La Collection DVD de l’Alliance

We are happy to announce that we have been renewing our videothèque and have been purchasing DVDs that you will be able to borrow at no charge.

Our selection so far includes more than 60 films, from “La bête humaine” and “Drôle de Drame” to “Le festin de Babette” and “Monsieur Ibrahim” (see list). We intend to continue purchasing new movies every month to eventually replace the aging videos you have been enjoying.

In order to check out movies, the rules will be simple – just like at Blockbuster’s or Hollywood Video’s! After registration, you will be able to take home two DVDs at a time for a period of one week.

We will ask you to leave a credit card number with us. Should you decide to keep the movie, we will charge your card accordingly. So feel free to come see us and start watching those classic or contemporary French movies that you like so much!

Hervé Boblet

Dîner Mensuel de l’Alliance at Sassafras Restaurant & Bar

Wednesday February 14 at noon

Join us for food, conversation, and fun!

Choices to be made from menu distributed before lunch.

Some changes may be made periodically.

Bar service extra

Members $20 -- non-members $22

1229 North Dutton Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Please reserve by calling Adrena at 823-5539 by Monday 12 at the latest. We will collect at the door.

Causeries du jeudi

French conversation et croissants?

Bien sûr, come and join us!

At

Café des Croissants

On Brookwood and Fourth 4:00-5:30 pm

avec Daphne Smith et Marina Velichinsky
Our newsletter Ici L’Alliance appears monthly along with our calendar of events. This newsletter is mailed to over 350 local addresses, and is given out to anyone who might be interested in the activities of the Alliance and in the classes offered by our French Language School.

Get in touch! Merci.
Ici l’Alliance is published monthly by Alliance Française de Santa Rosa
Editor: Upi Struzak
Send all correspondence regarding the newsletter, advertising and the website to:
Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 Fourth Street, Suite 200 Santa Rosa, CA 95404 newsletter@afsantarosa.org

MESSAGE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Chers membres,

Another year has come and gone! Our School is going stronger than ever led by Hervé’s maintained effort to insure classes of high quality taught by our excellent teachers. We are constantly looking for new ideas and programs for our membership. With the support of our Board, my goal for this year is to make the Alliance a more welcoming place for socializing, dropping by to borrow a movie from our new collection or simply having a coffee and chat with friends. The Alliance should be open at least two to three days a week in order to cater to the growing needs of our members, from families with small children to working individuals and those with more time for leisure.

At a popular request we are reinstating the monthly publication frequency for Ici L’Alliance. Like before, you will be receiving a new issue every month, except for the three bi-monthly issues of June-July, August-September, and December-January.

In the meantime, enjoy this month’s Ici l’Alliance and bask in the wonders of the Californian winter.

Upi Struzak

BONNE SAINT-VALENTIN À TOUS!

La St-Valentin, c’est la fête des amoureux, mais c’est aussi le jour où les oiseaux sont sensés choisir leur compagne. Par contre, cette fête tirerait plutôt ses origines des “Lupercales”, fêtes romaines de printemps consacrées au dieu Pan, dieu des bergers d’Arcadie. Le pape Gélane 1er interdit ces fêtes en 496 et les remplaça par la commémoration du martyr de Saint-Valentin.
Dans la cuisine avec Christine Piccin

February 2, Candlesmas or Chandeleur in French, celebrates the day Jesus was presented in the temple 40 days after his birth. It falls midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox and in many traditions is considered the beginning of spring, a celebration of light, purification, and renewal. One tradition was that people went to the church to have their candles blessed on that day. Hence the name, Candle Mass, Candlesmas, or Fêtes des Chandelles.

Pancakes or crêpes are served on February 2 (alternatively, the first Sunday in February), as wheat is the symbol of this celebration. If you hold a coin in your hand while tossing a crepe, it’s suppose to bring money for the whole year. Crêpes are incredibly resilient, can be made ahead and reheated, even frozen. Spread them with butter and sugar or jam and serve with cider or champagne. Bon appétit!

François’ Grand Marnier Crêpes

makes 4 servings (2 crêpes per serving—the batter will make enough for 9 or 10 crêpes; your first crêpe will often be an “oops”.)

Batter

- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 large egg
- 1 Tbl. orange-flavored liqueur, (Cointreau, Triple Sec or Grand Marnier, optional)
- 1 Tbl. melted butter
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Place first 7 ingredients in blender and blend 10 seconds, or whisk vigorously in a medium mixing bowl, until smooth. Refrigerate at least 1 hour so the batter can relax, and so the crêpes will be tender. (This can be prepared up to 2 days ahead and refrigerated.)

Batter should be thin, like cream. Stir in a tablespoon or more water if necessary. Heat a 7-8” skillet or crêpe pan over medium high heat. Brush pan quickly with a small amount of melted butter and heat a few seconds more.

Use a 1/4 cup measuring cup as a ladle, measure about 3 tablespoons batter into center of hot pan, quickly lifting, tipping, and shaking pan to swirl batter over entire surface. Cook 30 seconds to 1 minute, until edges of crêpe are crispy and light brown. (If the crêpe cooks faster than 30 seconds, reduce heat.) With the tip of a spatula or butter knife lift up crêpe and with the help of your fingers, peel it from pan and flip it over. Cook 15-20 seconds more, remove, and stack on a plate.

