

Publication of L'Alliance Française d'Albuquerque  
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Le Lien



Albuquerque Vol. LVI No. 1

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## Mots de la Présidente

Chers amis, chers membres,

On behalf of the Alliance Board and School, I wish you a Bonne et Heureuse Année 2022 and extend un grand merci for your continued support of our Alliance! Your membership and your tuition have kept our organization going and have been more important than ever since we had to close our doors in March 2020. Our transition to online classes and events has been very successful. The silver lining of offering classes via Zoom was the ability to bring back super-profs Patricia Dardant and Penelope Lespinasse who, to our dismay, had moved from New Mexico in 2018. Zoom classes also allowed both new and former AF student members living outside of Albuquerque in Santa Fe, Taos and as far away as New York, Massachusetts and Washington, to learn French with us. While we hope that we'll be able to resume in-person classes in the coming year, we absolutely will continue to offer online classes as well. We have missed our big in-person events which sadly we weren't able to offer via Zoom: la Chandeleur, la Distribution des Prix, la fête du 14 juillet, la fête du Beaujolais Nouveau and le Déjeuner de Noël, and we look forward to the day we all can safely celebrate and raise a toast together once again! In the meantime, it has been wonderful to offer online events like Dr. Susan Benforado Bakewell's lectures on Impressionism, an atelier de cuisine with mother-daughter chefs Bénédicte and Sofia Macias, Léon Malmed's lecture based on his book *Nous avons survécu. Enfin je parle*, soirées de film and, more recently, a soirée jeux. Un grand merci to the Activities Committee, to the marvelous presenters and to all of you who attended (from as far away as Japan!). Especially in times when we have been confined to our homes, these shared moments on Zoom where we could once again connect and see smiling faces have been a joy for us all.

We hope you'll continue to join us for classes and events including our Annual General Board meeting on February 27. We are planning a variety of activities for this new year, like another atelier de cuisine, soirées film et jeux, lectures and more, so please continue to watch your email, the Events page of our website and our Facebook page for announcements. We look forward to seeing you, and we thank you again so very much for your support!

Très cordialement, Carolyn Simmons

## Merci, Gillian!

The Alliance Française d'Albuquerque bids a fond farewell to longtime Board member Gillian Michell who retired from the Board in the spring of 2021. Gillian served as AF Secretary from 2013 to 2020, keeping minutes en français and helping with numerous events including Bastille Day and Beaujolais celebrations, la Chandeleur, la Distribution des Prix and many more. Gillian was also a longtime Alliance student and in 2012, by placing in the top 100 of 5000 participants, was one of only three laureates in the US in the international French competition, La Plume d'Or. Merci beaucoup, Gillian, et meilleurs vœux!

## George Frear 1932-2020



Nous avons été profondément attristés d'apprendre en décembre 2020 le décès de George Frear. George s'est installé à Albuquerque en 1994 avec sa femme Joanne, après avoir pris sa retraite de Saint Lawrence University où il était professeur de théologie. Peu après, il a fait la connaissance de notre ancienne professeur et présidente de l'Alliance, Claude Senninger, et est devenu membre de notre Alliance. Il a suivi de nombreux cours avec professeur Senninger, surtout son séminaire avancé, la Joie de la lecture. Claude appréciait la présence de George dans ses cours car, comme elle, il était académique et maîtrisait le latin et la philosophie. George est devenu membre du Conseil de l'AF en 1997 et a servi comme secrétaire de 1999 au 2012. Son air calme, son intelligence et sa gentillesse nous manquent. Nous, qui l'avons connu et qui avons travaillé avec lui, garderons de bons souvenirs de notre amitié et offrons toutes nos condoléances à sa famille.

# Sunday, February 27, 4pm on Zoom Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Alliance Française d'Albuquerque gives all members the opportunity to hear the President's annual report and a summary of the past year's activities, as well as a chance to elect Board members for 2022.

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate for the 2022 Conseil d'Administration:

Susan Bakewell, Deb Brunt, Tomás Butchart, Joyce Fay Camron, Stan Dunin, Karin Frings, Bruce Hanson, Becky Lee, Bruce McClure, Ralph Odenwald, Lisa Pinceloup, Scott Sandlin, Maxine Schmidt, Carolyn Simmons and Judi Townsend.

Although we aren't able to host a reception after the event, we invite you to bring your own hors d'oeuvres et verre de vin to this Zoom meeting.

RSVP to [info@afabq.com](mailto:info@afabq.com) to receive the Zoom link. If you have not received the link by the morning of Feb. 27, please contact Carolyn Simmons at [info@afabq.com](mailto:info@afabq.com) or 505-280-9031.

