

Alliance Française–Lansing



May 2018 Newsletter

Do you need a holiday? Visit France in May.

May is a great month for holidays in France. There are four. They are: May 1, Labor Day; May 8, World War II Victory in Europe Day; May 10, Ascension Day and May 21, Whit Monday. (In the United States, we celebrate 9 federal holidays yearly. The French have eleven, four of which occur in May.) The French often tie their holidays to vacations. For instance, Ascension Day this year falls on a Thursday. Many French workers will “*faire le pont*” and take off the Friday following Ascension Day thus creating a long weekend.

And from the magazine:



An annual competition to make the best baguette in the French capital takes place every April. Officially named the Grand prix de la baguette de tradition française de la ville de Paris, the event celebrates the expertise and virtuosity of its laureates, who are judged according to strict criteria. The winner receives a check for 4,000 euros, and the right to supply the Elysée Palace with bread for one year. The jury’s decision is based on factors such as how well the baguette is cooked, the taste, the interior, and the aroma.

And it just so happens that candidates do not have to be “pure French” to become contributors to and masters of this heritage. Four of the first ten bakers in the 2018 rankings are of Maghreb descent. Mahmoud M’Seddi, who was born in Paris of Tunisian parents and works at a bakery in the 14th *arrondissement*, placed first. In light of recent violent debates surrounding the meaning of “Frenchness,” it is joyously ironic to analyze this investment in one of the most powerful symbols of French culture (the French themselves purchase 10 billion baguettes per year) as the global representation of popular French gastronomy. (26 avril, 2018)

Alliance Française-Lansing maintains a subscription to France-Amérique. If you would like to borrow a copy of this bi-lingual magazine, just ask one of the board members. "France-Amerique is published in the US but the articles are decidedly French. AF-Lansing keeps the Print version in our library. If you prefer the online version, subscriptions are available through their website."

Share Your Love of France

The Board of Directors invites members to identify programs or to become program presenters for AF-Lansing soirées.

Members have a breadth of knowledge and experiences of things French and the Board would like members to share their knowledge with other members at the soirées.

If you have an idea for a program and/or would like to make a 20 minute presentation at one of the soirées, please contact Josie Wojtowicz, Vice President of Alliance Française-Lansing or any of the other board members.

Visit our redesigned website.

Board member Darcy Greene has been working with a committee of board members to improve the Alliance Française-Lansing website. The newly redesigned website will “go live” on May 15. Please visit: www.aflansing.org and then send a comment using the website email.

French conversation opportunities

AF conversation entre amis meets every other Wednesday (~~May 9th~~ and May 23rd) at Aspen Lake Estates Clubhouse, 3879 Lone Pine Rd., Holt, MI 48842 at 6:30 PM.

Conversation Café meets every Thursday at Schuler’s Café at the bookstore in Meridian Mall from 3:00 to 4:30.

East Lansing Public Library French Conversation participants:

- May 7 (Please check with the librarian, Annie, to learn about the summer schedule for this group.)

Calendar

Thursday, May 3: *Conversation Café* at the café in Schuler’s Bookstore in Meridian Mall **3:00-4:30 PM**

Monday, May 7: MSU French Conversation group at East Lansing Public Library **7:00 PM**. Check with the librarian at East Public Library, Annie, to learn about the summer schedule for this conversation group.

~~**Wednesday, May 9th: Conversation entre amis.** Aspen Lake Estates Clubhouse, 3879 Lone Pine Rd., Holt, MI 48842 **6:30 PM** Amy Sheppard has a function at Holt High School that evening. Sorry, no conversation entre amis on Wednesday May 9th.~~

Thursday, May 10th: *Conversation Café* at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall **3:00-4:30 PM**

Thursday, May 17th: *Conversation Café* at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall **3:00-4:30 PM**

Saturday, May 19th 6:30 PM. Alliance Française soirée

Sunday, May 20th: Alliance Française-Lansing Board meeting. 1:00 PM, Chez Kelly/Sullivan

~~**Wednesday, May 23rd: Conversation entre amis.** Aspen Lake Estates Clubhouse, 3879 Lone Pine Rd., Holt, MI 48842 **6:30 PM**~~

Thursday, May 24th: *Conversation Café* at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall **3:00-4:30 PM**

Thursday, May 31st: *Conversation Café* at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall **3:00-4:30 PM**