

Alliance Française–Lansing



July 2018 Newsletter

Bastille Day

Bastille Day marks the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, by angry Parisian crowds. This seismic act demonstrated that ordinary people would no longer accept the absolute power of the king and signaled the start of the French Revolution which forced the creation of the modern French Republic.

The July 14 “Fête de la Fédération” - which marked the first anniversary of the storming of the Bastille - became a French national holiday in 1880 and has been observed ever since. The main event is a military parade in Paris attended by President of the Republic and other political leaders. Some 4,000 soldiers, police, firefighters and various military academies take part in the spectacle on Paris's famous Champs-Élysées. In the evening fireworks light up the capital from the Eiffel Tower. Elsewhere in France, villages, towns and cities host their own fireworks displays and dances.

Pique-nique: July 21, Lake Lansing Park - North

Please join Alliance Française members as we celebrate summer and Bastille Day on July 21. Josie has reserved the Oak Knoll pavilion at Lake Lansing Park - North. The fun will begin at 4:00 PM and continue until 7:30 PM. There is a horseshoe pit, a volleyball court, walking trails and we will bring the boules to play Petanque or Bocci.

This is a members-only event.

The board members will manage the grills and will grill sausages, brats and hot dogs. The board will also provide the buns, condiments, and disposable tableware. Please bring a healthy side-dish and a beverage to share. (The park permits beer and wine.)

NB: There is an entry fee of \$3 per vehicle to the park (\$5.00 for residents of counties other than Ingham). Plan ahead and carpool to the pique-nique!

Benefits of Membership

- Being part of a group of like-minded members who are united by the common purpose of enjoying French language and culture
- communications, including our newsletter and member event announcements

- Invitations to members-only events: Club de Lecture, “Conversation entre amis”, wine tastings, outings.
- Access to exclusive areas of our website.

Please encourage your friends to join!

Club de Lecture

The Book Club met and discussed Meursault, contre-enquête by Kamel Daoud. Members agreed that it was a well written book in its own right but at times also a clever parody of and sequel to L’Etranger by Albert Camus.

The next book for the Club de Lecture is the “One Book One Federation” selection for 2018: La tête en friche by Marie Sabine Roger. (The book can be ordered through the Federation website: AFUSA.org for \$8.50. The AFUSA website also offers a glossary and a set of discussion questions related to the book.) The Club de Lecture will meet at 6:30, Monday, August 6 chez Sullivan.



to serve on board committees. The board has created two committees: Social Media and Special Events. If you can help, please contact Gaëlle by phone (643-8059) or via the website.

The Board of Directors also 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.

French conversation opportunities

AF conversation entre amis will meet July 11 and July 25 (every other Wednesday) 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: (Please check with the librarian, Annie, to learn about the summer schedule for this group.)

Aux Petits Soins's summer session will start on July 9. They will offer French Immersion classes and cultural activities for kids 0-12 and adults. More information available on the website [APSFrenchClass.com](https://www.apsfrenchclass.com) or via the links below.

- Explorers programs for kids 0-5 (<https://www.apsfrenchclass.com/programs/kids-programs/explorers-program/>)
- Weekly summer camps for kids 5-12 (<https://www.apsfrenchclass.com/programs/kids-programs/summer-camp/>)
- Ensemble programs for adults (<https://www.apsfrenchclass.com/programs/adult-programs/ensemble-program/>)

Calendar
Thursday, July 5: <i>Conversation Café</i> at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 3:00-4:30 PM
Wednesday, July 11: Conversation entre amis. 6:30 PM. Join us for conversation at Aspen Lake Estates Clubhouse, 3879 Lone Pine Rd., Holt, MI 48842.
Thursday, July 12: <i>Conversation Café</i> at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 3:00-4:30 PM
Bastille Day: July 14
Saturday, July 21: Alliance Française Pique-Nique. Lake Lansing Park – North, 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM. There is a volley ball court, a horse shoe pit and there will also be boules for petanque or bocci. The board will manage the grill and will prepare sausages, hot dogs and brats with buns and condiments and disposable tableware. Please bring a healthy side dish and a beverage to share (The park permits beer and wine).
Wednesday, July 25: Conversation entre amis. 6:30 PM. Join us for conversation at Aspen Lake Estates Clubhouse, 3879 Lone Pine Rd., Holt, MI 48842.
Thursday, July 26: <i>Conversation Café</i> at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 3:00-4:30 PM