



Welcome to AF-MCAC News!

A publication of Alliance Française – Michigan Capital Area Chapter

February 2017

Chandeleur

C'est la Chandeleur! (It's Candlemas!) This French tradition has its roots in the Christian calendar but is closer to the U.S. tradition of Groundhog Day. While the American version involves a Pennsylvania rodent looking for his shadow, in France we determine how many more weeks of winter there will be by how well a crêpe is flipped. Of course, it's focused on food — it's a French holiday! (from Aux Petits Soins monthly update. 2/2/17. Read more about Chandeleur and Chandeleur parties at Aux Petit Soin's Facebook page www.facebook.com/auxpetitssoinsllc.)

Chandeleur follows *La Galette des Rois* (King Cake), which is celebrated in January on Epiphany and commemorates the visit of the Magi.

AF-MCAC Film Series

The next French film that is part of the AF-MCAC film series will be **Sunday, February 26, 2017** at Studio C! in Okemos at 3:30. The film is ***L'Avenir* (Things to Come)**. This showing includes a short discussion following hosted by AF-MCAC. Support us by buying a ticket and enjoying the discussion following.

Things to Come is a story about Nathalie, who teaches philosophy at a high school in Paris. She is passionate about her job and particularly enjoys passing on the pleasure of thinking. Married with two children, she divides her time between her family, former students and her very possessive mother. One day, Nathalie's husband announces he is leaving her for another woman. With freedom thrust upon her, Nathalie must reinvent her life. (Rotten Tomatoes "Movie Info")

Rotten Tomatoes: Critics (100% !) rate it "Fresh", scoring it 8.2/10. Audiences (72%) rate the film at 3.7/5. AlloCiné : Critics rate it 3.8/5 while audience reviews give it 3.2/5.

French Classes

- Alliance Française member Laurel Ponist will be teaching a **French class** in the spring. It is for beginners ages 55+ at **East Lansing Prime Time**, the city's senior program in the Hannah Center on Abbot Road. The class

will be held on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 in March (21, 28) and April (4, 11). For more information, see the East Lansing "Prime Time Seniors" page of the East Lansing website, <http://www.cityofeastlansing.com>

- Also next month, **Aux Petits Soins** will launch its Adult Program, a system of French language immersion classes and activities geared for people age 17 and up. The Adult Program was designed to help new and returning French speakers and will consist of two main aspects: Classroom Time and Social Events. The events will be a combination of planned activities created by APS — such as weekly meet-ups, cooking classes and film viewings — and those developed by other members of the mid-Michigan French community.

Gaëlle will begin meeting with potential students and working with them to determine which class will best suit their needs. This will consist of a set of questions followed by a 15-minute one-on-one conversation; all said and done, it should take about an hour. Please email Gaëlle Cassin-Ross at gaelle@apsfrenchclass.com.

Calendrier

Sat., February 11: AF-MCAC Budget Committee meeting. 9:30 AM, chez Tonson/Sullivan.

Sat., February 18: Soirée with French Professor Dina Foster chez Tonson/Sullivan, 6:30 p.m.. Dina Foster will speak on **French Writers and Their Homes**: A behind-the-scenes look at the homes, private lives and public works of some of France's greatest authors from the 16th through the 20th century.

Fri., February 24: Alliance Française Book Club meets at the Okemos Library at 3:00 PM. The Book Club Will begin reading *La Commissaire N'aime Point Les Vers* de Georges Flipo. It is the "One Book, One Federation" selection for 2017

Saturday, February 25: AF-MCAC Board meeting. 1:00 PM, chez Tonson/Sullivan

Sun., February 26: Alliance Française film series. L'Avenir/Things to Come with Isabelle Huppert. 3:30 PM, Studio C! Okemos, with discussion following. *Please attend. Bring a friend or two...*

Sat., March 18: Alliance Française Soirée, 6:30 p.m.

Th., March 23: Wine Tasting Special Event (French wines with Mike Gustaitis). Attendance limited with advance registration required. Cost and event details will be available by the end of February.

*Remember: You can always see the newsletter at our website:
www.aflansing.org*