched by her unique contribution to occupied France during WWII. Listen to "Non, je ne regrette rien" without goose bumps - I dare you!
- 12. COCO CHANEL:** Perhaps the personification of all things French. The only fashion designer to be named in Time magazine's 100 most influential people of the 20th century.



Excellence is never an accident. Decency, class, courage, mercy, charity and wisdom are only partly nature. CULTURE is the coming together of prevailing beliefs; the result of which gives direction to a unified vision for the group's future. NAPOLEON wrote the book on leadership. My favourite quote is, "leaders are entitled to be defeated but never to be surprised." This tiny defeat, tragic as it, is isn't really a defeat at all; for it serves as a reminder of the richness of French culture. My thoughts and prayers are with the good people of France. My thanks from us all to you for your magnificent contributions to humanity!

