



Alliance Française-Lansing

Bulletin de mars

March newsletter

<i>Dimanche</i>	<i>Lundi</i>	<i>Mardi</i>	<i>Mercredi</i>	<i>Jeudi</i>	<i>Vendredi</i>	<i>samedi</i>
	1	2 <i>Conversation entre amis*</i> 15:00	3	4 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	8	6
7 <i>Molière Zoom conference 14:00</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Conversation entre amis*</i> 15:00	17	18 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	19	20 Equinox <i>Journée de la francophonie AF-Lansing soirée</i>
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	26	27
28	29	30	31			

* *Conversation entre amis* is offered by Alliance Française-Lansing

** *Conversation Café* is coordinated by Amie Kovitvongsa

News from the Alliance Française-Lansing Board of Directors

Alliance Française-Lansing Chapter - Statement on COVID19

In response to the continuing health threats associated with Covid-19, at our meeting on February 11, 2021, the Board of Directors of Alliance Française, Lansing resolved to continue to meet virtually for our chapter's soirées and other activities. We will continue to review and consider statements by our public health officials and update this policy regularly. While each of us is eager to resume in person interactions, we agree that protecting the health of our members is our first priority.

Meet the board members: Yasmina Bouraoui, Secretary

I joined Alliance Française about 15 years ago because I was raised speaking French and I wanted to find a forum where I could speak it more regularly. Both of my parents were native French speakers (one was from Belgium, the other from Tunisia) and I completed high school in Belgium. Being a francophone has also helped me explore and connect with the French-speaking countries of sub-Saharan Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal), where I've spent time studying, volunteering and traveling.

I was also a refugee foster parent for eight children from South Sudan, Somalia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. My passion is to help others appreciate the connection to the outside world and the joy that another language brings. I enjoy travelling, involvement in a number of social justice issues and spending time with friends and family, including my wonderful daughter and my

three incredible grandchildren. I volunteer with a number of organizations, including the Greater Lansing United Nations Association (GLUNA), the Global Institute of Lansing (GIL) and Prospect PLACE Neighborhood, my community organization.

- **Find the Annual Report at the end of the newsletter**

Journée de la francophonie

Every year, March 20 is celebrated as the International Day of La Francophonie. The 300 million Francophones around the world celebrate their shared language and the diversity of the Francophone on this occasion.

Many scientific, cultural and festive events are organized on five continents: conferences, round tables but also exhibitions, competitions, debates, workshops, or even concerts and sporting events.

Themes such as employability, entrepreneurship, parity, digital technology and the French language are at the heart of such events.

Link: [International Day of La Francophonie 2021](#)

Tip of the day

Podcast are a wonderful way to learn about the French culture while improving your ability to hear and learning new vocabulary words. Here is the list of my favorite podcasts.

<https://fr.wix.com/blog/2019/07/10/meilleurs-podcasts-2019/>

Alliance Française-Lansing soirée

Join your friends for AF-Lansing Trivia night

March 20 at 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87412432573?
pwd=TEhnUDQ1MUdHUEdidkU4bW5sTzkvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87412432573?pwd=TEhnUDQ1MUdHUEdidkU4bW5sTzkvdz09)

Meeting ID: 874 1243 2573

Passcode: aflsoiree

André Nerman presents Molière, Décidément Contemporain

Sunday, March 7, 2021

11:00am Pacific / 12:00pm Mountain / 1:00pm Central / 2:00pm Eastern

Federation of Alliances Françaises USA

En français

Join us for an exceptional online event with the talented actor and director, André Nerman, who is well known to the Alliance Française USA audience. André will share his in-depth knowledge of the great French playwright, Molière. This Zoom presentation will be in French and is suitable for persons with high-intermediate to advanced levels of French.

Retrouvez-nous pour une conférence exceptionnelle avec le talentueux comédien et metteur scène, André Nerman. Grand habitué de la scène des Alliances Françaises des Etats-Unis, André Nerman mettra son savoir au profit d'une conférence interactive sur le grand dramaturge français.

