



Alliance Française  
DuPage County

**RETROSPECTIVE 2019**  
**Looking back on our programs**  
**this year**



Pictured above – our booth at Cantigny Park’s French Connection Day in August.

Section for a *Mot de la Présidente*

**Your Moveable French Feast in Chicago’s Western Suburbs**

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# A year of food for our taste buds



Winter **Raclette** and **Crêpe Night** soirées

**Champagne dégustation** – learning how to listen for those tiny bubbles.

Annual **Spring Luncheon** at **Le Chocolat du Bouchard** in Naperville

Two successful **baking workshops** at **College of DuPage**, learning how to bake **kouign amann** in the Spring and **tarte tatin** in the Autumn.



These events are complemented by **much delicious food** at our **potlucks**. We are thankful for our food contributors!





## A year of social events

Many social events are open to members only. Join us today to enjoy these popular gatherings!

Our **Bastille Day Potluck Picnic** is a great way to celebrate the *Fête Nationale*.

A good AFD crowd joined the AATF's first **Diner en Blanc** in St. Charles.

Members put on their best hats for a summer **Monet Garden Party** ...

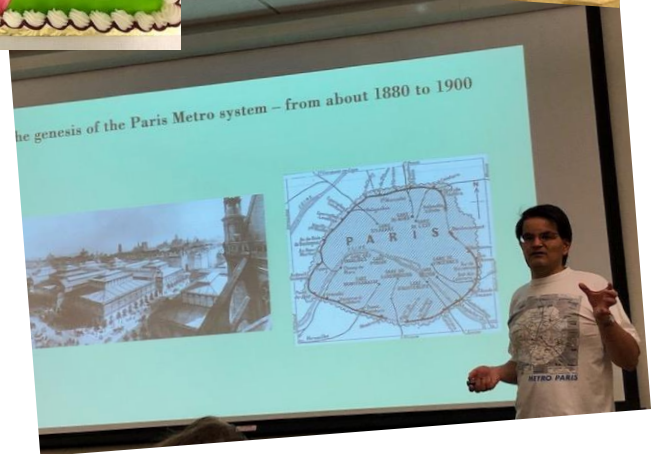
... and their best French-themed costumes for a **Halloween Party à la française** ...

... and received fine gifts at our **Fête de Noël** white elephant gift exchange.





## A year of rich cultural discoveries



*Many thanks to all our presenters and event attendees throughout the year!*

**Un Voyage en Métro**, presented by AFD Vice-President Charles Coulon, helped us discover more about an essential part of Paris.

A concert by **Dennis Stroughmatt and L'Esprit Créole** took us to the roots of French Illinois.

We enjoyed the **Festival de la Francophonie at College of DuPage** with student exhibits and French/Polynesian Folk Dancing.

We soaked in the **Art Institute's Manet and Modern Beauty Exhibit**.

We celebrated **Tintin's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday** with Belgian Honorary Consul Paul Van Halteren.

We discovered the beauty and culture of **French Polynesia** with Sandrine Vongy Wienecke.

## ***A year of community outreach***

In addition to a very successful fundraising sale at **Cantigny's French Connection Day** in August, we participated in the **Morton Arboretum's Passport Europe Festival** in September. Passers-by enjoyed taking selfies at our station "by the Eiffel Tower" and playing our nature-inspired word game.



## ***Un grand merci – Very special thanks***

to

**Lisa and Steve Allerton**

**Jeannine Cowart**

**Sam Farler and Ute Westphal**

**Corinne and Beverly Farrell and Juan Palomar**

**David and Sea-Hwa Hofmann**

**Hanna and Steve Kalicki**

for hosting some of our very successful programs at your homes this year!

We also thank **Mirta Pagnucci** and the **Connexion Française French Club** at the **College of DuPage** for their partnership in hosting our cultural programming.



## French Consul Général Guillaume Lacroix visits our Alliance Française



We were thrilled to welcome Guillaume Lacroix to our Alliance Française de DuPage community, the first visit by a French Consul Général to our Alliance in well over 10 years. We enjoyed a talk he gave at the College of DuPage and were happy to have him visit our booth at Cantigny's French Connection Day in August.

### L'Alliance Française de DuPage in Numbers

**135** members

Thank you for being an important part of our Alliance!

**25** cultural and social programs organized this year.

**374** likes on our Facebook page

[facebook.com/afdupage](https://www.facebook.com/afdupage) 

**763** recipients of our email list

**517** members on Meetup

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*We are one of **109 AF** chapters in the USA and **832 chapters** worldwide.*

### Book Club Series

We had **10 monthly book club discussions** this year where a regular group of members shared their thoughts and ideas about a selection of novels and short stories.

Every year we proudly feature the novel selected by the **One Book One Federation** committee of the **Federation of Alliances Françaises USA**. It is one of our monthly readings.

### Language Workshops

Our members benefited from **9 free language workshops on specific grammatical themes** this year. Attendance at these workshops keeps increasing.

*Un énorme merci* to our members **Diane Hoffmeyer** and **Phyllis Perkins** for facilitating these workshops during the year.

## Successful conversation group series

41 groups organized this year

Our groups are always free and we welcome French speakers of any level to join our casual get-togethers.



### Our 2019 - 2020 Conversation Group Locations

Ballydoyle, Downers Grove

All Chocolate Kitchen, Geneva

Arcadium Coffeehouse, St. Charles

Cocoa Bean, Geneva

Two Brothers Tap House, Warrenville

Eddie Merlot, Warrenville

## Trivia Night Successes

Team Alliance Française de DuPage scored first place twice this year at the **Alliance Française du North Shore** and **Mount Prospect Trivia Nights**. We always have lots of fun with great food. Come join us!



We hope to see you at our 2020 events. Visit our website at [www.afdupage.com](http://www.afdupage.com) to find the latest information and to sign up on our email list.

*A bientôt!*

### **Your 2019 – 2020 Board**

**Karen Thielman, President**

**Charles Coulon, Vice-President**

**Cynthia McLaughlin, Vice-President and Secretary**

**Diane Hoffmeyer, Treasurer**

**Barbara Young, Webmaster and Social Media Manager**



Retrospective authored by Charles Coulon, Dec 2019

Photo credits – Karen Thielman and Charles Coulon