Film Night: Saint Jacques… la Mecque

You've heard of "le chemin de Saint Jacques" or "el camino de Santiago." Now join us for an enjoyable Thursday evening with Saint Jacques… la Mecque.

Director Coline Serreau’s warmhearted comedy concerns a trio of estranged siblings who must complete a road trip together in order to collect an inheritance after their mother dies.

"Upon their mother's death, two brothers and their sister learn that they will inherit their mother's fortune only once they have completed together, on foot, the pilgrimage to the holy city of Santiago de Compostela, in Spain. But they hate each other as much as they hate walking. Nevertheless, they start their trip, lured by greed. They meet their guide and learn that they will be walking with a group of six people, including a young Arab who makes his ingenuous cousin believe they are going to Mecca, while he is actually pursuing a young pilgrim, the love of his life..."

Thursday, November 10, 7 p.m.
Odd Fellows Hall, 545 Pacific Avenue, Santa Rosa
Tickets $10, refreshments included
Go to the website to preorder your tickets: www.afsantarosa.org/events/a-wonderful-french-film-saint-jacques-la-mecque-november-10-2016 or pay at the door.
La Fête de Saint Martin – 11 novembre

While Europeans don’t have a Thanksgiving Day, they do have the heartwarming fall Fête de Saint Martin. For years my family had the great pleasure to participate in a truly lovely version of this Fête with a very large circle of friends and acquaintances in the area around Revel, in the south of France. There are a number of different traditions associated with the Fête de Saint Martin in France including feasting before Advent or the observance of passing from autumn into winter.

My friends explained the following story: one cold night, Martin, a soldier from Hungary in the Roman army, decided to share his coat with a poor man at the gate of the city Amiens. He did so by cutting it in half. This inspired a tradition known as “la fête du partage,” a day to celebrate sharing.

Depending on the year, thirty to eighty of us of all ages would gather either on a goat farm property, a large home on the outskirts of the village of Sorèze or in the heart of the village of Saissac.

The farm property hosted some of the best Saint Martin celebrations. The events would begin in the afternoon. Americans would probably be surprised to learn most of them were held outdoors, even in light rain. There were games of varying kinds for the children. There was a big vat of beeswax. Those of us interested in making a candle were given a length of twine and would join a circular line to dip our string in. The time spent in line waiting to dip again allowed the wax to solidify and for us to chat with the people around us. Some people went out mushroom hunting, if there were any left.

There was an enormous cauldron in which we made pumpkin soup. Everyone brought something to put in the soup, or some other contribution to dinner. For a part of the afternoon the big kitchen table would be circled with people cutting vegetables for the soup. The farm provided entire platters of several kinds of goat cheese. Others contributed according to their skills — the beekeeper his wax, two bakers their bread, various people desserts, and everyone a little bit of wine.

Throughout the afternoon children and adults alike made lanterns from the wooden rounds of camembert boxes and wax paper, materials having been gathered and contributed over the course of the year. The shared creativity was (Saint Martin...continuer à page 3)
Cercle Littéraire

Le cercle littéraire discutera *Les violents d'automne*, un roman de Philippe Georget, mardi, le 15 novembre à 3h30 au Foyer.

“La tramontane souffle sur Perpignan, charrait les regrets éternels et les odeurs de poudre... C'est une dure rentrée de vacances pour le lieutenant Gilles Sebag, avec un cas d'homicide sommaire qui ressemble à une véritable exécution... Sur la porte du salon de la victime – un vieillard pied-noir –, trois lettres : OAS. Trois lettres qui respirent la vengeance et sèment le trouble dans la petite communauté des Français d'Algérie. Quarante ans plus tard, le vent n'a toujours rien emporté, et les vieilles blessures ne demandent qu'à se rouvrir...”

Le Cercle Littéraire accueillera avec plaisir de nouveaux participants. For more information contact Katy at kquibell@gmail.com or Candi at candi@afsantarosa.org.

Coin Ecole

Our last session of the year is beginning and I’m pleased to announce we have even more students than for the rentrée! Our Field Trip French cheese learning event, “Say Fromage!” is nearly full at 15 participants as of today, and we’re all looking forward to a wonderful moment of discovery with Colette Hatch. We only have a few more places left for “Say Fromage!” before closing out registration. Joining us to help out will be Jacqui Fallon, daughter of our member Kim Fallon. Jacqui just returned this summer from an exchange year in Belgium and is looking for opportunities to maintain her French!

Linda McLaughlin, graphics artist and document designer, will be aiding the school and the AF in the creation of administrative documents. And a big thanks goes out to Mark Goff, creator of the poster and other graphics elements for our cheese event! It’s so wonderful to have supportive, enthusiastic members!

There are two more courses open in Julia Fornage's special series “Atelier de Cuisine et Conversation” the 19th of November and the 17th of December so don’t hesitate to sign up. For levels intermediate and above. Please go to [www.afsantarosa.org/school/group-classes](http://www.afsantarosa.org/school/group-classes) for more information.

-Kimberly McCartney
Directrice de l'école

(Saint Martin, continuer de page 2)

delightful! At nightfall we would carry the candle-lit lanterns in a procession around the property and sometimes down into the nearest village, singing traditional songs for Saint Martin.

On our return, we would sit and stand around an enormous bonfire, eating our delicious soup and bread and cheese, and talking. The children played, sometimes people brought out musical instruments and improvised together. Eventually we would migrate inside around the fireplace and the game room. After a while, a person here and a person there would leave, until finally the last one would go home and sleep well, after a simple and happy day of sharing.

C'est mon Saint Martin à moi !        -Kimberly McCartney
AFSR Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for upcoming AFSR events

November 4  ‘Cheese tasting in French’ Field Trip. See page 5.

November 10  Movie night, Saint Jacques… la Mecque
               See page 1.

December 15  Fête de Noël, with singing 5:30 - 7:30,
               Odd Fellows Hall, 545 Pacific Ave., Santa Rosa
               Bring an unwrapped toy or a stuffed animal to be
               donated to a local hospital

ANNONCES

In addition to the school offerings and the events listed above, which are sponsored by AFSR, a local group of francophones meets for dinner the second 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/B AFLHomepage.shtml

La Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant à Sonoma State, Justine, anime une émission hebdomadaire sur KSUN le jeudi de 12h à 14h. On peut écouter en direct sur leur site web: http://www.sonomastateradio.com

La Soirée, The French-American Gastronomy and Wine Show, a fundraiser for the French-American Chamber of Commerce San Francisco will take place Friday, November 18 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Village in San Francisco. Details at their web site, http://www.faccsf.com

Say Fromage!

Cheese tasting in French with Colette Hatch, internationally known food and wine authority

Alliance Française of Santa Rosa

November 4, 4-7pm

$45 for three hours of instruction, cheese included
French Level: Intermediate and above
For reservations or information please visit www.afsantarosa.org

“How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?”
– Charles de Gaulle
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 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

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How did you find about the Alliance? ☐ Relative ☐ Friend ☐ School ☐ Phone Book
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☐ Do not print my name in the list of New Members in Ici L’Alliance

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Additional Donations:

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Merci!
Gifts are tax deductible