

## Activities/Events Calendar

### Activities: description

**Cercle de conversation:** Informal gathering, at a member's home or apartment, that takes place once a month. It is reserved to Alliance members and their guests, but newcomers are welcome too. However, they need to get in touch with the "office" (832 1789) to let us know they would like to attend, and to get the information necessary. Some finger foods and drinks are provided by attendants and the host/ess. The goal is to speak, or try to speak, French. The attendees' levels in French vary from beginner to native, and the native or fluent speakers try to engage others in conversation, in order to help the ones who desire to practice and improve their French. Attendance varies, from a small group of a dozen to a large group of 25-30.

**Cinéclub:** We meet twice a month to watch a French movie (with subtitles). There are 2 cinéclub hosts, one in North-Raleigh who usually hosts on a Tuesday night, the other in Cary (close to the RBC center) who usually hosts on a Thursday night. Commentaries after the viewing are very welcome, as well as suggestions for further films. The attendance is often fairly limited from 4 to 10 in general.

### Fêtes conviviales, traditional celebrations:

Some of the larger gatherings are the celebrations of various holidays throughout the year:

In January la "**Fête des Rois**" (corresponding to Epiphany on Jan.6): we celebrate it on a Sunday afternoon and share the traditional "galettes" and those who find the "fève" are crowned king or queen. It's a family party, with songs and games.

In February or March: **Fête de la Chandeleur** (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>) often combined with **Mardi Gras**: usually a costume party, with crêpe making.

In June "**La fête de la Musique**" close to June 21<sup>st</sup> (in keeping with the French fête de la Musique that has become so popular in most of Europe, now), but we usually have it on a Sunday afternoon or Saturday night. Attendees are encouraged to bring a musical instrument, and we have sing-alongs and listen to individual or group performances.

La **Fête Nationale** on July 14<sup>th</sup>: It has often taken place at a local restaurant, but sometimes at a member's home. We decorate, have French music, dancing if the room allows, and of course at some point sing the Marseillaise all together (we provide the lyrics...)

Le **Festival International**. The 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in October the International Festival of Raleigh takes place, and our Alliance represents the French participation. We run a "café" where we sell crêpes and pastries (this is our biggest money making endeavor of the year) and have a cultural booth. We also participate in the music performance.

Lectures, concerts... The money the Alliance takes in at the Festival and from membership dues, allows us to offer, sponsor, or cosponsor cultural programs in the community.

La **Fête de Noël**: We end the year's activities with a semi formal large gathering at one of our member's home. Guests bring food and wine. Later in the evening, those who wish can join in a sing-along of traditional French Christmas carols.