



La Gazette


Alliance Française
de la Côte Centrale

de l'Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale

ISSUE SUMMER 2019

RENDEZVOUS DATES- Mar 9th, Apr 13th, May 11th, Jun 8th, Jul 13th, Aug 10th,
Sep 14th, Oct 12th, Nov 9th, Dec 14th.

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL- From 5th March to 10th April. Information on
www.affrenchfilmfestival.org Tickets on sale from Jan 1st.

PERFORMANCE- Angelique Kidjo-African singer at the **Opera House** on Mar 8th. (see more)

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- SBS-French news-8.40am daily
- TV5monde.com
- Culturethèque-Online website which has magazines, papers, books, music and study material in French.

Important message!

Please confirm on the Meetup site (Central Coast French Conversation Meetup Group) when attending the 'Meetups' on the 4th Saturday of every month.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT-SUMMER 2019

It is often interesting to witness the goings-on in the various elements of the French diplomatic arena. Many people do not realize that the Alliances Françaises are part of the structure which come under the MEAE (ministère français de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères) - in other words the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also part of this group are the Institut français (which is primarily concerned with cultural work), the Fondation Alliance Française and the various French embassies and diplomatic posts around the world.

The head of the Alliances Françaises in Australia is the Délégué Général (DG), who automatically is the President of the Alliance Française de Canberra. This is a diplomatic post which reports to the French ambassador. As a rule the DG spends 2 years in each location and is then replaced.

A bit over a year ago a dispute broke out between the AF de Paris - Île de France and the Fondation, which appears to have been arbitrated by the Minister and is now resolved. It resulted in the resignation of the entire Board of the Institut and subsequent replacement by a new Board. The dispute centred on rent owed by the Paris AF for premises owned by the Institut.

Whilst this all seems remote, the function of the Institut is primarily the development and renewal of the Alliances, particularly in view of the digital world we now inhabit. It includes standardization of all Alliances to specific standards. Most importantly, this is our presentation in print, which includes the simple **af** logo (now without the striped semi-circle and the dark and light (too light in my opinion) lettering of the Alliance Française text. I believe personally it is actually done on purpose, in order that the Alliances are not too closely associated with France as a political entity. So, as soon as people see the af logo they know we're the *French speaking* outfit. In the fullness of time we will probably need to update our banner too....The Fondation has as one of its functions busied itself with registering the **af** logo as a trademark to aid its effort.

More importantly, from our point of view, is the work that is going on by the Fondation to bring the organization further into the digital era. We are still lagging in that respect, after all, we are only a small Alliance, with all volunteer committee members and without dedicated premises. A further task of the Institut is the "professionalisation" of the Alliances which includes amongst others our annual "Rendez-vous des présidents" in Canberra. The report I just received from Paris detailing all this - written in beautiful French bureaucratise - is one of the regular communications I receive from there. Such fun! By the way, other than in an official name such as Alliance Française, the word français is now treated as an adjective with lower case letter f.

In our own Alliance Committee members are always striving to promote our Alliance, in particular our main mission which is the teaching, learning and practising of French. The main contributors to our economic wellbeing are our magnificent teachers. To help this we have recently decided to switch our promotional efforts to Central Coast Newspapers from Newscorp (Central Coast Express). We now have a much bigger ad for less money. The ads are run end January/first week February in Coast News and the Wyong Chronicle. We expect they will work better than the last effort.

Ary Kleiberg.

The Gazette and all members of the Alliance Française Côte Centrale would like to thank our past President Ary Kleiberg for his masterful and competent running of the organisation for over 5 years. Many things would not have been achieved had it not been for his handling of the transition and his good communication with the "team" behind him.

We would like to welcome Nathalie Adams as President and Mark Williams as Vice President. We wish them well and support them in their roles.



SIMONE VEIL : LE RESUME D'UNE VIE REMARQUABLE

Figure emblématique du féminisme, Simone Veil, est seulement la cinquième femme à être enterrée au Panthéon, ce monument sur la Rive Gauche de la Seine où les personnalités françaises les plus illustres reposent. Voici un aperçu de la vie de cette survivante d'Auschwitz et politicienne d'avant-garde, ayant fait adopter la loi légalisant l'avortement en France.

Survivante d'Auschwitz

Simone Jacob est née le 13 juillet 1927 dans la ville méditerranéenne de Nice, benjamine de quatre enfants dans une famille juive. En mars 1944, elle est arrêtée par la Gestapo pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale et déportée à l'âge de seize ans dans le camp de la mort nazi d'Auschwitz avec l'une de ses sœurs et sa mère. Simone et sa sœur survivent et sont libérées à la fin de la guerre en 1945. Leur mère meurt du typhus dans un autre camp de la mort, Belsen, juste avant que celui-ci soit libéré. Son père et son frère meurent également dans des camps nazis. Une autre sœur, membre de la résistance française, survit à la guerre.

Une éducation d'élite

De 1945 à 1948, Simone étudie à Sciences Po, l'école d'élite des sciences politiques à Paris. C'est là qu'elle rencontre Antoine Veil, futur inspecteur des finances, avec lequel elle se marie en 1946. En 1970, elle devient la première femme Secrétaire générale du Haut Conseil de la Magistrature, qui supervise le fonctionnement de la justice.

Contraception, avortement

En décembre 1973, Simone Veil fait voter une loi qui autorise le remboursement de la pilule contraceptive par la sécurité sociale et sa délivrance à des mineures sans le consentement des parents. En janvier 1975, elle réussit à faire adopter sa loi Veil légalisant l'avortement, après des débats nationaux et parlementaires acharnés l'année précédente.

