

Newsletter January 1st, 2018

Dear Alliance Française Members,

It is a new year and a brand-new Alliance- we definitely have a lot to be happy about in North Carolina! Alliance members, we wish you all the best for 2018!

There will be much commotion this January with a variety of events for all levels: educational, culinary and gastronomic, musical, cultural, and reams more! In more or less chronological order, here is what awaits you in the weeks to come:

New French level A1 Classes (Discovery) are now available twice a week, beginning January 19 and will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 10:30 pm, and Friday mornings from 9:45 to 11:45 am. Details can be found on our [website](#).

The workshop for intermediate and advanced levels, "A Table", will begin on January 25th and continue for the next six weeks. Participants will enjoy an hour and a half of conversation on the themes of gastronomy and dining in France. Details and registration are available on the [website](#).

A workshop, "Make Your Own King's Cake", is being offered on January 18 by the French chef of Sucre & Sel, Florence Melin, in her personal kitchen. You will learn how to make the traditional cake filled with almond paste, containing the famous surprise bean that designates a king or a queen. The ingredients are provided, each participant will leave with their own large, traditional cake. Participation fee: \$ 45 for members, \$ 55 for non-members. Please visit the website to register and for the address (in Raleigh).

A King's Cake brunch will be hosted on Saturday, January 20th jointly, as in previous years, by the Alliance and l'Ecole. Bring your own galette ... if you know how to bake it (see above) or if you know where to buy it in the Triangle. There will be a dessert buffet with cakes and soft drinks, and for the children there will be games, songs, and coloring workshops. The information will soon be posted on the Alliance and School websites.

A lively Game Night will replace the Speak Easy this January 18th at 6:30pm at Sosta Café. We will play Pictionary (in French of course) as a team around a glass of wine or beer included in the \$10 entry ticket. No need to master French perfectly for this occasion as most will find themselves just laughing, drawing, and laughing some more. Reserve a spot on the [website](#) soon!

Two Circles of Conviviality (formerly known as Cercles de conversation) will be held on January 14th in Durham, and February 23rd in Raleigh. These informal gatherings give members the opportunity to socialize around a potluck-style buffet, in both French and English, at a member's home. Registration forms are on the [website](#).

Finally, the Ciné-Club presents this month two recent French films: "L'Hermine" on January 10th, an excellent bittersweet comedy with the formidable actor Fabrice Luchini, and "The Son to Jo" on January 17th. Register in advance on the [website](#).

We are also pleased to announce the creation of a new weekly musical rendez-vous, proposed by the Alliance française and l'Ecole in partnership: a "**Apéro'Sing / French Chorus**". This choir, as there are thousands in France, will now meet at the Maison de France to sing in French every Wednesday from 6 to 7pm. This choir will be directed by Yan, a professional musician, and Catherine, a teacher and singer.

Finally, note this date in advance on your agenda, and reserve your spot now because places will be limited: on February 11th, the Alliance will offer a three-hour **Artisanal Chocolate Workshop**. This rare, sophisticated, and with-it, cooking class, offering both culinary and historical lessons, will be given by a professional artisan. Registration will be \$40 for members.

One final important word- the Alliance Française is now open to the public during regular hours, every morning from Monday to Friday. You can come and read, discuss, exchange information, and even ... help us.

At last we reach the end of this seemingly infinite newsletter! - We have posted on the website the composition of the new Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill French Alliance Board of Directors and the list of people working with us. You can contact everyone by writing to us via the contact form.

Once again, happy new year to you all!