



Newsletter May 2025

N° 2025 - 05



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - May 2025

The 8th May will mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) when Germany unconditionally surrendered its forces to the Allies, bringing an end to conflict in Europe. And despite the many difficulties of current times we still enjoy peace and safety in the European Union, and particularly in France.

The beautiful poppy field photograph on our front cover taken by AAGP member Julie Scolnik is a fitting tribute to mark this day, the poppy being the British symbol for remembrance. Julie is both an established musician and published writer (who will be presenting her book at this month's Book Discussion Group) and her photography is impressive, too, so many thanks for this!

The last few weeks have been busy in terms of events and activities. "An Afternoon in Provence" with Jennie Mayle was a highlight for many members who got to share their experiences of how Peter Mayle's work had personally influenced them. Jennie Mayle was generous with her time after the event, speaking to members personally and sharing anecdotes on life here. The event raised over 380 euros, which has been donated by the AAGP on behalf of Jennie Mayle to the Fondation Frédéric Gaillanne, in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorge, the only centre in France which specifically trains guide dogs for visually impaired teenagers.

Peter Mayle inspired many AAGP members to come and live in Provence, and some have even written their own memoirs on life here. One such member, Gayle Smith Padgett, will be signing copies of her

The Board 2023/2024 :

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Marseille : **Brigitte KRAUS**.

book *Passion for Provence: 22 Keys to La Belle Vie* at the new English language bookshop, Masséna Around the World, on 24th May between 5 and 7pm. If you're in Nice it's a good opportunity to check out this new paradise for English-speakers.

Our small groups continue their work: the card-games group proving hugely successful, coffee mornings often bringing together around a dozen members and the French Conversation sessions becoming a firm fixture for those determined to improve their French. And watch this space (or more specifically the OneList) as a golf initiation group is about to be launched.

Weekly "Happy Hour" drinks will be starting in Aix-en-Provence from Thursday 1st May. Again, details are published on the OneList just beforehand.

Later this month, we have the unmissable and highly sociable Folk Evening & Singalong on Saturday 17th May. Places are going fast, so book now to avoid disappointment (booking information has been sent out by Elaine Blanc on the OneList and is given later in your Newsletter).

And looking ahead, our end of year annual picnic before our summer break will take place on Sunday 15th June. You will find further details in the following pages.

Thank you so much for supporting our events and for your messages of encouragement. It means a lot!

Julie Wright (President) on behalf of the Board.



What's on in May 2025

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.

2 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

**Venue : le Café des Artistes,
35 place François Villon,
13090 Aix-en-Provence**

French Conversation now takes place every other week. Don't worry about your level of French. We'll do our best to make everyone feel comfortable. Please let me know if you are coming 48 hours before.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54



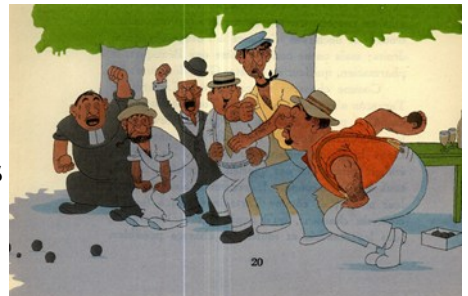
4 - Sunday 10:30

PÉTANQUE

**Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard,
intersection avenue Jacques
de Régis & boulevard de Carelle**

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 Littell - 06 76 39 15 52 – deannalittell@gmail.com



5 - Monday 14:30

PLAY READING GROUP

Our May reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 5th May; information on script and venue will be sent to signed-up readers nearer the date.

Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

Dympna Donnelly



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



11 - Sunday 18:45

CINÉ CLUB

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

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY is a 1940 American romantic comedy film starring Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, James Stewart and Ruth Hussey. Directed by George Cukor, the film is based on the 1939

Broadway play of the same name by Philip Barry. Tracy Lord is a Philadelphia socialite whose wedding plans are complicated by the simultaneous arrival of her ex-husband Dexter Haven, with a tabloid magazine journalist and a photographer. This comedy of remarriage was a popular genre in the 1930s and '40s at a time where divorce was considered scandalous and the depiction of extramarital affairs was blocked by the Hayes Production Code. Hepburn had starred in the play and was trying to finally have a hit film.

The film was nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture. and won two, Best Actor (Stewart) and Best Adapted Screenplay.

Tracy's ex, who works for the tabloid Spy magazine, made a deal with the publisher to get a story on Tracy's wedding in return for not publishing a salacious story about Tracy's father's affair with a New York showgirl.

Before long, Tracy finds herself forced to choose between past loves, present loves & new loves.

Join us for popcorn, pizza and to find out how it all ends.

