



Bonjour !

Alliance Française de Las Vegas (AFLV)

Newsletter February 2019

The AFLV plays a vital role in the diversity of our community, promoting the French language and French-speaking cultures in the Las Vegas area.

President's Preface

Dear Members, Students, and Friends,

Regrettably, I start this note by announcing that Valerie Hodson will be resigning as Vice President and as Board Member in February. Valerie was integral to the creation of the Alliance Française de Las Vegas and has served as a Board Member and Vice President since our creation. Valerie initiated and organized many of our activities and has led many of them in furtherance of connecting the Organization to the French and Francophone community, and has also greatly contributed to the success of our events. She will be greatly missed. We thank

Valerie for all that she has done for us, and we wish her all the best for the future.

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We are pleased to welcome Claudine Escobar as our new Executive Director, starting February 4. Claudine joins us from the Alliance Française de Guatemala City where she was the Interim Executive Director and the Director of Education. Her full biographical sketch is presented below.

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On February 2, exactly 40 days after Christmas, France and the world will celebrate La Chandeleur, at which time the French eat crepes and drink hard cider (cidre). Although considered a Catholic holiday, it actually derives from pagan rituals. This holiday is celebrated throughout France and is filled with traditional superstitions and proverbs.

In some regions, the superstition is that if you can carry the candle from church without it going out, then your household would survive the year, or that bewitched people could be cured by a candle from the altar plus other ingredients. Crepes carry their own superstition. Historically, if you either held a coin while flipping a crepe, or placed a coin on a crepe and later wrapped it in paper and placed it in a wardrobe, you would enjoy financial health for the year.

In the Vosges region, young women could determine who they would marry by throwing a handful of ashes on burning embers while reciting: "Chandeleur, Chandeleur... show me, while I sleep, the one I will spend my life with." I question if this is any less logical than the current practice of finding your life partner on a smart-phone app?

Speaking of romance, on February 14, much of the world will celebrate Valentine's Day – the celebration of Love. Although a global holiday, France and especially Paris are considered among the most romantic places in the world. In terms of expressions of love, Valentine's day in France is celebrated similarly to the rest of the world – cards, chocolates, roses, jewelry, romantic dinner, etc.

Bonne Fête !

Best regards,

Marc Zeman



Welcome to Claudine Escobar - Durand, our new Executive Director

Claudine will take her position as the Director of the Alliance Française de Las Vegas on February 4, 2019.



Claudine Escobar – Durand

Born to a French mother and a Guatemalan father, Claudine did all her education in the French system. She has a Master’s Degree in teaching French as a Foreign Language and is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Foreign Language and Culture Didactics at University of Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3. She has more than twelve years of experience in teaching French as Foreign Language and she specializes in plurilingualism and information and communication technology (ICT) in education. She has taught children, teenagers, adults and professionals. Claudine is moving to Las Vegas from Guatemala, where she was the Director of Studies at the Alliance Française for more than 6 years. Since 2011, Claudine is an accredited trainer with extensive experience for DELF-DALF examiners-scorers and in 2014 she was certified as a TCF examiner as well. Additionally, Claudine is an Archaeologist specialized in Maya culture and she has also worked in the photography field for newspapers and scientific projects.

COMING UP IN FEBRUARY



February 2nd is Crêpe Day in France!

Where to go and eat French crêpes in Las Vegas?

[Café Breitz](#) - [La Maison de Maggie](#) - [The Real Crêpe](#)

Support our partners!

Photo de Café Breitz



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

If you'd like to have a romantic French Dinner for Valentine's Day, check out the menus at our partners [Ohlala French Bistro](#) - [Eatt](#) - [Partage](#)



FRENCH BREAKFAST

Saturdays, February 2 and 16, 2019

at 9:30 AM ["Délices Gourmands"](#)

3620 W Sahara Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702-331-2526).

Join us to practice your French over an excellent breakfast!

Members of the AFLV receive a 10% discount on their purchase.

