

Newsletter March 2026

N° 2026 - 03



Anglo American Group of Provence

Published by the AAGP / Editor : Michel PARISOT

Distributed only to AAGP Members.

Letter from the Board - March 2026

After one of the wettest winters most of us can remember in Provence, the very first signs of spring are starting to appear. Many members have braved the rain and turned up regularly at the “apéro” evenings and the coffee mornings, which will soon be held out on a sunny terrace once the warm weather arrives. This month’s front cover, taken from an original oil on canvas painted by **Mei Yee Lam**, reminds us of the flowers we should soon be enjoying.

We thank Mei Yee, too, for the highly informative and helpful talk she organised on sleep in January at the AAGP library. This event was very well attended and included a presentation followed by a guided meditation to help relaxation. Many members drifted into a twenty-minute mini-sleep without realising how much time had passed - very impressive!

Equally impressive was the speed with which all the places for the pre-valentine cocktail evening were booked. This event, entitled “Shakespeare on Love”, hosted by **Trevor and Valerie White** at the Hôtel des Augustins, presented a selection of Shakespeare’s love poems and was so oversubscribed that another similar event is in the pipeline.

Impressive things have also been happening in some of our small groups. **Paula Mullineaux** reported that twenty members have been

The Board 2025/2026 :

President : Julie WRIGHT, Vice President and Small Groups Coordinator : Jane STORR, Treasurer : Kathleen-Carmel KING, Secretary : Patricia BURKHARDT, Newsletter Editor : Michel PARISOT, Social Events Coordinator : Jean-Louis MORGENTHALER, Membership Secretary : Elizabeth GOERGEN, New Member Welcome and Special Projects : Elaine BLANC, PR and Website : Jane WILLIAMS,

Associate Members

Library: Sue BOUTIER, Newsletter: Sharon LIGHTOWLERS, Social Events: Cheryl WRIGHT, Marseille : Brigitte KRAUS.

attending the Card Playing Group, and we are pleased to announce the return of the Gourmet Club. Dates and venues are regularly posted in the newsletter and on the OneList.

Later this month, **Nancy Ceridwyn**, who has run the hugely popular Book Discussion Group for some time, will be returning to California. We are very sorry to see her leave but are pleased to announce that **Hilary Collins** will be taking over her role. We would like to thank Nancy for all the energy and enthusiasm she has brought to the Book Discussion Group and we wish her all the very best for her move.

Looking ahead we have the annual Quiz Night, which will take place on Saturday the 21st of March at the Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc in Trets. This year's quiz has been created by **Jean-Louis Morgenthaler** and **Jana and Joseph Roussel**, with Lish Georgen overseeing the bookings and logistics. Our 2026 quiz will feature a run-off between the three top teams, who will each choose a challenger to answer additional questions to win the title "Champion of Champions". This is always a very popular event so contact Lish directly NOW on 06 86 73 43 19 to book your places. You will find full details in this edition of your newsletter and they have already been circulated on the OneList.

Save the date, too, for Saturday 9th May, as this is when we shall be holding our next Folk Evening & Singalong, which will again take place in Les Platanes.

And finally, we always need images and photos for our newsletter so do send them to me at julieprovence13@gmail.com. The image which receives the most votes is awarded a small prize at the AAGP annual picnic in June - another date for your diary to be announced very soon!!

Julie Lichtlé-Wright
on behalf of the board



What's on in March 2026

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 - Sunday 10:30

PETANQUE

Venue : Boulodrome de Puyricard, intersection avenue Jacques de Régis & blvd 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



2 - Monday 14:00

BOOK CLUB

Venue : You will be informed of the location before the date.

This month's book is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Please note the books for the rest of the year :

April : *The Plot* by [Jean Hanff Korelitz](#)

May : *The Sentence* by [Louise Erdrich](#)

June : *Dear Life* by [Alice Munro](#)

Brigitte - bibik@free.fr



6 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION



Venue : Café La Rotonde, 2A place Jeanne d'Arc, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

French Conversation takes place every other week from 10:30 to 12:00. We will stay at La Rotonde up to the end of March. Then, we'll move back to café « Les Artistes » and its wide sunny terrace.

You needn't worry about your level of French. What we do is chatting, not having a class. There is no teacher facing learners; we are adults friendly speaking as best we can with the support of a guideline known as the *menu du jour*. On March 6th, the *plat du jour* will be a role learning game: everybody will describe a real or imaginary fun incident, and the other participants will ask them questions to determine whether their stories are true or not.

