

Newsletter February 2024

N° 2024 - 02



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - February 2024

February already and with the mimosa coming into bloom, spring must be on the way!

As you will have seen, Deanna, Karen, Gilles and Robert have completed their annual update and greatly extended the 'members recommendations of services'. Many thanks to you all for your tireless hard work. Please remember to check this list before sending out an SOS via the One List as many times you will find just what you're looking for. The list can be found in the members section on the AAGP website.

This month the Family Ramble on Sunday 11th February will be combined with a lunch (for those that would like to) at the well-known Coucoussier restaurant in Vauvenargues. You have already received booking information from Margaret & Cheryl on the One List. Read on for full details.

Please remember to sign up and make your payment early with Margaret as she will need to give them final numbers by the beginning of the month. Read on for full details.

A very last-minute event that only just made this newsletter is a showing of a National Theatre Production at the ACM in Aix on Saturday 3rd February. Full details will be sent via the One List.

Looking ahead to March, we will be organising a St. Patrick's Day celebration on the evening of Saturday 23rd. All our Irish members will be able to celebrate their special day but, of course, other na-

The Board 2023/2024 :

President : Christine WEST, Vice President and Small Groups Coordinator : Jane STORR, Treasurer : Kathleen-Carmel KING, Secretary : Brigitte PONSARD, Newsletter Editor : Michel PARISOT, Social Events Coordinator : Karen Watson, Membership Secretary : Elizabeth GOERGEN, New Member Welcome and Special Projects : Elaine BLANC, PR and Website : Jane WILLIAMS,

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Library: Sue BOUTIER, Newsletter: Sharon LIGHTOWLERS, Social Events: Cheryl WRIGHT

Marseille : Brigitte KRAUS, Activities coordinator : Catherine BOURDONCLE.

tionalities will be invited to join in - the Irish are famous for their friendliness and their social celebrations! More details to follow in next month's newsletter.

All our regular monthly activities will be taking place as usual. Please remember to double check your calendar for any exceptional date changes - you don't want to be disappointed to find that you missed out on one of your favourite activities.

Finally, a repeat from last month - Chris West, our president, will be stepping down at the end of the AAGP year so we are actively looking for her replacement. Please do contact either Chris or any board member for details of the role.

Happy Valentine's Day to all our members.

Chris West (President) on behalf of the Board.

SMALL ADS FEBRUARY 2024

BAGGAGE OR HOUSEHOLD GOODS TO GO ?

www.fd-platinum.com offers worldwide relocation and moving solutions. Part loads, full loads or storage London, Paris, Mougins, New York and San Francisco.

All enquiries info@fd-platinum.com or call your local contact

JP Delahaye tel 06 44 90 83 58

The Bereavement Support Network

Offers individual support, by phone or video, to English speakers in France who are grieving, those who are terminally ill and to their carers. We also signpost people to resources, information and additional help. You can access us either by calling 06 24 50 22 74 (M-F, 9-5) or 24/7 at our website www.bsnvar.org

What's on in February 2024

Important : All activities will be organised to comply with the health regulations applicable on the day. Participants are required to comply with the regulations at all times.

Cancellation policy for paid events: Any cancellation **after** the specified deadline date will **NOT** be reimbursed unless a suitable replacement has been found.

1 - Thursday 12:15

LUNCH IN AIX

**Venue : La Tomate Verte,
15 rue des Tanneurs, 13100
Aix-en-Provence**



With all items on the menu meticulously labeled when gluten free, vegan, etc., this restaurant is a dream for those with dietary restrictions and delicious as well. Vegetarian friendly but also has options for meat-lovers. La Tomate Verte offers traditional and modern dishes cooked with fresh, local produce, all cooked with care by chef Sebastien, a graduate of Vatel and Ferrandis Paris as well as Maryline. With a BEP Salle, he returned from 10 years in New Zealand to open La Tomate Verte.

Please reserve your spot with me by Saturday, January 29, preferably on the AAGP Facebook page (see Events section).