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

Deanna & Gilles

06 76 39 15 52

12 - Monday 10:30 MORNING COFFEE

Venue : Café Massena, 1 avenue Jules Cantini, 13006 Marseille

Metro ligne 1 ou 2 : arrêt Castellane

https://www.facebook.com/massenacafe/?locale=fr_FR

Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, May 8th.

Brigitte – bibik@free.fr



15 - Thursday 10:30

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Venue: home of Angie Pyman, 4 rue Condorcet, Bât. Friedland 2, Aix-en-Provence

Paris Blue by Julie Scolnik presented by the author, Julie Scolnik

PARIS, 1976: Twenty-year-old American student Julie Scolnik had just arrived in the City of Light to study the flute when, from across a sea of faces in the chorus of the Orchestre de Paris, she is drawn to Luc, a striking (married) French lawyer in the bass section.

This moving tale of an ebullient young American and a reserved Frenchman will transport readers to the cafés, streets, and concert halls of Paris in the late seventies and, spanning three decades, evolves from deep romance to sudden heartbreak, and finally to a lifelong quest for answers to release hidden, immutable grief. Against a magical backdrop of Paris and classical music, *Paris Blue* is true fairy-tale memoir (with a dark underbelly) about the tenacious grip of first love.

Please email Nancy, Angie and Julie if you wish to attend the Thursday gathering by Monday, May 12. After 14 registrations, a waiting list will be started.

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

Angie Pyman 06 72 40 46 41 angiepyman@gmail.com

Julie Scolnik julscol@me.com

Nancy Ceridwyn

The Book Discussion Group remembers Susan Stone

Susan Stone shone her talents in many ways benefiting the AAGP. As organizer of the writing group Plume she drew out the inner writing skills of many. For Liz Chevalier, Susan served as editor of all her speeches and articles.

It is no surprise that Susan Stone's love of reading brought her years ago to the Book Discussion Group. Her broad interests stimulated the conversation no matter whether she was presenting a work or commenting on the book at hand.

Even beyond the monthly gathering, Susan sent articles, recommended readings and quips about current publications to individual members fitting each of their reading interests.

She demonstrated her tenacity to seek out the Book Group conversation as she climbed, cane in hand, the 52 steps to Kathy Lambert's terrace each September.

Kathy's garden annually inaugurated the launch of a new season of reading and Susan was there to celebrate our literary discoveries.

We shall miss her insights and honesty.

Nancy Ceridwyn on behalf of the group

16 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue : le Café des Artistes, 35 place François Villon, 13090 Aix-en-Provence

All information as given for Friday 2nd.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54

17 - Saturday 17:30 for 18:00 start

FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG

Venue : La Brasserie des Platanes, 2112 route de Sisteron, Aix-en-Provence

Elaine, Michel and Rod - E2G -invite you back to La Brasserie des Platanes, for the next AAGP Folk Evening and Singalong !

Just a few minutes north of Aix centre, the brasserie welcomes us into its friendly informal atmosphere, with plenty of free parking available and easy access from Aix town centre and the A51.



As usual we have lots of new artists and new songs and we will also

cover as many of your « old favourites » as possible. Watch out for new songs from Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul and Mary and Dire Straits, as well as newcomers Dolly Parton and Neil Young.

A hot and cold buffet meal will be served during the intermission and wine will be served throughout the evening.

Cost per AAGP member is **20 euros** which includes the buffet meal, wine and of course the music and song - book! Non-members accompanying members will pay full price of **30 euros each**. Booking has already opened on the OneList and will **close on Monday May 12th** or before if all places are taken. A reminder will be sent out on the OneList.

Please remember that places are limited, so be sure to book early to reserve your place.

Booking is by email to Elaine at eda.blanc@orange.fr before closing date. All instructions for payment and other necessary information will be sent when your email reservation is received. All questions to Elaine at the same email.

We hope you will join us for another evening of music, song and good company!

E2G - Elaine, Michel and Rod

18 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Sentier Marcel Pagnol/Le Garlaban



We shall meet at the Bar de la Boucle which is close to the war memorial at the entrance of Les Camoins. This village is located near the Marseille-Valentine shopping area and lies between Eoures and La Treille. From Les Camoins we will take as few cars as possible to the carpark on the D44 between Eoures and Aubagne. From there we will hike to the summit of the Garlaban (altitude 714 metres). The path rises gently and there are no particular difficulties so children used to hiking and dogs (on a leash) will be welcome. Please wear proper hiking gear and bring enough food and water.

We will have our picnic lunch at some appropriate point along the way and then return to the carpark, taking the same path. Expected hiking time is about four hours in all.

All those wishing to come are invited to let me know by sending me a text message on 06 60 61 08 65 between 18h and 20h the day before. As I will be taking part in the AAGP folk evening I will not be able to respond until after the singalong, but I will know if this outing complies with all the regulations and obviously revert if there is a problem.

Many thanks.