In addition to meetups, we also have a private WhatsApp group called "French Conversation", to share resources, learning techniques or methods, tips and meeting details.

Please let me know if you are coming 48 hours before.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

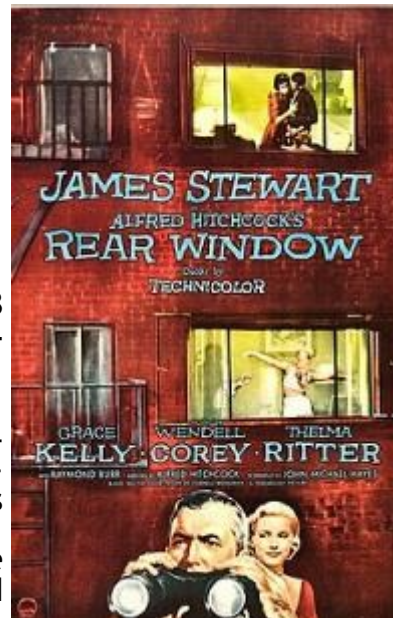
06 61 86 53 54

8 - Sunday 17:45

CINÉ CLUB

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

REAR WINDOW is a 1954 American mystery thriller film directed by Alfred Hitchcock and written by John Michael Hayes from the short story *It Had to Be Murder*. The film stars James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Wendell Corey, Raymond Burr and Thelma Ritter.



Rear Window is shot almost entirely from within one room and from the point of view outside the window. It is considered by many filmgoers, critics & scholars to be one of Hitchcock's best films and as one of the greatest films ever made. Ranked #42 on the AFI list of 100 years...100 films list. It only takes a witness to spoil the perfect crime in one of the most acclaimed suspense films of all time.

The legendary James Stewart stars as professional photographer L.B. "Jeff" Jefferies who becomes obsessed with watching the private dramas of his neighbors while confined to a wheelchair with a broken leg.

When he suspects that a salesman may have murdered his nagging invalid wife, Jefferies enlists the help of his stunning socialite girlfriend (Grace Kelly) to investigate the suspicious chain of events.

Rear Window is the gripping thriller that has kept generations of fans enthralled with one of the most nail-biting, edge-of-your seat endings in all of film history.

Come for pizza & popcorn & maybe bring your binoculars along. Please **R.S.V.P.** as places are limited & note winter hours.

Deanna & Gilles

06 76 39 15 52

9 - Monday 14:30 PLAY READING GROUP

Our March reading will start at 2.30 pm on Monday 9th March; information on script and venue will be sent to readers nearer the date.

Please email marcdympna@gmail.com if you would like to sign up.

Dympna Donnelly



12 - Thursday 11:00

MODERN POETRY GROUP

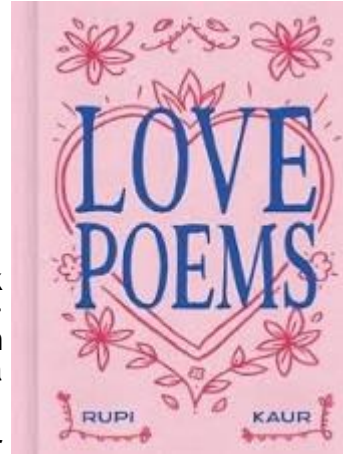
Venue : Chez Angie Pyman, 4 rue Condorcet, Friedland 4, 13100 Aix-en-Provence

In February, we read poems about love. Some of the poets were: Billy Collins, Frank Ormsby, Marina Tsvetaeva, Michael Ondaatje, Susan Browne, Edwin Morgan, Stephen Dunn, Nancy Willard and Dorothy Parker; so a truly wide range!

In March, the theme is spring and/or other seasons. Remember that the poems must have been published no earlier than 1914. Please let me know which poem(s) you have chosen - title and author - by the previous Tuesday evening (10th March), and be prepared to introduce the poet briefly and to read the poem to the group.

Angie 06 72 40 46 41

angiepyman@gmail.com



12 - 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. (14 euros including shoes).

Please email me or call 24 hours before.

Gilles Dreyfus

06 75 59 82 43

gilles.dreyfus@gmail.com



13 - Friday 12:30

LUNCH IN MARSEILLE

Venue : Restaurant La Riviera,
Place Joseph Vidal, 13008 Marseille

Bus n° 19 : arrêt Pointe Rouge

Plat du jour le vendredi : aïoli - 18 €

<https://larivierarestaurant.fr/>

Please let me know if you are coming by
Wednesday, March 4th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



16 - 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 Monday, March 9th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



20 - Friday 10:30 to 12:00

FRENCH CONVERSATION

Venue : Café La Rotonde, 2A place Jeanne d'Arc, 13100
Aix-en-Provence

All information as for Friday 6th, though with a new *menu du jour*.