Valerie Belon

SMS 07-49-75-93-49

3 - Saturday

NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Details of this retransmission have been announced on the One List as they were not available before going to press.

4 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : boulodrome de Puyricard

The boulodrome de Puyricard is avenue Jacques de Régis (toward la route du Seuil). Join us for some fun *pétanque*. No skills required.

Gilles will be in charge of the group, but please answer by email to Deanna if you are attending.

Deanna

06 76 39 15 52

deannalittell@gmail.com



6 - Tuesday 14:00

CHESS CLUB

Calling all chess players

Venue : Chez Gilles Dreyfus

18 allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard
(D 14 A), Aix-en-Provence

Bus stop : "Rosaki" on bus number 11 is NOT in service anymore. You can get off either the stop before called Residence Beaufort, or the stop after called Fusains; both stops are about 300 yards from Rosaki.

Come and join. All levels welcome, bring your chessboard.

Please let me know if you are attending.

Gilles

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com - 06 75 59 82 43



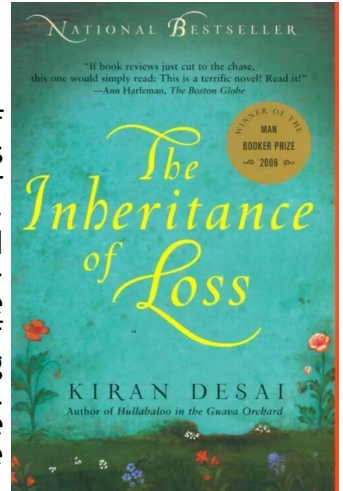
8 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue: Home of Judith Butler, Les Lofts d'Entremont, 1355 chemin de Bouenhour, Aix-en-Provence

The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai,
presented by Judith Butler

The Inheritance of Loss explores the lives of characters who are trapped in India's class system—both the lower class and the upper class. Booker Award winning author Kiran Desai examines the effects of colonization and the effects of post-colonial life as a generational loss of identity and struggle with the new culture. The story centers on the lives of Sai and Biju in 1986. Sai, an orphan, is living with her maternal grandfather, a retired civil servant, his cook and a dog named Mutt in the mountainous region of Kalimpong. Biju, the son of the cook, is living in the US illegally. Some characters snub those who embody the Indian way of life, others are angered by anglicized Indians who have lost their traditions; yet, no one is content.



Join us for continuing conversations over lunch. Bring your own picnic lunch. If you are carpooling, please don't forget a 5 euro donation to the driver to show your appreciation.

Let Nancy and Judith know if you plan to attend the Thursday gathering by Tuesday, February 6.

Nancy Ceridwyn 07 81 84 61 29 nancy.ceridwyn@gmail.com

Judith Butler 04 42 23 60 25 judithbu123@gmail.com

Nancy Ceridwyn

8 - Thursday 14:00

BOWLING

**Venue : Bowling Le Bras d'Or,
23 bd. Charrier, Aix en Provence**

Join us for some fun bowling. No prior skills required.

We usually play two games. (10 euros including shoes).



Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus - 06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com

9 - Friday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

**Venue : Black Bird Coffee,
92 cours Julien, 13006 Marseille
Métro : M2 arrêt cours Julien**



<https://www.instagram.com/blackbirdcoffee.marseille/?hl=fr>

<https://marseille.love-spots.com/adresses/ou-manger/cafes-marseille/102815-black-bird-coffee.html>

Please let me know if you are coming by Monday, February 5th.

Brigitte Kraus - E-mail: bibik@free.fr

11 - Sunday 11:00

FAMILY RAMBLE IN VAUVENARGUES

FOLLOWED BY COUSCOUS LUNCH

This is an easy circuit of about 6 km on wide paths which is also fine for children and well-behaved dogs. But please wear strong shoes (and bring a lead for your dog).

With views of the Sainte Victoire above, and the wooded valley below, we will follow the lavender fields and of course get a glimpse of Le Chateau de Picasso.

This will be followed by the option of lunch at the Couscoussier in Vauvenargues.

On Sundays, they have a fantastic couscous speciality at 22€ per person. This could also be shared by any members not able to do the walk.

