



March 2018 Newsletter,

Dear members of the Alliance Française,

Spring is just around the corner, and we look forward to seeing the return of white flower buds bursting in the trees after having admired with wondering eyes the white snow which only recently covered our North Carolinian ground. In tune with nature we at Alliance Française are already bursting with anticipation for our April and Mai events.

Before we begin, we would like to ask all of you with help finding **French teachers** which would be interested in teaching part-time at the Alliance. We are receiving many requests for French classes, and are planning on expanding our offer at all levels. The classes would be held in Raleigh in the offices of the Alliance. However we are also considering offering classes in Chapel Hill and Durham, should demand justify it. If you know someone in your circle of friends who would be interested, please inform them that they are welcome to send their resumes to us.

We are pleased to report that the two *ateliers* organized by the Alliance during February have encountered great success, in particular l'Atelier du chocolat for which the demand exceeded the offer.

Please find the list of activities offered by the Alliance during March, open to members and non-members depending on the activity:

- On March 7th, our **Ciné-Club** will be showing the entertaining French comedy: "Il reste du jambon?" (2010). Let us know that you are coming via this [link](#).
- Our monthly **Speak-Easy**, which has already built a local following that continues to grow, will be held on March 17th at 2 pm, and will be hosted as usual by Sosta Café. In a relaxed atmosphere, a drink in the hand, come practice speaking French or English – depending on which language you wish to improve - and meet new people in this event inspired by "speed dating" events but where the goal is simply to offer you a chance to improve your language level. Please [sign up](#) on our website.
- Our "**Cercle de convivialité**" (formerly known as "cercle de conversation") will be hosted this month by our president Stephen Smith and his wife Géraldine, at their home in Chapel Hill, on March 24th, from 7 pm for 9.30 pm. Please bring something to eat and drink as this is a potluck type of event, and feel free to invite your Francophile friends to join you. Please fill in the [form](#) available on our website, and you will receive the exact address.

- Did you try our **Apéro'Sing**, the new activity brought to you jointly by the Alliance and l'Ecole? Each Wednesday from 6 pm to 7 pm at la Maison de France, join our casual choir for an hour of French song singing in the company of Yann Doray and Catherine Prié-Leray. Details are available on our website. [The beautiful poster says it all](#). And remember this is also an *apéro à la française*. Feel free to come alone or with your family.

More fascinating events are under preparation and will take place in April and May. Some are still to be confirmed while others are already on the agenda. They will all be announced shortly on the website of the Alliance:

- A **workshop on the romantic theme of perfumes** will take place on April 29th, right before Mother's Day. It will be run by a scent artist and held in her Cary-based store.
- Following the success of our autumn workshop **serie** "A table", we are working on launching a new session this coming April on the theme of **impressionist painters**.
- At the special request of the Alliance, **the French writer Pascal Bruckner** will visit Raleigh to give an exceptional conference on May 2nd, at 7pm. Mr. Bruckner is a well-known novelist and essayist in France, so much so that he has his own long and detailed Wikipedia page. In connection to his next-to-last essay, "La sagesse de l'argent" (2016), he will be exploring the differences in how Americans and French relate to money.
- In 2018, France commemorates all year long in a very active form the famous events of May 68: Between April and June 1968, France was shaken by a sort of politico-cultural revolution which had profound effects on French society. Actually, that same year almost all of Europe was shaken by similar events. On May 9th or May 10th, Hélène Crié-Wiesner, who is a journalist and writer herself, will host an evening on the theme "**L'année 68 en Europe expliquée aux Américains.**"
- Be on the outlook for a new kind of meetings hosted by the Alliance at la Maison de France: **a monthly morning coffee**, which will be the occasion for new members and soon-to-be members to meet, chat and enjoy something sweet.

We would also like to remind all members of the Alliance that your memberships offer you free access to the [Culturetèque](#): dozens and dozens of French magazines and newspapers are available for consultation, both for children and for adults, novels and comic books are available to borrow, films and documentaries are available to watch, conferences to listen to on your podcast, and so on. All this in a digital format, of course. All you need to do is to sign up on our website.

As for those who prefer old-fashioned paper format, know that the Alliance will soon open a new library, shared with l'Ecole. A team of motivated volunteers has already spent several weeks pulling hundreds of books out of boxes and carefully arranging them on shelves for you to enjoy. There will even be DVDs available. All free for our members to enjoy.

We will end with a legal announcement: As a non-profit organization, the French Alliance is legally bound to invite its members to its annual general assembly. This will be held tentatively in June 2018. We hope to see you there!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter!