



Alliance Française de la Péninsule de Monterey

P.O. Box 3573, Carmel, CA 93921

March 2020

Proverb of the month

En mars s'il tonne, l'année est bonne.

(In March, if it thunders, a good year it will be.)

Activities Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday March 7th

10:00 AM to 1200 PM at Catherine Zahm's home,

All members of the Alliance are encouraged to attend this meeting and share their ideas and vision for the Alliance.

Cercle du livre

Sunday March 8th

3:00 PM at Jocelyne Muson's home,

Book: Maupassant's "Contes"

Café Conversation

Tuesday March 10th

10:00 AM at Sweet Elena's Bakery and Café, 465 Olympia Ave., Sand City, off Del Monte Ave.

Phone: 831-393-2063. Hosted by Christian Dreyer, no reservations necessary.

Soirée cinéma

Sunday March 15th

5 PM at Director Sandy Ford's home. Attendance is limited to 14;

Film: A Bottle in the Gaza Sea (Une bouteille à la mer).

Synopsis: Tal (Agathe Bonitzer) Tal is a young Frenchwoman living in Jerusalem with her family.

At seventeen, she was the age of the first time: first love, first cigarette, first piercing. And the first attack, too. After the explosion of a suicide bomber in a cafe in her neighborhood, she writes a letter to an imaginary Palestinian where she expresses her questions and her refusal to admit that only hatred can reign between the two peoples. She slips the letter into a bottle which she gives to her brother so that he can throw it into the sea, near Gaza, where he is doing his military service. A few weeks later, Tal receives an answer from a mysterious "Gazaman"...

Happy Hour Conversation – new!

Wednesday March 18th

4:30 – 6 :30 PM at Casa Munras, Estaban restaurant. 700 Munras Ave, Monterey CA 93940. No need to reserve. Hosts: Sandy Ford, Clarissa Eagle. We hope to see all of you who can't make the regular Café Conversation at this new, early evening event! The first Happy Hour was a great success; see the last page of this bulletin for a picture.

La Semaine de la Francophonie

Saturday March 21st

1-4 PM PM at Bruce Albright's home.

La semaine de la francophonie is an opportunity for all Francophones and Francophiles around the world to celebrate the French and Francophone language and culture. During Francophone week, Thursday March 19 is the day of Mi-Carême. It is a feast which, as the name suggests, is a day of rest in the midst of the period of penance and fasting before Easter. It is a practice that dates back to the Middle Ages and has been perpetuated to the present day in the former French colonies (Quebec, Acadia, Saint Martin). The Mi-Carême was also formerly in France the feast of laundresses, charcoal cutters and water carriers. The Essence of Mid-Lent is a mini carnival that embraces a spirit of joy, laughter and derision that contrasts sharply with the period of austerity, severity and penance of Lent.

This year we will celebrate these two events by sharing a pot fortune meal and disguising ourselves. Come disguised and / or masked and bring a dish or a drink of French or French origin. Indicate on a label the name and origin of the dish. Everyone will explain if he or she wishes the recipe and the origin of the dish.

Lunch chez Bechler

Thursday March 26th

1:30 PM at Pâtisserie Bechler, 1225 Forest Ave, Pacific Grove. Phone: 831-375-0846. Hosted by Christian Dreyer. No reservations required.

Cercle du livre

Sunday March 29th

3:00 PM at Jocelyne Muson's home

Book: Émile Zola's "La Joie de vivre"

Recent Events

La Chandeleur was celebrated at the home of Director Sandy Ford's daughter in Pebble Beach, where approximately 30 members enjoyed delicious sweet and savory crepes and cider. Thank you to everyone who came and made it a great event!

Future Events

Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday April 4th

10:00 AM to 1200 PM at Catherine Zahm's .

All members of the Alliance are encouraged to attend this meeting and share their ideas and vision for the Alliance.

Chef André

Saturday April 18th

6:30 PM at Monterey Peninsula College (room to be announced). This will be a three-way gastronomic event, with Cooking Professor Chef André educating the audience on, and demonstrating, French-influenced culinary methods; with MIIS interpretation students translating from French into English; and with our own AF members playing the vital roles of taster and critic. Some hands-on effort may be necessary to help serve. Wine will be available to accompany the fruits of your efforts. Price of admission will be approximately \$25 to cover the cost of ingredients and a donation to the MPC hospitality program.

To make reservations please email Jim Richards, jricharadspe@cs.com.

Concours de poésie

Saturday April 25th

2:00 PM on the MIIS campus, Irvine Auditorium, McCone Building

French students from local schools will recite poems belonging to the canon of French literature, as well as their own original compositions. Prizes will be awarded for the best performances. We encourage you to come support these students and their study of the French language. Refreshments will be served.

New and Returning Members

We warmly welcome our new members - Glenda Pons, Danielle Richards, Mary Westra, and Jo FitzPatrick - and happily welcome back Christine Hedderwick and Karin McQuillan!

Thank you to our donors

We wish to thank Ms. Susan Pier for her generous donation to our Alliance Française!

Condolences

Agnès Ragone, a beloved member of the Alliance Française, passed away on February 7th. Below

is a note from her son, Alliance member Jacques Belval:

As many of you now know, my mother Agnes Ragone passed away yesterday after an 18-month battle with terminal lung cancer. In lieu of flowers, we are kindly asking for donations in her name to her GoFundMe project for a small village in Haiti called Gros Mangles. She, along with her colleagues and students, built a medical dispensary there over the course of many years and it has received the recognition and support of the Haitian government and several NGOs; it will now become a hospital, requiring \$30K a month to fully function and pay its staff.

If you wish, you may make a contribution or remit checks to Dr. Blandine Mitaut at the following address:

Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Department of Global Languages & Cultures
c/o Dr. Blandine Mitaut: Projet Gros Mangles
Shippensburg, PA 17257



Our first all-new conversation Happy Hour at the Estaban restaurant on 02/13 was a great success!

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