The *plat du jour* will be a role learning game : you walk along with a friend on the Cours Mirabeau on a market day - or Place Richelme, or Place des Prêcheurs - and chat freely.

Please let me know if you are coming 48 hours before.

Jean Louis

jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr

06 61 86 53 54



20 - Friday 12:00 to 14:00

‘DISCOVER ASIAN FOOD’ LUNCH

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

This month we travel to the Malay Peninsula to taste ‘Nasi Goreng’ the national dish of Indonesia, also popular in Malaysia and Singapore.

Nasi Goreng (literally ‘fried rice’), unlike other Chinese fried rice dishes, has a smoky, aromatic flavour due to the use of sweet soy sauce and uses a ‘sambal’ base - a chilli, sweet, sour spice paste. Served with a fried egg, side salad and ‘sambal goreng’ (green beans and tofu in a sambal sauce), it makes a balanced, protein rich meal without addition of meat.

More details on the OneList early March.

Lunch spots limited to 10 participants.

Email **Dee** at gayatripotdar@yahoo.com to reserve.

21 - Saturday 18:15 welcome - 19:00 start

QUIZ NIGHT

Venue : Moulin de l'Arc, 1604 route de Rousset, Trets

It's time for AAGP's annual Quiz Night!

The Quiz Team has organized a terrific evening's entertainment just for you, with written and audio questions based on a linked theme (sorry, no sneak previews!). Of course there will be a prize for the winning team. This year's twist - the top three teams will also choose a challenger to answer additional questions to crown the Champion of Champions!



You may either submit a team of up to eight, or Lish will help organise a team for you as soon as you sign up.

If you do not have transportation and need a lift to the Moulin de l'Arc, or if you are willing to give someone a ride, please contact Jean Louis Morgenthaler (06 61 86 53 54 - jeanlouis.morgenthaler@sfr.fr) who will help organise carpools.

Price: 35 euros for members, 50 euros for non-members. Price includes a welcome drink, dinner (main dish and dessert), and wine.

Preference is given to members, but non-members are welcome based on availability.

Booking is already open, so sign up now by calling Lish Goergen 06 86 73 43 19. No emails, please. Lish will give you payment options.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Quiz Team : Lish Goergen, Jana & Joseph Roussel, and Jean Louis Morgenthaler

22 - Sunday 10:00

HIKE

Venue : Côte Bleue

We shall meet on the carpark at the entrance of Niolon. Niolon is a little village on the coast just off the D5 road between Le Rove and Carry-le-Rouet. We will start our hike from here, passing through the village and then taking the coastal footpath towards Méjean, another charming village on the coast further west.



Somewhere along the way, according to weather conditions etc., we will make a stop for our picnic lunch. Bring plenty of food and drinking water and wear proper hiking gear for winter conditions. I say this even though the path is not difficult and altitude

changes are insignificant. Dogs and children used to hiking are welcome. In Méjean (and in Niolon) there is a bar where we can have coffee, etc.

We will return to Niolon via the same route. Total hiking time is about 4 hours.

All those wishing to come are invited to call me on 06 60 61 08 65 the day before between 18h and 20h when I will know if this venue complies with all the regulations prevailing for the day of our hike.

Roderick MACLEOD.

23 - Monday 14:30

AFTERNOON TEA

Venue : Black Bird Coffee,
92, cours Julien,

13006 Marseille, Metro ligne 2
arrêt : Notre-Dame-du-Mont

<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, March 16th.

Brigitte

bibik@free.fr



25 - Wednesday 10:00

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

**Venue : Home of Catherine Pernet,
6 rue Mignet, Aix-en-Provence**

We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson presented by Catherine Pernet

Shirley Jackson's beloved gothic tale of a peculiar girl named Merricat and her family's dark secret. Merricat Blackwood lives on the family estate with her sister Constance and her uncle Julian. Not long ago there were seven Blackwoods—until a fatal dose of arsenic found its way into the sugar bowl one terrible night.

Acquitted of the murders, Constance has returned home, where Merricat protects her from the curiosity and hostility of the villagers. Their days pass in happy isolation until cousin Charles appears. Only Merricat can see the danger, and she must act swiftly to keep Constance from his grasp.