## New Committee and Activities of 2021

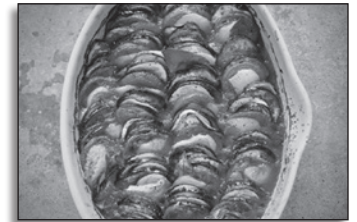
Early in 2021 a new committee was formed to organize activities for members and students of the Alliance. The members of the Activities Committee are Carol Browne, Tomás Butchart, Karin Frings, Becky Lee, Moriah Peterson, Maxine Schmidt and Carolyn Simmons. All the activities took place virtually via Zoom.

Among the activities that were offered in 2021, the Alliance's traditional Cafés Causettes took place on the last Saturday of the month starting in April. As most of you know, these are an



opportunity for participants to chat in French. In addition to the Cafés Causettes, there was also a cooking demonstration in April in which Bénédicte Macias and her daughter Sofia showed participants how to prepare a delicious ratatouille. They also taught the participants how to make a wonderful clafoutis aux framboises. In August a movie night was offered to discuss the film *Marguerite*, and in November there was a second après-midi de film to talk about the film *Le retour du héros*. In January 2022 the Alliance organized a soirée jeux which proved to be a very enjoyable activity for all those involved.

The Committee hopes to continue offering monthly activities. All suggestions for activities from members and students are welcome.



## Presentation by Léon Malmed

On October 29, 2021, the Alliance Française d'Albuquerque was very pleased to host a Zoom presentation by Léon Malmed, the author of *Nous avons survécu. Enfin, je parle*, in which he tells his story about surviving the German invasion of France and the Holocaust during World War II.

Léon was only four years old and living in Compiègne, northeast of Paris, with his family when the Nazis invaded France. His parents, who were Jewish, were arrested in 1942 and perished in Auschwitz. Léon and his sister Rachel were taken in by their French Catholic neighbors who kept them hidden "in plain sight" throughout the war.

It took Léon 60 years before he could write about how he and his sister survived. His hour-long presentation detailed some of his heart-wrenching experiences of survival, as well as moving portraits of love and kindness. After the presentation Léon answered in depth many interesting questions from the audience.

Now at age 84, Léon and his wife Patricia live in South Lake Tahoe, California, and enjoy bicycling, sailing, skiing and golfing. He won a gold medal at the Master National Cycling Championship in Albuquerque in August 2021, as well as another gold medal at the Mt. Diablo Cycling challenge in the Bay area.

The Alliance is very grateful to Mr. Malmed for sharing his remarkable story with us.



## Investigating Impressionism: Monet, Renoir, Degas, Manet, Morisot, Cassatt, Matisse, Cézanne

These are only some of the artists presented by art historian Dr. Susan Benforado Bakewell in her very popular lectures series about many different aspects of Impressionism. Each of the past four lectures attracted more than 50 of our Alliance members and friends, some from as far as Japan and England. Meeting virtually through Zoom made it possible for all to enjoy her expertise and enthusiasm about the different topics. The presentations explored the architectural, artistic, economic, political, scientific, social and technological contexts in Impressionism of late-nineteenth-century France, particularly in Paris, the Ile-de-France and Provence. Her work as a curator and teacher has taken her many places over the years, and now that she has resettled in NM, we are delighted and so fortunate that she counts involvement with the Board of our Alliance Française d'Albuquerque among her life's pleasures. Her next lecture is scheduled for March, so stay tuned and watch for the announcement.



Un grand MERCI à Dr. Benforado Bakewell!

## Visite de Mme Nathalie Soirat, Consule Générale Adjointe

Notre Alliance française a eu l'honneur d'accueillir Mme Nathalie Soirat, Consule générale adjointe du Consulat de France à Los Angeles, le 11 novembre. Pendant sa visite à Albuquerque, Mme Soirat a salué le consul honoraire d'Albuquerque, Perry Bendicksen, et a pris rendez-vous avec Karin Frings et trois membres de notre Conseil qui lui ont montré nos salles de classe ainsi que la médiathèque. Elle était bien impressionnée par notre Ecole et par nos activités culturelles et ne voulait pas manquer un bon déjeuner dans un restaurant mexicain avant de repartir pour Los Angeles.

