



La Trompette

Février 2024

NOTE DE LA PRÉSIDENTE

Chers membres de AF Grosse Pointe,

The year is off to good start for our chapter. Our different meet ups are well attended and our French classes are in full swing. Look out for more dates in February and March for a chance to be involved and enjoy our cultural and social events.

It saddens me to relay the news of the passing of **Aphie Roumell**, a long time beloved member and pillar of the AF de Grosse Pointe. Aphie was a past president board member for several terms. As a French teacher, Aphie understood the importance of education and practical experience. Seasoned members will remember her salon de conversation that she regularly held at her house, as well as the book discussions she led. Aphie and her husband Georges were very active in AFGP. They hosted many gatherings and champagne openers and Aphie indulged us with her wonderful cooking skills. On a personal note, Aphie was one of the first people I met when I joined our AF chapter about twenty-eight years ago. She was an inspiration to me and to many members and friends. I will miss her wisdom, her smile, and her gracious welcome whenever I visited her. Her door was always open, just like her heart. Adieu ma chère Aphie.

Aphie Roumell's obituaries:

<https://www.freep.com/obituaries/det128106>

Amicalement,

Amal Elhosni

alliancefrancaisegrossepointe@gmail.com

<https://afdegrossepointe.org/>

ÉVÈNEMENTS À VENIR



CHANDELEUR BRUNCH

When: Saturday, February 3rd, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.

Where: Charlie's Restaurant, 22315 Harper Ave., St Clair Shores Mi 48080

Cost: \$20 per person, to be collected **IN CASH** on the day of the event.

Choose your choice of two crêpes (sweet and/or savory) with coffee, tea, or soft drink and enjoy the company of other AFGP members and friends.

In order for the restaurant to accommodate us, we will need to have a final count.

RSVP by Feb. 1 by emailing us to alliancefrancaisegrossepointe@gmail.com (please make sure to indicate your full name and number of people attending).

DIA FILM THEATRE

Sunday, Feb 11, 2024

2:00 PM

Detroit Film Theatre
5200 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202



Princess Tam Tam

(France/1932—directed by Edmond T. Gréville)

Known as the "Black Venus" during the zenith of her popularity in the 1920s and 30s, singer, dancer, and actor Josephine Baker was the first black woman to become an international film star, and a legendary icon of beauty and rare courage. Baker achieved her success far from Hollywood; she moved to Paris and appeared in silent movies there. After the introduction of sound, she starred in singing roles for French musicals including Zou-Zou (1934) and Princess Tam Tam.

Join other members of AFGP at the DIA Film Theatre and watch the film as a group. Members might want to grab dinner together afterwards at one of the many restaurants in the area (self planned).

AFGP FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Village Grille

16930 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

We are meeting again at the Village Grille in our favorite private area. Join us for dinner, drinks, and good conversation "en français"!

As promised, we have shifted our Conversation Group information and RSVP to our own website. We hope this change will make it easier and mainstream all our events on one platform. Follow the direct link for more information and please remember to RSVP so we can make sure we have the proper arrangements with Village Grille.

<https://afdegrossepointe.org/group-de-conversation/>

Nos niveaux de langue française varient largement, donc n'hésitez pas à nous rejoindre, du moment que vous essayez de garder la conversation en français.

CINE CLUB

Saturday, February 24th, 2024

1:30 pm

Grosse Pointe Public Library, Woods Branch

DIVERTIMENTO

Classical symphonic music is everything for 17-year-old Zahia Ziouani and her twin sister, Fettouma. Nevertheless, living in underprivileged Parisian suburbs in 1995 with her Algerian background, they struggle arduously to approach their dreams - becoming an orchestra conductor and a cellist.

DIVERTIMENTO is inspired by the life of Zahia Ziouani, one of the few worldwide renown female conductors.

An inspiring and entertaining film that will delight all audiences and will charm all classical music lovers.



CERCLE DE LECTURE

Notre groupe de lecture se réunit toujours mensuellement et discute une oeuvre sélectionnée par nos membres. Les prochaines réunions se tiendront le:



17 février: **La famille Martin**, de David Foenkinos

9 mars: **Au bonheur des dames**, de Émile Zola

Pour plus d'informations concernant le Cercle de Lecture, prière de nous contacter

alliancefrancaisegrossepointe@gmail.com

FEATHER BOWLING NIGHT AT CADIEUX CAFÉ

Have you ever tried feather bowling? Last year's evening was a ton of fun and we want to do this again!

