



Alliance Française of Greater Orlando



MARCH 2019 NEWSLETTER

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE AND INSTITUT FRANCAIS

Most of you know that the Alliance Française is a private organization founded in 1883 in Paris by some French luminaries like Louis Pasteur, Jules Verne and Ferdinand de Lesseps (Suez Canal), to "propagate the French culture and language abroad".

As of today, it is a worldwide network of 834 chapters in 132 countries, with one million members.

Most of the chapters, like the Alliance Française of Greater Orlando (www.aforlando.org) have a school where languages, mostly French, are taught. Worldwide, these schools gather close to 500,000 students.

The Alliance Française chapters offer also a variety of social and cultural events.

The Institut Français was started in 1907 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the French Government to promote the French cultural activities throughout the world. Since that date it created 143 institutions and cultural centers in many countries.

Through these organizations the Institut Français promotes artistic exchanges: performing arts, visual arts, architecture, the worldwide diffusion of French Books, films, technology and ideas. It also provides training for the newly formed missions and professionalization of staff of the French cultural network.

On January 15, 2019 a historical announcement was made, i.e the rapprochement between the Alliance Française and the Institut Français.

Though this rapprochement was evoked several times in the last few years, the process was never really started. However, it is now the case and the modalities might be officially announced at the end of March.

CONGRES DE LA CULTURE FRANCAISE

The annual Congrès de la Culture Française in Florida will take place in Orlando on March 7, 8 and 9. Dozens of educational institutions will participate. The Alliance Française of Greater Orlando will be represented by Bernard Loddé, its President. Mr. Loddé will also be a member of the jury that selects the winners of various activities: theater, speech, quiz, etc.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, March 10: Picnic(potluck)/pétanque, starting at 12:30 pm, at Mead Botanical Garden.
- Saturday, March 23: Movie night, starting at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner followed by the projection of "OSS 117", a French movie subtitled in English.