Roderick Macleod

22 - Thursday 12:00 to 14:00 **'DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD' LUNCH**



Venue : Chez Dee, 66 chemin de Rapine, Aix-en-Provence

Details on the OneList shortly. If you are not on the OneList and want details, contact Dee at gayatripotdar@yahoo.com

Dee Potdar

23 - Friday 18:30 **CARD GAMES**

Venue : Le Darius, 115 avenue Giuseppe Verdi, Aix-en-Provence

Our inaugural evening was lots of fun, with eight very enthusiastic players! Le Darius restaurant was very accommodating, so we will gather there again.

We learned two new card games and have several more to share with everyone.

Please let me know by May 16th if you plan to attend, so I can notify Le Darius of the number of participants.

Paula Mullineaux

07 68 53 38 22



26 - Monday 14:30

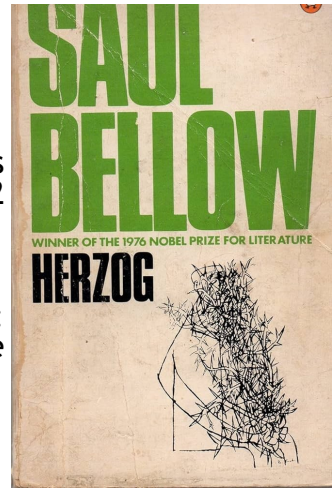
BOOK CLUB

Venue : Brasserie Manureva - 33 allées Turcat Méry, 13008 Marseille—Metro : Ligne 2 arrêt Perrier

This month's book is **Saul Bellow's *Herzog***.

Please note the book for the month of June : **Vikram Seth's *An Equal Music***. Please let me know if you are coming by Thursday, May 22nd .

Brigitte—bibik@free.fr



28 - Wednesday 10:00 to 11:00

MORNING COFFEE

IN SAINT-RÉMY-DE-PROVENCE

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

This meetup over coffee is hosted by AAGP member David Carpita and/or Sue Poole from La Table des Amis de Provence.



It is also market day in Saint Rémy, another good reason to attend. Free parking all day at Libération just 300m walking distance from the venue.

No need to email or phone, just drop in.

David Carpita

30 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue: le Café des Artistes, 35 place François Villon, 13090 Aix-en-Provence. All information as given for Friday 2nd. *Jean Louis jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr - 06 61 86 53 54*

CEZANNE 2025

One of our long-time members, Katharine Modesti, will take part in this event through a very interesting exhibition of paintings in Le Tholonet with other painters.

She will be exhibiting a collection of her paintings and drawings she calls "Thèmes Provençaux et Cézanniens" in a group exhibition with Dominique Bosq, Robert Chouraqui and Laure Willems at the Salle Ferrat, Palette, Le Tholonet from May 15th to 25th.

Opening hours are 15h-19h Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sunday. Saturdays: 10h to 13h, 15h to 19h. Monday and Tuesday closed.

VERNISSAGE Saturday 17 May 18h30.

Her paintings evoke the numerous sites where Cézanne painted, the statues of Aix-en-Provence and sketches drawn in a Provençal cafe in the 70s.

Who is Katharine Modesti ?

Katharine Modesti was born in London in 1946. Married to a Franco-Australian, with whom she has three daughters, she has been living in France for over fifty years. After Paris, her home has been Provence, a region to which she is particularly attached.

She travelled much during her youth, and has lived in several countries. Eclectic in the choice of her subjects and techniques, she now has a preference for oils. Her subjects include landscapes, classical and modern ballet, portraits, childhood, animals, artistic heritage, the Orient and overseas, not to mention many others.

A number of her paintings are in private collections throughout the world, the USA, Singapore, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, Britain and France. She has won many prizes, having participated in over a hundred and fifty exhibitions and continues to donate to charitable and ecological manifestations. Her paintings are shown in four French national museums.

She started studying drawing and painting when she was sixteen, at the National Gallery Art School in Melbourne. Later she received her degree in Fine Arts from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts of Paris in 1977.



LOOKING BACK

An afternoon in Provence - a conversation with Jennie Mayle

Don't you just love the AAGP? Wine tasting, *gastronomie* and *pé-tanques* were supplemented last month by an authority - perhaps **the** authority - on matters Provençal. Elaine and Julie had arranged for Jennie Mayle, spouse of the late Peter Mayle, to come and talk with us. For we Brits, Peter Mayle's book, *A Year in Provence*, published in 1989, was an early standard-bearer of the 'Provence is heaven' movement.



Come Monday March 24th, the Salle des Réunions at the Mairie Annexe was packed, with AAGP members hanging from the rafters. Well, not quite, but certainly being squashed in as tightly as possible, as Jennie gave the loveliest talk. She talked about her own career leading a London publishing house, and then of Peter's move from an advertising career to trying to succeed as an author of children's books. She gave us lots of colourful background on their move to the Luberon from London. They were nervous whether the book would succeed or not - they needed the money having stepped away from London careers - and then once it was a success, they had to navigate working with a grumpy John Thaw as the star in the TV series of the book.