Email your reservations to Hilary and Catherine. After 12 registrations, a waiting list will be started.

Hilary Collins 07 65 26 87 08 collinshilary@yahoo.com

Catherine Pernet 06 07 47 43 90 cpernetmolloy@hotmail.com

Nancy Ceridwyn



25 - 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



27 - Friday 18:30

CARD PLAYING

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

We had a record number of players in January - 20! It was a little hectic but all worked out in the end, with a brand-new game to learn!

The games are fun and always easy to learn for newcomers.

Please let me know by **March 19th** if you plan to attend, so I can notify Le Darius of the number of participants.

Paula Mullineaux

07 68 53 38 22

+1 240-602-7978

pmullineaux@comcast.net



LOOKING AHEAD - SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 9th May

17:30 for 18:00

FOLK EVENING & SINGALONG

Venue : les Platanes, Aix-en-Provence



Save the date ! All information on this popular event and how to reserve your place will be in your April Newsletter.

Elaine, Michel & Roderick "E2G"

UPDATED LIST OF ACM-IAU SPRING EVENTS (March, April, May)

Venue : CEF* Main Hall, 2 bis rue du Bon Pasteur, Aix-en-Provence (* CEF is not on the door)

From now until May, I will use the newsletter to remind us of the events planned for the month, but will use the OneList to forward details as I receive them. This month, I include a revised calendar that adds a few events for your information.

You will note three events in March : a film screening March 4th, a conference March 12th that continues all day the 13th, and a model European Union the 26th and 27th. More details forthcoming via the OneList. CEF Main Hall is located at 2 bis rue du Bon Pasteur in Aix. Hope to see some of you there !

Nann Ricard, nannricard@gmail.com

| Date/Time | Event | Venue | Contact |
|--|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wed. Mar. 4, 6:30pm | Film Screening of <i>Assigné</i> & discussion with director | CEF Main Hall | Yumna Masarwa |
| Thurs. Mar. 12, 6:30pm– Fri. Mar. 13, all day | Conf: « Dissent in the Mediterranean » | CEF Main Hall | Marie-Pierre Ulloa, Leigh Smith |
| Thurs. Mar. 26, 6 :30pm – Fri. Mar. 27, all day | Model European Union | CEF Main Hall | Greg Mose |
| Wed. Apr. 8, 6:30pm | Lecture/Recital: “American Music for Piano and Violin: Gershwin to Sondheim” Andrew Cooperstock | CEF Main Hall | Leigh Smith |
| Wed. Apr. 15, 12-2pm | “Breaking Barriers: Inspiring Stories of Women Entrepreneurial Successes” | CEF Main Hall | Nitin Beeharry |
| Wed. Apr 15, 6:30pm | Lecture: “Reception and Memory Culture of Edith Wharton in Provence”: Joel Goldfield | CEF Main Hall | Leigh Smith |
| Tues. Apr 21 – Wed. Apr 22 | American Provence in 1940s, WWII Today, Trans.& Legacy | CEF Main Hall | Michel Lantelme |
| Wed. Apr 29, 7pm | <i>Mille Fontaines</i> Launch | CEF Main Hall | Charles Deleon-Franzen |
| Tues. May 5, 6-8:00pm | MFA Art Show | Galerie de la Prévôté | Yumna Masarwa |

LAST MINUTE

Next Art Exhibition of AAGP members artists (in June!)

Next **Open Mic Night** (in September 2026), practice and come one, come all!

LOOKING BACK

Burns Night

As we set out, on a dark Saturday night at the end of January, in torrential rain, leaving our fireside seemed a wrench! However, Burns Night is a really special occasion that we both love, and it's celebrated by expats all over the world.

The venue was at Domaine du Moulin de l'Arc. The tables were set out invitingly with plaid tablecloths and dotted with small bottles of whisky, ready for the feasting. The night began with a warming fruit punch, delicious nibbles, and friends - old friends, and new ones in the making.

Burns Night commemorates the life of the Scottish writer Robert (or Rabbie) Burns, born 25th January 1759. It's a chance to listen to some of the bard's words, and celebrate all things Scottish.

The haggis was paraded into the dining area by our own piper, Andreas Hartmann, playing lustily. The address to the haggis was dramatically delivered by Maryna Blankenstein. The meal began with lavish servings of smoked salmon, followed by haggis, creamy mashed potato and tasty swede, *neeps and tatties* as the Scots say.

