



Alliance Française-Lansing

April 2020 Newsletter Bulletin d'avril 2020

Calendrier

dimanche	lundi	mardi	mercredi	jeudi	vendredi	samedi
			1 <i>Poisson d'avril</i>	2 Conversation-Café at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 15:00-16:30	3	4
5	6 ELPL French Club 19:00	7 Conversation entre amis via Zoom (see p. 5)	8	9 Conversation-Café at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 15:00-16:30	10	11
12 PAQUES	13	14	15	16 Conversation-Café at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 15:00-16:30	17	18
19	20 ELPL French Club 19:00 ???	21 Conversation entre amis via Zoom (see p. 5)	22	23 Conversation-Café at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 15:00-16:30	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Conversation-Café at the café in Schuler's Bookstore in Meridian Mall 15:00-16:30		

UPDATE: October 2020, Alliance Française Annual Convention – Detroit **POSTPONED**

Due to the COVID-10 pandemic, the Federation of Alliance Française annual convention has been postponed to October 2021. Instead, an online convention will be held this October 2020.

The US Federation of Alliance Française represents more than 100 chapters in the United States. The federation provides grants, showcases literature and film, and publishes monthly e-mails and periodic e-magazines that highlight and support the activities of the Alliance Française Chapters throughout the country. They also organize an annual conference, which was to occur Detroit in 2020, but is postponed until 2021! The Alliance Française de Detroit and the Alliance Française de Grosse Pointe will be hosting the 2021 Convention. They are asking for other Michigan AF clubs to serve as sponsors, volunteers, or to provide cultural tours around Detroit. If you have any ideas of how AF-Lansing could serve this convention in 2021, please e-mail Yasmina Bouraoui at bouraoui@gmail.com. Merci!

Have you heard about the latest news from the French Police Department? They announced on Twitter the creation of another specialty unit that is composed of bunnies ([link](#)).



Notre nouvelle brigade léporiphile

2:56 AM · Apr 1, 2019 · [Twitter Media Studio](#)

3.3K Retweets **9.3K** Likes

[THE EVOLVING POLICE] Rabbits join the [#police](#) !

Olfactory, auditory, agile qualities ... Rabbits are precious companions in our missions.

[#LaPoliceRecrute](#) Is your rabbit motivated to join one of our leporiphilic brigades? Send us your application!

This announcement was made on April 1st, 2019. If you are not familiar with April Fools' Day and have a bunny, then you have probably already applied! April Fools' Day, also known as All Fools' Day is celebrated on April 1st and consists of practical jokes and hoaxes. The player of the joke or hoax often exposes their action later by shouting "April fools" at the recipient. The recipients of these actions are called April fools. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and websites have reported outrageous fictional claims that have fooled their audiences. Kids also participate in this tradition. One of their favorite pranks is to place a paper fish on the back of the fool and shout "*poisson d'avril*" (April fish) at the recipient. Please, help us celebrate this holiday! Share on social media your pranks with the hashtag [#AFLaprilfool](#). And yes, there will be a prize for the best prank.

Visiter le monde de votre canapé

Visit the world from your couch

In these times of self-isolation/quarantine, having nowhere to go can be frustrating. Here are a few travel ideas sent to me from members.

- <https://www.pariszigzag.fr/sortir-paris/tendances-culture/visiter-les-plus-beaux-musees-du-monde-sans-bouger-de-son-canape?fbclid=IwAR2oKeUbNnCNJu0DHLyfumaRJGfKOIRCx5quxeV908rnpud2dFHCITJYAmo>



<https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Discover-France-s-Palais-ideal-du-Facteur-Cheval-through-videos-songs-and-more> Discover Facteur Cheval's palais – from home



- One of the France's most unusual monuments – the Palais idéal du Facteur Cheval – can now be explored in a range of special ways, through videos, photos, songs and more.

The Food Section: Cœur à la Crème avec Purée de Framboise

This recipe is adapted from Bon Appétit, February 1987.