Depending on the weather, they have a cosy interior and a dog friendly terrace with super views. We will start the ramble promptly at 11.00 from the Vauvenargues cemetery carpark (GPS N43 33 16.9 - E005 35 51.4).

The restaurant has been reserved for 13.30.

Booking was opened mid-January on the One List and closed on January 20th as the restaurant required numbers.

If you need any further information or wish to enquire about a possible waiting list, please contact Margaret at

marga.ings@gmail.com

06 13 92 25 30

Looking forward to sharing this together. Best wishes

Margaret Ings and Cheryl Wright



11 - Sunday 18:45

CINE CLUB

**Venue : Chez Deanna & Gilles,
18 allée Rosaki, route de Puyricard
(D 14 A), Aix-en-Provence**

For the February selection, with a nod to Valentine's Day, we offer you *Now, Voyager*, a 1942 film, often billed as one of cinema's great romances.

A tender love story, a taut psychological drama, an inspired story of physical and spiritual transformation: *Now, Voyager* is all three, plus a career milestone for Bette Davis-her sixth Best Actress Oscar nomination.

She magically plays Charlotte Vale, the spinster daughter of one of Boston's most illustrious and wealthy families. Trying to get out from under her domineering mother leads her to the brink of a nervous breakdown, but with help from Claude Rains as a brilliant psychia-



trist, she discovers love, heartbreak and eventual contentment.

More magic is generated by top-notch ensemble performances, with Paul Henreid in an improvised moment that became an instant classic. Gladys Cooper, also Oscar nominated for Best Supporting Actress, & Max Steiner's Academy Award winning score.

With a title inspired by a Walt Whitman poem from *Leaves of Grass*:

The untold want by life & land ne'er granted

Now, Voyager,

Sail thou forth to seek & find.

Join us for pizza, popcorn & the ultimate in romantic melodrama. It's **Now, Voyager**, now, then & forever.

Please R.S.V.P. early, as places are limited.

Deanna & Gilles

12 - Monday 12:00

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Splendido, 16-18 rue de la République, 13001 Marseille

Métro ligne 1 - arrêt Vieux Port

<https://www.bigmammagroup.com/fr/trattorias/splendido>

<https://madeinmarseille.net/107886-spendido-plus-grande-trattoria-big-mamma-ouvre-ses-portes-centre-ville-marseille/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Tuesday, February 6th.

Email: bibik@free.fr

Brigitte Kraus



12 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

Our February play will be a lesson in *English* by Sanaz Toossi.

Reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 12th February; information

on script and venue will be sent to signed-up readers nearer the date. Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you wish to attend take part.

Dympna Donnelly

21 - Wednesday 19:00

EVENING DRINK

Venue : Le Trois Quarts,
139 boulevard Chave, 13005
Marseille
Tram T1 : arrêt Camas ou Georges



<https://marseille.love-spots.com/adresses/ou-manger/restaurants-marseille/100170-le-trois-quarts.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/bistroletroisquarts/>

Please let me know if you are coming by Wednesday, February 14th.

Brigitte Kraus

25 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Calanques

We shall meet at the "Bar de la Grotte" in Callelongue. Callelongue is a little fishing port at the end of the coast road leading southwards from Montredon in the south quarters of Marseille.



From here we shall climb to the "Col de la Selle" (altitude about 200 metres) where there is a commanding view over the calanques on one side and over the city of Marseille on the other. We shall then take a gentle path through the Malvallon forest until we reach the "Calanque de Marseilleveyre" where we will have our picnic lunch on the beach. At this beach there is a rudimentary bar/restaurant which may be open. In this case we can buy refreshments and/or

coffee. From this point we will take the "sentier de la douane" following the coast back to Callelongue. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

There are no particular difficulties along the way so dogs (on a leash) and children used to hiking are welcome. Bring plenty of food and water and wear proper hiking gear for winter conditions. All those wishing to come are requested to call me the day before between 18h and 20h to make sure that this venue complies with all the prevailing regulations.

