Bienvenue Chez les Ch’tis

April 22, 6:30 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 545 Pacific Avenue, Santa Rosa

Join us Friday evening for *Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis*, a French comedy which broke many box office records. ‘Ch’tis’ is a slang word meaning someone from Northern France.

Cheese, fruit and wine will be served after the film. Please rsvp by April 20 by going to our website or by sending in a check for $10.

« Quand on vient dans le Nord, on braise (pleure) deux fois : quand on arrive et quand on repart. »

*From fr.wikipedia.org:*

*Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis* est un film français réalisé par Dany Boon....
Le film raconte les aventures de Philippe Abrams, directeur d’une agence de La Poste dans le sud de la France qui, par mesure disciplinaire, est muté pour une durée de deux ans à Bergues, dans le Nord-Pas-de-Calais.

C’est le deuxième long métrage réalisé par l’humoriste français Dany Boon après *La Maison du bonheur*..... *Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis* a rencontré un immense succès auprès du public : à la surprise de ses protagonistes, il a dépassé le nombre d’entrées réalisées par *La Grande Vadrouille* et devient alors, avec 20 489 303 entrées, le deuxième meilleur score du box-office français, derrière *Titanic* (20 758 887 entrées).”

1 https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bienvenue_chez_les_Ch%27tis

image courtesy of https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bienvenue_chez_les_Ch%27tis#/media/
Le mot des co-présidents

Avril: "ne te découvre pas d'un fil", comme le dit le dicton français, mais continue à vivre: tel pourrait-on conseiller à chacun d'entre nous…

Ici, en Californie, El Niño n'en finit plus d'arroser nos journées quand bien même la nature en a besoin, l'esprit et le corps n'attendent plus que le soleil pour se ressourcer... En France, malgré les pluies et le temps frais qui est une réelle habitude de saison, la vie culturelle et sportive en communauté a repris de son plein avec:

Le Marathon de Paris:
l'un des plus importants marathons du monde depuis 1976 avec 40 000 inscrits qui viennent se confronter aux 42km 195 de cette épreuve mythique de l'athlétisme, traversant Paris: départ au pied de l'Arc de triomphe, les participants prennent le départ en descendant les Champs-Elysées, direction Concorde. La rue de Rivoli les conduira ensuite à la place de la Bastille, passant par les Bois de Vincennes, la Cathédrale Notre-Dame, puis aux abords de la Tour Eiffel.

Et d'un côté plus artistique se tiennent les festivals de Jazz de Bourges, de la Sarthe ou de Coutances en Normandie où se rencontrent musiciens locaux et internationaux pour le plaisir de tous, et qui fait bouger la patrie au son des notes de musique envoutantes.

La vie reprend doucement dans les rues, après un hiver assez rugueux et des moments de conflits terrifiants qui pourtant n'empêcheront pas la culture Française de grandir et de se fortifier, car on la garde tous la France dans son cœur, comme le chantait Charles Trenet:

Douce France, cher pays de mon enfance…

Charles Trenet sings Douce France

Marina et Olivier Bertrand, Co présidents de l’AFSR

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Cercle Littéraire

Le cercle littéraire discutera Le flûtiste invisible, un roman de Philippe Labro, mardi, le 19 avril à 3h30 au Foyer.

«Par trois fois, le "flûtiste invisible", qu'on peut appeler le hasard - ou la main de Dieu -, fait basculer des existences. Pourquoi ? C'est toute la question de ce roman.» Philippe Labro.

Roman futur:

Mai: La fête de l’insignifiance, M. Kundera

Le Cercle Littéraire accueillera avec plaisir de nouveaux participants. For more information contact Katy or Candi.
Coin Ecole

The next session of regular classes at the Alliance will start April 25th and run through June 17th. Please consult our schedule: [http://www.afsantarosa.org/school/group-classes](http://www.afsantarosa.org/school/group-classes)

- Our curriculum is dynamic enough to provide instruction for beginners as well as fluent speakers.
- Small classes are standard to facilitate communication.
- Our group classes are $15.00 / hour for 2 consecutive hours per week for 8 weeks.
- Our schedule is affected by enrollment and may change accordingly.
- We offer private lessons: Tutoring is tailor-made to suit small groups or individuals.
- For more information, please contact the school director: [mireille@afsantarosa.org](mailto:mireille@afsantarosa.org)

Mireille Pfeffer
Directrice de l’école

AFSR Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for upcoming AFSR events

- **April 22**  Comedy Film: <<Bienvenue Chez les Ch’tis>>. See page 1.
- **May**      Wine event
- **June 25**  Fête de la Musique
- **July 17**  Fête de la Bastille picnic
Lecture on Camille Pissarro

A roomful of members and guests attended the lecture on the life and paintings of Camille Pissarro Wednesday evening, March 23rd. Dr. Prah-Perochon captivated her audience with a wonderful lecture full of facts and delivered with passion. The lecture included Pissarro’s relationship with other artists and with political events at that time. I felt very lucky to attend. Merci, Dr. Prah-Perochon. -Anne Bandy

ANNONCES

In addition to the events listed on page 1, which are sponsored by AFSR, a local group of francophones meets for dinner the first Friday evening of each month at the Crepevine Restaurant in Montgomery Village. For more information, contact Evelyn Anderson at 576-1124.