Though this dessert is traditionally served in the shape of a heart, you can use a small colander. Use the best white chocolate you can find. Valrhona is suggested.

For Cœur/Dome

3 ounces white chocolate finely chopped
1 8-ounce pkg full-fat cream cheese, at room temperature
1 ¼ cups heavy cream, divided
¾ cup powdered sugar, sifted

For Purée

10-ounce bag frozen unsweetened raspberries, thawed
3 T sugar, sifted

Directions

Cut two sheets of cheesecloth large enough to line the colander (or mold); the sheets should extend far enough beyond the edge of the colander that you can cover the filling when you fold them over the top. Wet the cheesecloth and wring it out well, then place one on top of the other. Press the sheets down smoothly inside the colander, letting the excess fall over the side. Set aside.

In a microwavable bowl, heat the white chocolate on high for 20-second intervals, stirring well after each go, until smooth. Set aside to cool slightly.

Combine the cream cheese, ¼ cup of cream and the powdered sugar in a medium bowl. Using an electric mixer set to medium speed, beat until light and fluffy. Add the white chocolate and beat until very smooth, about 2 minutes. Set aside.

In another medium bowl, beat the remaining cup of cream until it forms stiff peaks, then gently fold it into the cream cheese mixture with a spatula. Spoon the batter into the colander, smoothing the top with the spatula; fold the cheesecloth over to cover it completely. Place the mold on a rimmed sheet pan or other rimmed dish. Refrigerate for at least 8 hours, or overnight.

Next, prepare the raspberry purée. In a blender or food processor, combine the thawed raspberries (with their juice) and the sugar. Blend until smooth. Press the purée through a sieve into a small bowl to remove the seeds. Cover, and chill for up to four hours.

When you're ready to serve, remove the mold from the refrigerator and discard any liquid that collected beneath it. Pull back the cheesecloth and invert the dessert onto a serving platter; gently pull away the cheesecloth. Serve in generous dollops in shallow bowls and top with a spoonful of raspberry sauce.

Serves 6-8

(from Josie Wojtowicz) **Thank you!**

If you have a French recipe you would like to share with members, please send it to me: marcsullivan@orange.fr

Join the Virtual Conversation Entre Amis by Zoom!

Use the camera on your phone or computer to log into the website below at the time of the meeting. Click to join the meeting and we can meet from the comfort of our canapes!

Topic: What are you grateful for during this difficult time? Or What are your best tips for others?

Nancy Kelly is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Conversation Entre Amis

Time: Tuesday, Apr 7, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/6464662370>

March 18th, 2020 by [France-Amérique](#)

[#Cinema](#), [#Coronavirus](#), [#Netflix](#)

Confinement: 10 French Films and Series to Watch on Netflix

This is your new reality: Your local movie theater is shut down, and you are confined at home for the foreseeable future. In partnership with FrenchFlicks, the definitive website for French films and series available in the U.S., France-Amerique has compiled the ultimate top 10 list of the best French-language films and series to stream on Netflix right now.

1. Blue Is the Warmest Color (2013)

Directed by Abdellatif Kechiche, and winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for best director and leading actresses (Adèle Exarchopoulos and Léa Seydoux), this film caused a titillating stir among audiences world-wide. We are not using that adjective lightly. The beauty of *Blue Is the Warmest Color* (*La Vie d'Adèle*) is that it is about milestones: adolescence, first love, and sexual discovery. Warning: This film contains explicit sex scenes.

2. Atlantics (2019)

This supernatural romantic drama by 37 year-old French-Senegalese director Mati Diop was awarded the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. No synopsis can give justice to the unforgettable journey Atlantics embarks on, perfectly blending social commentary, romance, stunning visuals, and extravagant lyricism. The heroine, Ada, is heart-broken as her boyfriend, Souleimane, attempts to reach Gibraltar by raft. This ghostly feature is one of Barack Obama's favorite films.