What stuck most in the mind was how *A Year in Provence* was hugely popular not only in anglophone countries, especially the USA, but al-

so further afield. It was - and apparently still is - a huge seller in Japan. Jennie opined that it was maybe because of the smallness of living spaces in Japan; perhaps the open expanses of French garrigue offered a slice of rural heaven. Their first home in the Luberon was soon overwhelmed by busloads of Japanese tourists, always polite but relentlessly snapping photos of each other in front of Jennie's gate.

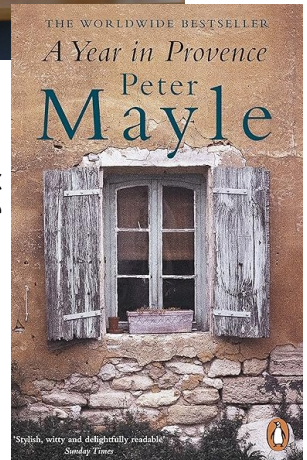
There were some questions at the end, followed by recollections from four AAGP participants who had had a contact with Peter, or had been influenced by his work: David Carpita, Kelly Raynaud, Astrid Caternet and Jean-Louis Morgenthal.

Afterwards, we all went upstairs to the AAGP library, a chance to have a drink, chat to Jennie, and catch up with the latest AAGP happenings.



Such special events don't happen by themselves. In this case, humungous thanks to Elaine Blanc and to Julie Wright for connecting with Jennie and setting up the event.

Mark & Angie Pyman





SMALL ADS MAY 2025

FAMILY HOUSE NEAR AIX EN PROvence

For rent NOVEMBER 2024 through JULY 2025 (dates negotiable, minimum stay 4 months)

Rent : 1950 euros/month includes all utilities except heating fuel. The three-bedroom plus home, 100+ square metres is in a gorgeous *site classé* on two hectares of land, a fifteen-minute drive from Aix. It features three main bedrooms, a bathroom and a separate toilet and sink combo, a large living room/dining room with a wood-burning fireplace. There is also a sleeping attic with several beds, suitable for children or shorter-term visitors. Fully and tastefully furnished including linens, washing machine, microwave, TV etc. as well as many shelves of English and French language books. Meals can be taken on the sunny outdoor patio most of the year. Bus service to Aix is available nearby, but a car is necessary. For photos and more information please send email to scm@northwestern.edu

US EXPAT TAX

Do you need to file a US tax return ?

Even if you are living outside the US, you may have a US tax return to file if you are a US citizen or green card holder.

I am an Enrolled Agent based in the Paris area, providing US individual income tax return preparation services through my own firm. I have more than thirty years of experience with PWC in the US and France as a tax practitioner assisting individuals residing both in the US and outside the US with their income tax filing obligations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance with your US income tax return.

Emily Lix E.A.EML Expat Tax

Email : emilylix@gmail.com

Tel : 06 84 81 08 47

SMALL ADS MAY 2025

PLANNING A MOVE ?

We are there for you www.fd-platinum.com has you covered with offices in France, the UK, the USA, Dubai and Hong Kong. Our free video survey allows us to provide competitive door-to-door rates. Your local contact :

jpdelahaye@yahoo.com or tel : 06 44 90 83 58

LOOKING AHEAD SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 15th June 12:00

ANNUAL AAGP FAMILY PICNIC

Venue: Peynier

For this year's annual event, the picnic will be a **PICNIC!** But with a dessert or cheese to share.

The AAGP has rented a venue for this event which has inside and outside space with tables and chairs, shady areas and a boules ground.

Everyone will bring their own sandwich/salad/quiche/picnic to eat at their table. Plus either some cheese or a dessert for 4-6 people which we will serve as a buffet. Please also bring your own plates, glasses and cutlery. The AAGP will supply wine, soft drinks and bread.

Numbers are limited, so please reserve as soon as possible (see below), and **BEFORE 5TH JUNE**, saying how many people are coming and what you will bring to share. Priority will be given to members. If there is space, non-members are welcome at a charge of 10 euros.

Directions and GPS coordinates to the venue will be sent out at a later date.

There is a car park, but please carpool if possible.

Cheryl Wright

cherylwrightfr@gmail.com

PICNIC 2023



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

Useful

Contact the editor :

newsletter@aagp-provence.com

To advertise

smallads@aagp-provence.com

See website for terms and conditions

Website

www.aagp-provence.com

« The member's version is only accessible by password which is in the Members'List Booklet

The AAGP is not responsible for the contents of any published advertisements, nor for the quality of goods, services or products being offered for sale or otherwise. »

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 the board 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.

An afternoon in
Provence
with
Jennie Mayle

