



Alliance Française-Lansing

Bulletin de mai 2021

May newsletter

<i>Dimanche</i>	<i>Lundi</i>	<i>Mardi</i>	<i>Mercredi</i>	<i>Jeudi</i>	<i>Vendredi</i>	<i>samedi</i>
						1 <i>La fête du travail</i>
2	3	4 CANCELLED <i>Conversation entre amis*</i> 15:00	5	6 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	7	8 <i>La fête de la victoire (VE Day)</i>
9 <i>Mother's Day (US)</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Ascension</i> <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	14	15
16	17	18 <i>Conversation entre amis*</i> 15:00	19	20 <i>Conversation Café**</i> 15:00	21	22
23 <i>Fête des mères (français)</i>	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day (US)</i>					

* *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

The Board of Directors has decided to forgo Zoom “soirée” gatherings. No one joined Gaëlle for the Zoom “soirée” in April. The Board hopes to re-establish in-person gatherings – possibly as early as July.

Meet the board members: Brian Kelly, Treasurer

I joined AF with my wife Nancy through our long friendship with Yasmina. We have been members for 7 years, maybe longer. The monthly soirées have been a wonderful way to meet other members, talk about travel (past and future) and France, and enjoy great food and wine. I don't speak French myself, but enjoy being in the company of a group that values friendship and conversation. I look forward, with the rest of the group, to when we can meet in person again.

My days off from Sparrow Hospital, I enjoy sharing with my wife. We both love to travel and are looking forward to the freedom of retirement. Several years ago, we bought a tandem bicycle, from an AF member. Trips on the river trail and through Lansing's neighborhoods, ending with dinner outside downtown, are perfect summer days.

Music is one of my passions. I play violin and am part of the worship band at our church, City Life Lansing. Being part of the Mason Symphony for over 5 years was also very enjoyable and challenging. I am also a sports car aficionado. I enjoy reading about them, going to races (way overdue), and of course driving - preferably German and turbocharged.

We have two adult children and two beautiful grandchildren, currently 3 and 5 years old. It is a blessing to share in their lives, and they make you see life in a whole new way.

AFLansing.org

About two months ago, the harddrive on my computer stopped working. The computer shop was able to replace the hard drive but was not able to retrieve any of my files. I lost all of my files including all of my Alliance Française-Lansing files: by-laws, membership lists and four years of newsletters. Ellen was able to provide me with copies of all of the newsletters. Nancy Kelly sent me a current list of members. I have started rebuilding my files and have promised myself that I will back things up from now on...

Board member Darcy Greene showed me how to upload my newsletter files to the website. From now on, I will send out the newsletter as usual to members and upload a copy to the AFLansing website. If you ever want to re-read an old edition of the newsletter (why? one might ask ; >)), go to the website, click on **Resources**, then click on **Newsletter Archives**. Darcy set up the section so that the newsletters are organized by year. Go to: [Alliance Française-Lansing website](https://aflansing.org/)

Vincent VanGogh

"[Beyond Van Gogh: An Immersive Experience](https://eu.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/2021/04/07/immersive-van-gogh-detroit-tcf/7122338002/)" kicks off June 25 and runs through mid-August at the TCF Center (formerly Cobo Hall) and will display 300 Van Gogh paintings in ways visitors have never seen before. (Maureen Feighan [The Detroit News](https://eu.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/2021/04/07/immersive-van-gogh-detroit-tcf/7122338002/) April 7, 2021)

<https://eu.detroitnews.com/story/entertainment/2021/04/07/immersive-van-gogh-detroit-tcf/7122338002/>

Lighthouse ArtSpace at the Germania Club in Chicago is currently offering the same light-show.

A Killer Frost Ravages Vineyards Across France



The night of April 7 brought a killer frost to France. From Bordeaux to Alsace, from the Loire Valley to the southern Rhone Valley temperatures dropped to 20° Fahrenheit. The damage to the vineyards was exacerbated because of an unusually warm month of March which caused the vines to flower early. The local newspaper Le Vaucluse predicted a loss of between 20 and 80 percent in the vineyards of the southern Rhone valley. Vintners tried using

smudge pots (as seen in the picture) to mitigate the low temperatures but with little success. One grower quoted in the paper said that this frost was probably a knock-out punch for him. First there was a hard frost in 2017, then the Trump import taxes followed by Covid and confinement and finally, the killer frost of April 7.

We spoke with a vintner who told us that most of his vines that were north-facing and planted at the higher altitudes of the region had survived the frost. His vines in the valley were destroyed. A friend who has been working in the vineyards since his Tea Room has been closed because of the confinement confirmed the report. The vineyards where he works are at higher elevations above the village and they lost only 20%.

The frost had an equally negative impact on fruit trees which had also flowered.