Here's your chance to spend an evening with other AF Grosse Pointe members and friends:

WHEN: Monday, march 4th, 2024 from 5:30-9:00 pm

WHERE: [CADIEUX CAFÉ](#)
4300 Cadieux Road, Detroit MI 48224

COST: \$10.00 attendance per person, to cover the reservation for feather bowling lanes.
(Order and Pay for your own food and drinks)

Mondays at the Cadieux Café are all-you-can-eat mussels!

EVENT:

Dinner reservations at 5:30 pm

Feather bowling kicks off at 7 pm.

We have reserved both lanes for our group, and anyone who's interested is welcome to play. Marc Tirikian, a friend of AFGP, francophone, and member of the Men's Feather Bowling League, will be there to guide us along.

Feather bowling is a very old traditional Belgian game played with wooden balls shaped similarly to cheese wheels. It has its origins in western Flanders, Belgium, bordering northern France, where it is known as Trabollen. Cadieux Café is proud to be one of a handful of places offering Feather Bowling in the United States.

[Here](#) is a link for how to play the game.

RSVP

RSVP online on the AFGP website. It is a secure and fast way to register and pay.

<https://afdegrossepointe.org/event/feather-bowling-at-cadieux-cafe/>

If you would rather use a more conventional RSVP method, you can send your reservations by FEB 25th and check to:

AF Grosse Pointe

23009 Maxine

St Clair Shores, MI 48080

Please include your check, your name, and total number of people attending. Reservations must be received by February 25th.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS?

What is La Chandeleur?

La Chandeleur was initially celebrated as a Christian holiday known as [Candlemas](#) in English.

Candlemas, also called the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated the day the Virgin Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be purified 40 days after his birth. Before becoming a Christian holiday, *La Chandeleur*

was also a time when pagan traditions would celebrate the approach of spring and the earth's bounty.

Today, most of the French use *La Chandeleur* as an excuse to enjoy some crepes, light candles, and become pretty superstitious.

Why do the French eat crêpes on February 2nd?

As part of the tradition of *La Chandeleur*, the French celebrate the beginning of the end of winter. So, the circular shape and the golden color of the crepe is supposed to represent the sun, which hints at the brighter days of spring. Making crepes was also an opportunity for the French to use up some of the wheat that they still had stored up from the winter harvest.

Finally, Pope Gelasius I popularized the use of crepes in the 5th century when he handed out *galettes* (savory crepes) to the poorer pilgrims during his candlelit procession on Candlemas in Rome.

What are some superstitions surrounding *La Chandeleur*?

There are some superstitions surrounding *La Chandeleur* that *portent chance*, or bring good luck. The first is to hold a piece of gold—or a coin—while you're flipping your crepe in its pan. If you manage to flip the crepe with one hand without dropping it on the floor, then it is said that you'll have prosperity for the whole year.

If you don't exactly trust yourself to flip a crepe without dropping it, during the middle ages, the common folk had a strange ritual, which they thought would bring them riches and prosperity. They would roll up the coin in the first crepe—which most of us probably mess up anyway—pass it through the hands of everyone in the house and then put it on top of an armoire until the next year. The golden coin was then saved for the first person in need who needed their charity.

La Chandeleur and weather

Just like Groundhog Day that is celebrated the same day, some use the weather on *La Chandeleur* to predict the future weather, and there are a ton of different *dictons*, or sayings, that go along with the holiday and these predictions.

A la Chandeleur – L'hiver cesse ou prend vigueur. = At *Chandeleur*, winter ends or picks up strength.

Chandeleur claire – Laisse l'hiver derrière. = A bright *Chandeleur* leaves winter behind.

Chandeleur couverte – Quarante jours de perte. = An overcast *Chandeleur* means 40 days of loss.

Chandeleur froide, hiver joyeux. = A cold *chandeleur* means a joyful winter.

Quand il pleut pour la Chandeleur – Il pleut pendant quarante jours. = When it rains on *La Chandeleur*, it rains for 40 days.

Quand pour la Chandeleur, le soleil luit, – Quarante jours d'hiver suivent. = When the sun shines on *La Chandeleur*, 40 days of winter follow.

(source: <https://blog.rosettastone.com/la-chandeleur-the-french-holiday-all-about-crepes/>)