

Alliance Française–Lansing



January 2019 Newsletter

Bonne Année!



New Board members chosen at the Annual Meeting

Yasmina Bouraoui, Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, Nancy Kelly and Amy Sheppard were elected to fill the positions in the 2019 Board of Directors. They shall serve as co-Presidents, Secretary and Director at Large respectively. Although not reflected in the by-laws, in 2015 the Board of Directors created the policy that half of the board members would be elected each year to ensure better continuity. At the Annual Meeting, the membership voted for President, Secretary and one of the Director at Large positions. For 2019, the Board of Directors is:

Co-President: Yasmina Bouraoui
Co-President: Gaëlle Cassin-Ross
Vice President: Josie Wojtowicz
Treasurer: Brian Kelly
Secretary: Nancy Kelly
Director at Large: Darcy Greene
Director at Large: Amy Sheppard

You can easily contact the Board of Directors by going to the AF-Lansing website (www.aflansing.org) and clicking on “Contact” and sending your message or questions. You can also write to: info@aflansing.org.

Club de Lecture

Alliance Française USA has announced their selection for the “One Book, One Federation” program for 2019. The book is La Délicatesse by David Foenkinos. AF-Lansing members can order the book from MEP/Schoenhof’s Books – www.mepeducation.net - for \$9.50 (shipping included!). Le Club de Lecture will discuss La Délicatesse in the summer of 2019. Members can also download the comprehensive study guide for the book from the AFUSA website.

AFUSA also has a new program called One Film, One Federation. The 2019 selection is the dramatic comedy *Le Brio*, starring Daniel Auteuil, Camélia Jordana, and Yasin Houicha. The film, by director Yvan Attal, won a César award in 2018 for Most Promising Actress (Camélia Jordana). It was also nominated for Best Film and Best Actor and won the Audience Award at the Biografilm Festival. The film has been released in France and other European countries but has not been released in the U.S. Contact Ellen Sullivan or any one of the board members if you would like Alliance Française-Lansing to get the film and show it.

Who will be Queen (or King) for a day?

(La Galette des Rois)

In early January, the French have a custom of buying a special cake to celebrate Epiphany and to name of queen or a king for a day. *La Galette des Rois* (the cake of the kings or Epiphany cake) is sold in all of the bakeries and groceries. The custom is a celebration of the visit of the three kings to the baby Jesus on the 6th of January and the cake is special because it contains *une fève*. *Une fève* is literally a broad bean but has come to mean also “a charm” or a “lucky charm”. The *fève* baked into *La Galette des Rois* is usually now a small porcelain figurine.

When one serves *une Galette des Rois*, the cake is cut into as many pieces as there are people to consume it. Customarily, a child is asked to sit under the table and to call out the names of the people one by one as they are served a piece of the *galette*. The person who has the piece with the *fève* is declared the king or queen of the day.

The custom actually dates back to the Greeks who used the process to elect Romans and their feast called “Les Saturnalles” – usually held at the end of December or the beginning of January – when the slaves and masters ate a meal together and the slave who got the *fève* (an actual long bean) was declared the ‘king for a day’ and was able to give orders to his masters for the day.

The French *Galette des Rois* is most often made with puff pastry and filled with frangipane – a mixture of sugar, butter, almond powder and eggs.



HEY KIDS!

***BE THE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP TO ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE!***

IT'S QUICK! IT'S EASY! IT'S FUN!

YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THREE WAYS.

YOU CHOOSE!

- 1. SEND A CHECK* TO AF-LANSING, PO BOX 27274, LANSING, MI 48909***
- 2. GO TO THE WEBSITE AND PAY USING PAYPAL*
(WWW.AFLANSING.ORG)***
- 3. BRING A CHECK* OR CASH* TO THE SOIRÉE AND PAY BRIAN.***

****REMEMBER THE MEMBERSHIP RATES:***

\$20 - INDIVIDUAL

\$35 - FAMILY

\$10 - STUDENT

***! INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO HOSTED A SOIRÉE IN 2018
HAVE A COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019!***

Alliance Française-Lansing January 2019 Calendar

S	Monday	T	Wednesday	Thursday	Frid ay	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 PM "Conversation entre amis" at Aspen Lake Clubhouse, Holt	3 3:00 PM Conversation Café at Schulers Bookstore Café in the Meridian Mall	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 3:00 PM Conversation Café at Schulers Bookstore Café in the Meridian Mall	11	12 6:30 PM: Alliance Française Soirée chez Deits-Potter « Galette des Rois »
13	14 7:00 PM French Club East Lansing Public Library	15	16 6:30 PM "Conversation entre amis" at Aspen Lake Clubhouse, Holt	17 3:00 PM Conversation Café at Schulers Bookstore Café in the Meridian Mall	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 3:00 PM Conversation Café at Schulers Bookstore Café in the Meridian Mall	25	26
27	28 7:00 PM French Club East Lansing Public Library	29	30 6:30 PM "Conversation entre amis" at Aspen Lake Clubhouse, Holt	31 3:00 PM Conversation Café at Schulers Bookstore Café in the Meridian Mall		

Reminders:

- Alliance Française-Lansing **Soirée** will be January 12 at 6:30 PM chez Deits-Potter. There will be a "Galette des Rois" to choose the King or Queen of the evening. Please bring a healthy dish to pass and a beverage to share.
- Conversation entre amis will meet at the Aspen Lake Clubhouse in Holt at 6:30 PM.
- The Conversation Café will meet every Thursday afternoon at Schuler's Café in Meridian Mall at 3:00
- "French Club", MSU-led French conversation group meets at the East Lansing Public Library from 7:00 to 8:00 PM