Gardienne de la langue française

En 2008, elle est choisie pour rejoindre l'Académie française, comme l'une des gardiennes intellectuelles de la langue française. C'est seulement la sixième femme à devenir « immortelle » — c'est ainsi qu'on appelle les 40 membres de l'Académie française. Elle meurt chez elle le 30 juin 2017, à l'âge de 89 ans. Simone Veil a été enterrée au **Panthéon** aux côtés de son mari, en compagnie de seulement quatre autres femmes, y compris la scientifique Marie Curie, parmi environ 80 personnalités marquantes de France.

FRANCE'S SIMONE VEIL: A SUMMARY OF A DISTINGUISHED LIFE

Women's rights icon Simone Veil is just the fifth woman to be buried in the Pantheon, the monument on the Left Bank of the River Seine where France's greatest national figures are laid to rest.

Here is a snapshot of the life of the Auschwitz survivor and trailblazing politician who pushed through the law legalising abortion in France.

Auschwitz survivor

Simone Jacob was born on July 13, 1927, in the Mediterranean city of Nice, the youngest of four children in a Jewish family. In March 1944 she was arrested by the Gestapo during World War II and deported, aged 16, to the Auschwitz Nazi death camp with one of her sisters and her mother. Simone and her sister survived and were liberated at the end of the war in 1945.

Her mother died of typhoid in another death camp, Belsen, just before it was liberated. Her father and brother also died in Nazi camps. Another sister, a member of the French Resistance, survived the war.

Elite education

From 1945 to 1948 she studied law at Sciences Po, the elite school of political science in Paris. There she met Antoine Veil, a future state finance inspector, whom she married in 1946. In 1970 she became the first female general secretary of the High Council of the Magistrature, which oversaw the functioning of the judiciary.

Contraception, abortion

In December 1973 Veil pushed through laws that made the contraception pill readily available to minors without parental consent. In January 1975 her "Loi Veil" (Veil Law) to legalise abortion was adopted after she steered it through bitter national and parliamentary debates the previous year.

Guardian of the French language

In 2008 she was chosen to join the Académie Française as one of the intellectual guardians of the French language, becoming only the sixth woman to join the "immortals", as the 40 members are known. She died at her home on June 30, 2017, aged 89. Veil was buried at the **Pantheon** next to her husband, in the company of only four other women, including Marie Curie among the 80 other remarkable figures in French history.

-Courtesy of **Le Courrier en Australie**. (www.lecourrierenaustralie.com.)

OUT AND ABOUT ON THE CENTRAL COAST 2019



Some new members of the Thursday/Friday **conversation group** celebrating Vonnie's birthday in a member's home in WoyWoy. Some of the new members include those from New Caledonia and France. Vonnie has always enjoyed the warmth and welcoming attitude of the other members of the group and she feels very relaxed in the company of people speaking French.

HAWKESBURY RIVER BLUES CRUISE ON SUNDAY 17TH FEBRUARY



Here, three lady members of the Alliance Française enjoying the sunshine and good company on the cruise. This cruise was organised by Nathalie Adams for members of the Alliance Française Central Coast. There were platters of fruit and other snacks as well as the music of a local band who got some of the people onto the floor jiving and swinging to the beat. There were cold drinks and alcohol available on board and most people had a wonderful time!

The second picture shows members enjoying 2018 Xmas lunch at Cheeky Charlie's in Erina. This restaurant is a favourite venue for many events for the Alliance members.

ANGELIQUE KIDJO-SINGER

Angelique Kidjo est née le 14 juillet 1960, à Ouidah, près de Cotonou, au Bénin. Dès l'âge de six ans, elle s'initie à la musique, la danse et le théâtre. Elle effectuera de nombreuses tournées en Afrique de l'Ouest, en jouant dans la troupe de sa mère. Elle se fait sa culture musicale en écoutant des grandes stars du continent. Elle intègre à l'âge de onze ans, le groupe « Kidjo Brothers Band », fondé par ses frères et s'intéresse donc aux musiques de la diaspora noire : au jazz, au gospel, au rhythm'n'blues, à la soul et à la Musique latin.



Angelique Kidjo was 22, supporting herself through music school in Paris by variously working as a babysitter, hotel cleaner and occasional backing vocalist, when she went to a party and heard a song that, years later, she knew to be Talking Heads' *Once in a Lifetime*. The song's upbeat rhythms felt familiar, reminding her of good times back home in Benin, the tiny West African country whose brutal dictatorship she had recently escaped.

Angélique Kidjo (born July 14, 1960), is a Beninese singer-songwriter, actress, and activist who is noted for her diverse musical influences and creative music videos. Time magazine has called her "Africa's premier diva". The BBC has included Kidjo in its list of the African continent's 50 most iconic figures. The Guardian has listed her as one of its Top 100 Most Inspiring Women in the World[6] and Kidjo is the first woman to be listed among "The 40 Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa" by Forbes magazine. The Daily Telegraph in London described her as "The undisputed queen of African music" during the 2012 Olympic Games River of Music Festival. In March 2013, NPR, National Public Radio in America, called her "Africa's greatest living diva". On June 6, 2013, Kidjo was elected vice-president of the Confédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Auteurs et Compositeurs (CISAC). She now resides in New York City, where she is an occasional contributor to The New York Times. Kidjo has received Honorary Doctorates from Yale University, Berklee College of Music and Middlebury College. She is the 2018 Harvard University Jazz Master In Residence.

Her musical influences include the Afropop, Caribbean zouk, Congolese rumba, jazz, gospel, and Latin styles; as well as her childhood idols Bella Bellow, James Brown, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Jimi Hendrix, Miriam Makeba and Carlos Santana.

Courtesy-Wikipedia