## Concours « La Plume d'Or » 2022

L'association Défense de la langue française propose aux élèves des Alliances Françaises mondiales, de nationalité étrangère, sans limite d'âge et de niveau avancé, de participer à un concours, ne nécessitant pas de préparation spéciale. Il comprendra des questions de culture et de grammaire et une rédaction personnelle sur un sujet donné. L'épreuve, durée de 2 heures, se déroulera **le mercredi, 23 mars 2022, de 16 :00h à 18 :00h** dans la salle de classe 110 en respectant les règles de sécurité sanitaire : distance des candidats et masques. La participation est gratuite pour nos membres. Les 100 premiers candidats sont déclarés lauréats du concours et reçoivent un diplôme d'honneur. Le vainqueur du concours sera invité à passer plusieurs jours à Paris pendant la semaine de la francophonie en mars de l'année suivante.

Pour vous inscrire, veuillez contacter Karin Frings, [karin@frings.us](mailto:karin@frings.us) **avant le 15 mars 2022.**

Du courage et bonne chance ! La francophonie est notre valeur.

## An exciting opportunity to support your Alliance Française d'Albuquerque!

As you are aware, in March 2020, we had to close the doors of our offices and move all French classes, workshops and cultural events online. Much to our surprise and pleasure, the move has been a success, allowing us to continue teaching and promoting all things French. Yet the costs have not been negligible. Because we were so optimistic that we would be able to return to in-person classes sometime in 2021, we kept paying rent for both of our classrooms and our library despite not being able to use them at all. So far this year, we again have had to remain entirely online. Since our Zoom classes are shorter and have fewer students than our former in-person classes, our revenue has dropped. Therefore, to help offset expenses, we have made the decision to give up our upstairs classroom, suite 207, and have renegotiated our leases for suites 110 and 211.

**The exciting news is that a most charitable sponsor has just donated \$3000 to our Alliance!** We would like to honor this generous contribution by matching the gift through donations from the Alliance Board, our members and our students. **We hope you will join us in this effort.** The Alliance Française d'Albuquerque, Inc. is a 501-c-3 organization, so your gifts are tax-deductible, and you will receive a receipt from us for tax purposes. You can contribute by adding an amount of your choosing to your membership renewal for 2022, or you can make a separate donation. You can either mail your check made out to Alliance Française to PO Box 605, Sandia Park, NM, 87047 or click on a yellow Pay Now button on our website to use PayPal or a credit card.

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to offer you the wonderful French classes and cultural content you have come to expect from your Alliance Française d'Albuquerque. Merci beaucoup!

## Calendrier

To participate in any of these online events via Zoom, please use the RSVP form in the email announcement you'll receive or contact us at [info@afabq.com](mailto:info@afabq.com). Events will also be posted on the Events page of our website and on our Facebook page. Join us!

Feb. 26	Café Causette 12:00-12:45 p.m.
Feb. 27	Annual General Board Meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.
March 23	Concours "La Plume d'or" 4:00-6:00 pm
March 26	Café Causette 12:00-12:45 p.m.
March 27	Susan Bakewell's Impressionism Lecture 4:00-5:00 pm
April 30	Café Causette 12:00-12:45 p.m.



## Membres du Conseil de L'Alliance Française d'Albuquerque

Présidente	Carolyn Simmons
Vice-Présidente	Karin Frings
Trésorier	Bruce McClure
Secrétaire	Deb Brunt
Le Lien	Tomás Butchart
Responsable des adhérents	Carolyn Simmons
Directrice de l'école	
French for Children	Karin Frings
Directrice de l'école de l'Alliance	Carolyn Simmons
Autres Membres	Susan Bakewell, Joyce Fay Camron, Stan Dunin, Bruce Hanson, Becky Lee, Ralph Odenwald, Lisa Pinceloup, Scott Sandlin, Maxine Schmidt et Judi Townsend



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**Alliance Française d'Albuquerque**  
**Membership Dues for January–December 2022**

SEND me the AF newsletter, Le Lien, \_\_\_\_\_ via EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ via US MAIL (choose one).

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ APT # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PH: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL (PRINT CLEARLY, svp) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Membership type: **Alliance Student \$24**    **Family \$38**    **Single \$29**  
**French for Children \$15**

2022 Special Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are uncertain about your membership status, check the address label which states “Paid thru 2022” if you have already renewed your membership.)

Mail this form to the address below, along with your check made out to l'Alliance Française d'Albuquerque. (Please do not send mail to the Carlisle Office address.)

**Carolyn Simmons, Membership Chair**

**PO Box 605**

**Sandia Park, NM 87047**

If you have membership questions, contact Carolyn Simmons at 280-9031 or [info@afabq.com](mailto:info@afabq.com).

**Merci!**