Read and sign up for the weekly Bay Area Francophile List at http://www.sonoma.edu/users/t/toczyski/BAFLHomepage.shtml

In the Shadow of Women, a new film by Philippe Garrel shows at the Sonoma Film Institute, Sonoma State University Friday, April 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 17 at 4 p.m. Details: In the Shadow of Women.

The Sonoma Film Festival is showing 5 French language Films with English subtitles Saturday and Sunday, April 2,3. Details: Sonoma Film Festival, French language films.

Thanks to Olivier Bertrand for these photos, especially the two of Dr. Prah-Perochon’s slides with the audience artfully silhouetted in the foreground.
Lettres à Ma Causerie
An occasional feature on a stay with a French family

October 7
Dear Friends,

I landed at CDG. Since the train station is part of the airport complex, I thought it would be easy to catch the train to Nantes. Shuttles are even provided.

Well...for starters, I couldn't figure out what a down arrow on the overhead signs meant -- gradually I changed my opinion from downstairs to straight ahead. After finding the train station, I bought a train ticket, in halting French, but I couldn't get any information about how to use it. I had to stand in another line to find that out. Finally, someone behind me in one of the help lines explained about converting my car number to a letter; that seemed to be something that would be critical at some point, but first I needed to know where in that huge building I would find the right train. There seemed to be so many ways to go wrong and there was only one more train to Nantes that day.

Then there was composting, which didn't seem to be the right thing to do with a brand new ticket before getting on the train, but the Mom in my family was adamant that I do that before I got on. Finally, there were the small men in uniforms who hung around the boards that show the train numbers, departure times and sometimes the track. I had some mistaken ideas (as you can probably tell by now) about the train, and one of those men had no reservation about raising his voice and telling me that my ideas were, "IMPOSSIBLE!!" After making that clear, he was full of information, which really boiled down to -- Wait.

I got very good at trailing behind people who I thought might have the same destination in mind as I did. That's how I discovered the machine where I could compost.

The family is great! The children are lively, funny, expressive and shy about speaking English. The Mom and Dad, Pérrine and Manu, drove me home from the station at Nantes on a narrow, twisty road with no stop signs or lights -- just those small roundabouts that seem to have little effect on the speed of the car. We were avoiding the 2 major auto-routes as it was a warm weekend and "everyone" was coming home from the sea. We are about 15 minutes from the sea, and about an hour from Nantes. Manu had made a Moroccan dish for dinner. He cooks 1/2 the dinners and Pérrine cooks the other half. He's not Moroccan, but likes to cook that dish and it was delicious! The family has lived in this area for several generations.

There is a large garden out back, tended by Manu, which is now on its last legs for the season, but still yielding nasturtiums and squash. I was able to also get enough raspberries for a serving yesterday.

Purring owns a craft store in town. Today I helped out by beginning to decorate some cards to sell. The cards are like the fancy cards, somewhat 3-dimensional, that come wrapped in plastic that sell for $10 - $15 dollars, or more back home. Amazingly the papers come from the U.S.

The first day, when I started to speak French, Vincent (he's 12 and generally never says anything at the table) burst out at dinner, "Incroyable! Elle parle français exactement comme la jeune fille des États-Unis qui était dans mon école l'année dernière" He couldn't believe it. I suppose he thinks we work hard to speak with our special accent. Well, I will send this email now, but it won't go out until the morning as the internet goes off at 11, as a child control measure. Bisous - Anne
Joining or Renewing Online

You can now join AFSR or renew your membership online, using a credit card or your Paypal account. Just go to [http://www.afsantarosa.org/membership/join-or-renew](http://www.afsantarosa.org/membership/join-or-renew) and follow the simple instructions. Questions? Contact membership@afsantarosa.org.

Want to Join or Renew by Check? - Mail in this form

Please Check One: □ New member □ Renewal

Name_________________________________________ Date______________

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City_________________________________________ State__________ Zip______________

Phone_______________________________ Email_______________________________________

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
□ Do not print my name in the list of New Members in Ici L’Alliance

Amount of enclosed check:__________________________________

Mail to: Alliance Française de Santa Rosa, 182 Farmers Lane, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-4761