We ate generous amounts of food accompanied by the whisky, water and wine, before the dancing began. Marjorie Desorgues, with her patient and kindly smile, got us all up dancing. *The Gay Gordons*, *Dashing White Sergeant*, *Strip the Willow* were amongst the dances we rather failed to get a grasp of. But we had so much fun trying!

The evening finished with us all in a big circle singing *Olde Lang Syne*, by Rabbie Burns, of course, whose legacy lives on.

Burns Night happens thanks to huge efforts by its organisers Lish Goergen, Marjorie Desorgues and Maryna Blankenstein, together they make up an exceptional team. Andreas Hartmann adds to the mix too. **A big thank you** for this very special event.

Mary Falconnier



Talk by Mei Yee Lam

On Monday 26th January, over twenty members were present in the AAGP library room for a very interesting talk given by Mei Yee: "Mind Approach to Sleep".

Cheryl Wright



Shakespeare on Love

True love and codpieces at Les Augustins

An epic performance of Shakespeare on Love by Trevor and Val

Aix has never seen anything like it. On Thursday evening, February 12th, Trevor - the Bard - White and Val - the fair maid - performed love scenes from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. Trevor, attired in a fetching 17th century cloth cap and medieval winklepickers, entranced and ensnared the fair - and mostly unconvinced - Val in scenes from *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest* and other plays. As he put it so winningly in *Richard III*, let me "help thee to a better husband".

There were twenty of us lucky AAGP members, quick enough to have applied for the limited tickets available. The event was held in the ground floor 'library' of Les Augustins hotel, a lovely venue. Drinks, then recitals Act I, followed by a quiz to identify some of the many books and plays that have titles emanating from Shakespeare. (Though "This Other Eden, Demi-paradise" was somehow attributed to Demi Moore in *Indecent Proposal* rather than John of Gaunt in *Richard II*). The break was followed by recitals Act 2, where Trevor was hugely eloquent endeavouring to woo Val (or Beatrice, or Kate, or, more successfully, Juliet); all washed down with red wine, white wine and nibbles.

And, in case any of you are wondering, because I was, Trevor does utter a winning "Forsooth". Ask him when you next see him.

If Trevor and Val should come back with a subsequent residency, book your tickets faster than for Taylor Swift!

Mark Pyman





Gourmet Lunch

Fourteen members of the AAGP Gourmet Group enjoyed a delicious lunch and lively conversation on Friday February 13 at **LE MAGNAN** along the Route du Mimosa, in the countryside near St-Tropez and Sainte-Maxime. The blooming mimosas provided a colorful contrast to the gray skies and rainy weather!

Diane Envent



ASIAN FOOD LUNCH



CURRENT EXHIBITIONS - AIX - MARSEILLE



SMALL ADS March 2026

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ANNA CAPPELLINI

PSYCHOLOGIST in MARSEILLE

Hi, I'm Anna, a clinical psychologist working in central Marseille and online. As an expat myself, I recognize the value of therapy in a familiar language. My integrative approach is based on open and authentic dialogue, in which I actively participate.

RDV : psy.annacappellini@gmail.com

More info :

<http://www.psy-annacappellini.com/en/contacts>



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

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« 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.

Professional services

The Bereavement Support Network (BSN) offers individual support by phone or video, to English Speakers in France who are grieving, those who are terminally ill and to their carers. BSN also signposts people to resources, information and additional help. Services and information can be accessed through our contact form on our website www.bsnvar.org or through our email address info@bsnvar.org"

email: info@bsnvar.org

Cancer Support France provides emotional, linguistic and practical support for English speaking people in France touched by cancer. They are also able to provide information on existing residency applications for UK nationals resident in France prior to 31 December 2020.

Tel: 08 00 24 02 00

Email: helpline@cancersupportfrance.fr

Website: <https://cancersupportfrance.org>

SOS Helpline France for English speakers (similar to Samaritans)

Tel: 01 46 21 46 46 (3pm to 11pm daily)

Website: <https://www.soshelpline.org>

The Samaritans: UK based with overseas lines (not free):

Tel: 00 44 330 094 5717 or 00 44 8457 90 90 90

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Counselling in France - a website which includes a range of English (and other languages) speaking therapists and counsellors all over France.

Website: <https://www.counsellinginfrance.com>

Red Cross Helpline in English

Tel : 07 86 28 11 99 open 09:00-17:00
Monday to Friday. Email: English-helpline.st-lois@croix-rouge.fr



Shakespeare on Love



Talk by Mei Yee Lam



Gourmet lunch