Wipe any crumbs from pan with paper towel and cook remaining crêpes. (Crêpes can be made the day before, cooled completely, then wrapped and refrigerated. Bring to room temperature then warm gently before filling.)

Le mois de février….

est le deuxième mois des calendriers grégorien et julien. Son nom vient du latin februarius, en l’honneur de Feburga. À l’époque antique, il fut le dernier mois de l’année dans le calendrier romain ; à l’époque, l’année débutait le 1er mars.

C’est le mois le plus court de l’année, et le seul à compter moins de 30 jours. La raison est historique, et vient du calendrier julien : pour rendre hommage à Jules César et à l’empereur Auguste, un jour supplémentaire a été ajouté de façon permanente aux mois de juillet et août, et retire en fin d’année, portant le mois à 28 jours au lieu de 30. Jusqu’à Jules César, les mois du calendrier romain suivaient en effet des variations désordonnées de durée en fonction des ajustements avec les cycles lunaires et des vœux des empereurs et consuls ou pour des raisons festives et politiques.

C’est aussi le seul mois de l’année à avoir un nombre de jours variable selon les années :

- 28 jours le plus souvent durant les années non-bissextiles ;
- 29 jours les années bissextiles ;
- 30 jours historiquement, pour certaines années dans quelques pays de tradition orthodoxe, pour rattraper des décalages calendaires.
Ten reasons to learn French

1. You will find French speakers on all continents around the world. French is the native language of some 200 million people and is the second language of millions more. In Europe, it is spoken in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Luxembourg. In the Americas, it is an official language of Canada and spoken in the Caribbean.

2. It is the language of the well educated in parts of Southeast Asia, North Africa and much of Western and Central Africa. Being able to speak French is an asset for anyone interested in working in international organizations such as the Peace Corps.

3. French is a key language in the European Union of twenty five nations, the world's largest economic entity.

4. With a population of 350 million and a gross national product larger than the United States, the European Union is an economic superpower.

5. French is a language of business. Today, American companies have over 2,000 subsidiaries in France, and French companies have over 600 subsidiaries in the United States. Major corporations with headquarters or subsidiaries in the United States and France include Du Pont, Hewlett-Packard, Xerox, Apple Computer, Michelin, Renault, Bic and many more.

6. French is a language of technology and medicine. Dr. Luc Montagnier discovered HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The Chunnel under the English Channel, the TGV high speed trains, and the Concorde are only a few examples of recent French technological advances.

7. French fashion designers, artists, writers, musicians, chefs and filmmakers have had a wide influence in the United States and the rest of the world.

8. Impressionist painters like Monet, musicians like Ravel and Boulez, novelists like Flaubert and Camus have had an influence on world culture. Many recent American films like Three Men and a Baby or Point of No Return are remakes of French movies. Where would Julia Child be without French cuisine? Who hasn't heard of Christian Dior, Chanel, and Pierre Cardin?

9. French is the language of influential, religious, and intellectual movements. Jean Calvin helped define Protestantism; Enlightenment writers like Voltaire championed human rights; Simone de Beauvoir was a prominent feminist, and Michel Foucault was a founder of postmodernism.

10. French is a language of tourism. Paris is the third most visited international city by Americans. France is the second most visited country in the world, and Quebec offers a taste of Europe in North America.

2005 Alliance Française de Washington DC

Join our Classes!

Next month:
Semaine de la langue française, qui se déroule du 10 au 20 mars 2007
BEGINNERS – Complete beginners, no diagnostic interview.  
2 hours/week for 6 weeks - 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $168

CONVERSATION Class - 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition $168

ADVANCED BEGINNERS – Beginners with little knowledge of French, no diagnostic interview required. 2 hours/week for 6 weeks – 12 hours of instruction. Tuition: $ 168

ADVANCED – 2 hours/week for 6 weeks –12 hours of instruction. Tuition $168

INTERMEDIATE – 2 hours/week for 6 weeks  
12 hours of instruction. Tuition $168

Classes Location:

Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, Fourth St., Kress Building (2nd Floor), Santa Rosa. Public Parking available on 5th St. and at 3rd St. & D Street.
Alliance Française de Santa Rosa
French Language School
613 Fourth Street, Suite 200
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Tel. (707) 543-8151

La Maison de L’Alliance is open
Tuesday: 9:45am - 12:30pm.
2:30pm - 4:30 pm.

Videotheque is open during class hours.
Please call for hours.

Please volunteer to keep the
Alliance open to its members!

www.afsantarosa.org
info@afsantarosa.org
school@afsantarosa.org

Please Check One:
□ New member
□ Renewal
Name__________________________________________Date__________________________
Adress______________________________________________________________________________
City_______________________________________State________ Zip__________________________
Phone_____________________Email______________________________________________

Level of Proficiency:
□ None
□ Beginner
□ Intermediate
□ Advanced
□ Native

How did you find about the Alliance?
□ Relative
□ Friend
□ School
□ Phone Book
□ Other

I would like to volunteer:
□ Yes
□ No

Areas of interest
□ Conversation Group
□ Literary Group
□ Classes
□ Children’s Activities

Amount of enclosed check:__________________________________
Mail to: Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 613 4th Street, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Gifts are tax deductible

Annual Fee
(12 month period)
Please circle your membership level
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French Teacher          $28
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Family                              $45
Friend of AFSR          $75
Sponsor            $100
Life Membership        $500

Additional Donations:
School Program $______
Cultural Program $______

Merci!