3. Lady J (2018)

Spring is in the air, and that means plenty of sunshine, fresh flowers, and of course an Emmanuel Mouret dramedy featuring French gardens, cascading 18th-century wardrobes, and delicious aristocratic gossip. Cécile de France stars as Madame de la Pommeraye and Edouard Baer as Marquis des Arcis in this production inspired by Denis Diderot's novel *Jacques the Fatalist*.

4. Divines (2016)

Uda Benyamina's *Divines*, recipient of the Camera d'Or award at Cannes, is not the first film to capture the troubled youth in the projects outside Paris. But it is one of the first to focus on women. It stars

Oulaya Amamra as Dounia, a young woman in conflict with her family and teachers, and who dreams of a better life with her friend Maimouna (Déborah Lukumuena). Their motto is “money, money, money,” and they recognize a way to reach their goals through the local drug dealer, Rebecca (Jisca Kalvanda). They will do anything to become essential to her business.

5. Carbon (2017)

Olivier Marchal was a detective in Versailles and Paris for almost ten years before he turned his street experience into acclaimed crime movies such as *36 Quai des Orfèvres* and *A Gang Story*. With *Carbon*, he takes on the true story of the 2008-2009 carbon-trading scandal. Benoît Magimel stars as a young CEO of a bankrupt company planning the heist of the century to save his business. Gérard Depardieu plays his despicable father-in-law.

6. The African Doctor (2016)

This French-Belgian dramedy follows the true story of Seyolo Zantoko, a doctor who uproots his family from what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo to start a medical practice in Marly-Gomont, a village of 400 north of Reims in the Picardy region. Dr. Zantoko, his wife, and children are the only Black people in the village. This typical fish-out-of-water story is made more unique by adopting the point of view of the doctor's youngest child, Kamini, who in real life grew up to become a celebrated rapper.

7. Call My Agent! (2015-present)

Think *Entourage* with more cigarettes and fewer [sic] less girls in bikinis. This show follows four talent agents in one of Paris' top agencies and the starlets they represent. Crises abound with complex contracts, egos, and last minute production changes. The best part? Cameo appearances by French celebrities playing themselves such as Isabelle Huppert, Juliette Binoche, Nathalie Baye, and Jean Dujardin!

8. Un + Une (2015)

A bit like *Eat, Pray, Love*, this romantic comedy directed by Claude Lelouch follows a womanizing composer (Jean Dujardin) and the bored wife (Elsa Zylberstein) of an ambassador as they travel together across India. This is the perfect choice for a steamy Netflix & chill session for any romance addict and/or fan of Claude Lelouch — the director behind the French New Wave staple *A Man and a Woman*.

9. Wedding Unplanned (2017)

When Alexia (Julia Piaton) finds a business card for a wedding planner in her boyfriend's (Nicolas Duvauchelle) pocket, she unknowingly hires his lover to organize the happiest day of her life. Comical and surrealistic scenes abound in this feature reminiscent of Hollywood's traditional wedding comedies. Sometimes you just need a classic situational comedy to lift your spirits and make you laugh!

10. The World Is Yours (2018)

A modern day *Cinderella*. Farès (Karin Leklou) is a small time drug dealer who dreams of escaping his life of crime in Paris, meeting a nice girl, and becoming the official distributor of Mr. Freeze ice pops for North Africa. But before he can live out his dream, he has one last job to do. Isabelle Adjani, Vincent Cassel, François Damiens, and Philippe Katerine also star in this Tarantinoesque comedy directed by Romain Gavras.

Bonus: The Bonfire of Destiny (2019)

The Bazar de la Charité disaster, one of the biggest fires in the 19th century, inspired this series coproduced by Netflix and French television network TF1. We love the atmosphere and costumes of

Paris during the Belle Epoque, and that this 10-episode drama is based on a little-known historical event.

- *Did you know? 60% of the people who believe that the Corona virus comes from Corona beer also believe that Joan of Arc was married to Noah. (April Fools!)*