André Nerman : « Le génie de cet auteur, pourtant bien ancré dans son époque, a été de porter sans cesse un message universel dans l'observation critique de ses contemporains. S'il n'a jamais parlé de lui comme un esprit novateur Molière a profondément révolutionné le théâtre. Je vous parlerai de sa vie, de son œuvre, et des étapes marquantes de la façon dont ses pièces ont été interprétées par les metteurs en scène de notre temps. ... »

This event will be on Zoom and is free for all Alliance Française members, AATF members, and invited guests of the presenter. Non-members or persons who have no AF chapter nearby can purchase tickets (\$10). Click [here](#) to register.



Alliance Française – Lansing

Annual Report 2020

The mission of Alliance Française – Lansing (AF-LANSING) is to promote, share and enjoy the culture, language and friendship of the French-speaking world.

Vision Statement: Alliance Française-Lansing fulfills its mission of increasing French awareness and French learning opportunities for its members by partnering with and inspiring Francophone and Francophile organizations in the Greater Lansing area. AF-LANSING works collaboratively on behalf of its members to share expertise and ideas that promote a growing awareness, exchange and mutual understanding of French language and culture.

AF-LANSING is a member of both Fondation Alliance Française and La Fédération des Alliances Françaises USA.

Summary of activities of 2020

Due to COVID19, many activities planned by the AF-Lansing were cancelled or pivoted online. The Board of Directors is pleased to provide this summary of activities of 2020.

1. Alliance Française Activities

- The **soirées** (*potluck and program*) were cut short in 2020 and we can't wait to resume these monthly events. This activity is under the leadership of our vice-president, **Josie Wojtowicz**. She is always looking for help and suggestion. So please, feel free to reach out to her if you would like to be involved in the planning of the soirée or would like to share ideas.
A sincere **THANK YOU** goes to all of the members who hosted soirées in 2020: **Nancy and Brian Kelly** hosted the first soirée chez Sullivan on January 25th and **Dina Foster** presented a captivating program on the Dreyfus Affair. On February 22nd, Amy Kilbridge hosted the soirée and shared some interesting information about New Orleans. We couldn't manage these delightful gatherings without the generous hosts welcoming us into their homes. Thank you all very much. Merci beaucoup à tous.
- The **virtual soirées** started in response to COVID-19. We met monthly from May to October. We celebrated French holidays and discussed about movies. Some former members who have moved out of states were able to join us.
- The weekly **Conversation Café** with **Amie Kovitvongsa** on Thursdays from 3-4:20 p.m. They successfully transitioned to a virtual meeting. They meet to chat casually during the first half of the meeting. The second part is spent reading a short article aloud and continuing a conversation about or related to the article. The members seem to like this group, as it's a chance to get together and socialize remotely each week, as well as take away a bit of news or learning from the meeting.
- **Conversation entre amis** is organized by **Mark Sullivan**. They meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 3 p.m. for having a 90-min casual conversation. They also successfully transitioned to a virtual format.
- The **book lending library** travels to soirées where members can check out a French book or contribute

another.

- ✎ Alliance Française – Lansing continues to receive France-Amérique magazine. It is available at soirées for members to use.

2. Alliance Française Communications with members

- ✎ Laurel Pionist has been updated daily our Facebook page.
- ✎ Darcy Green is in charge of the AF – Lansing chapter web page. Go to www.aflansing.org.
- ✎ The chapter has continued a monthly newsletter for members. Thank you so much to our not so secret treasure and editor Mark Sullivan.

3. All Memberships were extended to the end of the year 2021.

2020 Board members

Yasmina Bouraoui, Co-president
Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, Co-president
Josie Wojtowicz, Vice President
Brian Kelly, Treasurer
Nancy Kelly, Secretary
Darcy Green, Director at Large
Carolyn Bruce, Director at Large

2021 Board members

Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, President
Josie Wojtowicz, Vice President
Brian Kelly, Treasurer
Yasmina Bouraoui, Secretary
Darcy Green, Director at Large
Paulette Stenzel, Director at Large

Financial Report

As of December 31st, 2020

Beginning Balance	MSUFCU	\$2817.38
	PayPal	\$623.06
	Total	\$3440.44
Income	Memberships	\$625
Expense	Website hosting	\$45
	Office supplies	\$31.99
	P.O. box rental	\$106
	Membership fees	\$125
	Legal fees	\$20
	PayPal fees	\$6.60
Ending Balance	MSUFCU	\$2905.72
	PayPal	\$771.46
	Total	\$3677.18
Gain		\$236.74