For any further information please call Roderick MACLEOD on 06.60.61.08.65

Many thanks.

Roderick MACLEOD.

26 - Monday 14:00 MARSEILLE BOOK CLUB



Venue : chez Brigitte Kraus, 99 cours Lieutaud, 13006 Marseille
Metro : Arrêt Castellane ou Notre Dame du Mont - Tram T3 : Arrêt Rome Dragon

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, home-made cakes and biscuits for 5 euros.

This month's book is *Mango & Mimosa* by Suzanne St Albans

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, February 22nd.

Email: bibik@free.fr

Please note that the books for the following months are :

March : *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig

April : *The Motion of the Body Through Space* by Lionel Shriver

May : *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

June : *French Braid* by Anne Tyler

Brigitte Kraus

28 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30

MORNING COFFEE IN SAINT RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

Venue : La Maison de Bon Café, 4 boulevard Mirabeau, 13210 Saint Rémy-de-Provence

This meetup over coffee is co-hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Barney Lehrer from La Table des Amis de Provence as a joint venture of these two non-profit associations.

It is also market day in Saint Rémy, another good reason to attend. Free parking all day at Liberation just 300m walking distance from the venue. No need to email or phone, just drop in. *David Carpita*



AAGP BOOK SALE



NEW YEAR'S EVE



CANDELMAS

The french saying: "*À la Chandeleur, l'hiver s'en va ou prend vigueur*" (On Candlemas, winter leaves or takes effect). This Wednesday, February 2 marks an event that brings together both adults and children: Candlemas. Between the classics with sugar, chocolate, honey, jam and the more elaborate ones flavored with orange and tonka bean, this party is undoubtedly an event not to be missed.

A centuries-old tradition

No text mentions exactly the origin of this popular tradition. But on closer inspection, the term candle holder takes its name from the Latin word "candela" meaning "candle". Believers had candles in their homes to ensure a good harvest for farmers.

Of pagan origin, this festival celebrates the lengthening of the length of the day, the "return to the light".

It was in the 5th century that this festival was associated with "candlelights" by Pope Gelasius I who organized torchlight processions in honor of the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It is stated in the gospel that Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the temple 40 days after Christmas, that is to say on February 2. Pope Gelasius I is said to have offered pancakes to pilgrims, which is the origin of the tradition of pancakes on Candlemas.

But the round shape of the pancakes would also symbolize the sun, therefore the return of light.

Today, if Candlemas has become a family or friendly gathering, some superstitions around the subject remain. A good harvest would be promised to the peasants who made pancakes on this day, and prosperity would be assured to the one who made the first pancake with his right hand, holding a gold coin in his left hand.

Extra text unverified by proofreaders



LOOKING AHEAD SAVE THE DATE

Important : All activities will be organised to comply with the health regulations applicable on the day. Participants are required to comply with the regulations at all times.

St Patrick's Day event

More details to follow on the One List and in your March Newsletter !

Karen Watson



Here are some dates for your calendar. All information will follow in later editions of your Newsletter and/or on the One List.

Saturday May 25th - Folk Evening & Singalong with E2G - Elaine, Michel, & Rod - at Aix les Platanes



Monday May 27th - Flower Arranging Workshop, hosted by Mei Yee Lam at her home in Cadenet

Regular events

Bridge

On Tuesday 14:00

Contact Lish **GOERGEN**

Library

Wednesdays and Saturdays 9:30 - 11:30

Maison des Associations, Mairie Aix-Sud

75 route des Milles, Pont de l'Arc.

For more information, refer to :

www.aagp-provence/library.php

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Look before you book !

If you are planning an event, please contact our calendar coordinator **FIRST** to check that your date doesn't clash with another event.

Ideas for organising a new activity or an excursion ?

Please contact Catherine **BOURDONCLE**, our activities coordinator at

cbourdoncle13@gmail.com

at least one month in advance of your event and before you advertise it.

Important

The civil liability insurance held by AAGP does not exempt participants in AAGP activities from holding personal civil liability insurance valid in France.



Christmas Pot Luck Lunch
2023
chez
Angie and Mark