FRENCH MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us for a free French Movie every third Friday of the month. All movies are shown in French with English subtitles.

Thank you to our partners: Institut Français de Paris, French Consulate in Los Angeles and the French Club of UNLV

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 6:30PM



Comedy by Mathieu Sapin with Alexandra Lamy.

Synopsis: 25-year-old Arnaud is young and inexperienced in politics when he joins the communication team of a presidential candidate. As he discovers the tactics of the campaign, and the twists and rivalries inside the team, he develops an attraction and fascination for this world, and for his powerful manager Agnès...

Venue: UNLV, Frank and Estella Beam Hall (BEH) Room 104.

<https://www.unlv.edu/maps/campus/BEH>

In French with English subtitles. Free admission.



WINTER SESSION OF FRENCH CLASSES

Jan. 7 - March 3, 2019

**A resolution worth keeping
this year? Learn French!**

It's never too late to learn French, so take the leap and [Sign Up!](#) Not sure of your level? Pas de problème ! Take our free placement test [HERE](#).

Please check our offering [HERE](#) for children and [HERE](#) for adults.

You can join a session anytime if you are not a total beginner.

Early Spring Session: March 4 - April 28, 2019

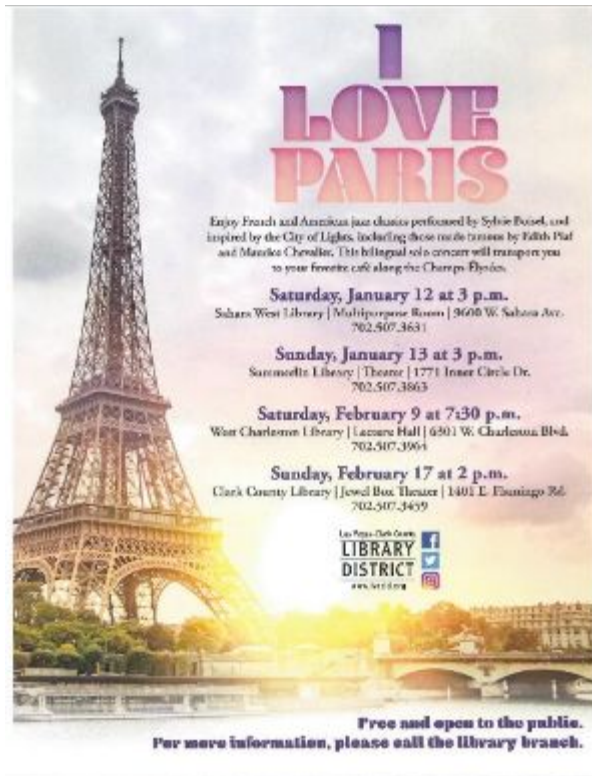
I LOVE PARIS

FREE PERFORMANCE BY FRENCH SINGER SYLVIE BOISEL

Feb. 9 and 17, 2019

Enjoy French and American jazz classics performed by Sylvie Boisel, and inspired by the City of Lights, including those made famous by Edith Piaf, Maurice Chevalier, Jacques Brel, Charles Aznavour, Barbara. This bilingual solo concert will transport you to your favorite café along the Champs-Élysées.

More details here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/948692348663897/>



Membership

Not a member of the Alliance Française de Las Vegas yet? It is never too late ... Become a member and participate in a range of educational, cultural and social activities. You can support a non-profit that promotes cross-cultural understanding, while taking advantage of special member benefits. As a duly registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, all donations made to AFLV are tax deductible. We are very grateful to all our generous contributors! [Join now!](#)

Don't forget to LIKE us on [Facebook!](#)

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Merci et à bientôt !

Christelle Chamblas
Executive Director
702-522-1969
director@aflasvegas.org

www.aflasvegas.org



This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change if circumstances require it.

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ALLIANCE FRANCAISE DE LAS VEGAS
6425 W Sahara Ave, #220, Las Vegas, NV 89146

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