ESC Strategic Review

It is the job of the ESC committee to provide the smooth running of the association on a day-to-day basis: to plan and run events, to produce and distribute the newsletter, to manage the finances etc – all of which absorbs much time and effort.

However we also need to keep an eye on the wider picture so as to ensure that the association continues to thrive in the future. For this reason we launched a sub-committee activity to take a more fundamental look at the way that we organise ourselves and at our aims and priorities. We call this the Strategic Review.

One outcome of this process is that we will, in the near future, send out a questionnaire to try to improve our understanding of what the members expect of the association. We encourage you all to participate in this – your feedback is essential.

Deadline for next copy issue: Sunday 4/11/2018
**Monthly Coffee morning: Thursday 18th October - 9h30 to 11h30**

Come and catch up with ESC members and visitors at our monthly coffee mornings at l’Escale! *(upcoming dates appear on front page).*

The Escale community centre *(L’Escale, centre socio-culturel de la Robertsau, 78 rue du Docteur François)* is our regular home and has good parking facilities whilst it is within a five-minute walk of bus routes 6, 15A and 30.

For further information, e-mail: **contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com**

**October coffee morning will display the upshot of the photo competition.**

At the following coffee morning (22nd November) we’ll present the craft fair.

Would you like to present your specific skill or hobby? Handmade cards, Christmas decorations, jewellery, cakes, jams or knitted items, give a demonstration of scrapbooking, drawing... the list is endless.

If you would like to display your crafts/art or give a demonstration, please contact Gaby Pfeiffer 03 88 69 47 60 - **gaby.philipps-pfeiffer@wanadoo.fr**

**Monthly after-work apéro: Friday, 23rd November - 18h30**

Our next monthly after-work apéro will take place at: **bar-restaurant Mandala, 14 rue du Faubourg de Saverne** on Friday, 23rd November from 6.30pm onwards.

The usual formula: everybody pays for his/her drinks and the ESC offers the appetizers. No need to register.

**Film club: Let’s see movies in English!**

From now on the film club will meet monthly on Sunday afternoons/evenings. The times will be confirmed by email the previous Wednesday, once the film is actually on screen. Each viewing is followed by a debate around a drink. For questions, suggestions and reservations, contact Malika at **esc.film.club@gmail.com**

**Week of the 7th November: “The Bookshop”** [click here to watch the trailer](#)
**Conversation groups**

Dear members, I have good news, we can finally organise a Spanish speaking group! It will take place once a month on a Wednesday from 2 to 4pm in the Tea Room «Patrick» situated 5 rue de Verdun, Strasbourg. I would like to know who would be interested; so call me (03 88 20 21 17) or send an e-mail to contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you in advance, **Colette Jandrok**

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**English Conversation**

chez Frederick & Maryline William-Smith
7 rue des Ducs, Vieux-Cronenbourg, Strasbourg
(trams A/D station Ducs d’Alsace)
on alternative Fridays from 2 to 4pm
contact: Nigel
nigelpermaul@gmail.com
Phone 06 75 63 89 98

**French Conversation**

The group meets twice a month, on Thursdays from 2 to 4 pm,
for details of the next meeting, contact: Colette Jandrok
contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
Phone 03 88 20 21 17

**German Conversation**

The group meets fortnightly, on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm, in Café Rapp, Haupstr. 104, Kehl.

Contact: Bernard Greiner
bernard.greiner@numericable.fr
Phone 03 88 66 32 06

**Spanish Conversation**

Colette is trying to organise a new Spanish conversation group.
If you are interested, please get in touch with her: Colette Jandrok on 03 88 20 21 17 or contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com

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*September meeting of the English conversation group*
Bonfire Night is an event to celebrate the anniversary of a famous event in British history dating back to the Gunpowder plot of 1606. Guy Fawkes, the most famous traitor in British history, tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I. The anniversary of his arrest is celebrated each year with bonfires and fireworks.

An effigy of Guy Fawkes is burned on top of the bonfire.

This year we will be celebrating bonfire night on Saturday the 17th November. Claire and Roger Massie have, once again, very kindly invited us to use their garden for our traditional celebrations. The address is 23 rue de Hangenbieten, 67120 Kolbsheim: take the airport turning from the A35 (D400-D221 to Hangenbieten then to Kolbsheim).

The bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm prompt with the fireworks following at around 7pm. The fee is €5 per adult and €2 per child (aged 3-18 years).

Warming soup and mulled wine should help keep out the chill. Remember to wrap up warm, and bring a mug for your soup and a torch if you have one.

We are looking for volunteers to make soup (free entrance for soup makers - but not their extended families!).

Most importantly we also need your scrap wood for the bonfire! So please get in touch to arrange collection or delivery.

To sign-up please get in touch with Mike Wraith (mike.wraith@wanadoo.fr).

Payment in advance please as it is no fun collecting money in the dark! Cheques should be made payable to ESC and sent to Mike Wraith 7 rue Lovisa, Strasbourg 67000.

Trying to organise Saturday lunches out with ESC members

Last year, I had assumed people might be more interested in brunches, but, obviously, it doesn’t seem to make a difference and, anyway, when restaurants propose brunches, it’s always on a Sunday & usually pretty expensive. Hence the title of my present article.

After a successful first “session” at Pâtisserie Gerber on Sat. February 24th, I had felt pretty disappointed not to get any answers for my following proposals, except on Thursday, May 17th, after Coffee-Morning, when about 10 members had wished to join for lunch at Brasserie “AU TIVOLI” (opposite Robertsau Post Office).

Unfortunately, although quite cheap, the experience hadn’t been really satisfying : it was market day & the place was overcrowded ; the waitress wasn’t very patient and not everyone had enjoyed the food... Which is why I had decided not to renew the experience. (Anyone interested, though, might reserve on their own at AU TIVOLI - tel 03.88.31.17.49)

(...)
Eventually, what I propose to do for the coming year will be to choose the last Saturday of each month (December excepted) as a possible day for an ESC (+ friends) lunch, on condition that at least 4 people should be interested & let me know 4 days beforehand (deadline: Wednesday!), so that I might reserve properly.

The first meeting would take place at Pâtisserie Gerber (opposite Clinique de l’Orangerie), on Saturday, October 28th, at 12:30.

People attending then would be asked to suggest other pleasant venues...

Thus, I hope more people will try & participate occasionally. I’m also very grateful to Nigel who has kindly offered to send everyone a reminder of this event, at the end of every month!

Danielle Gay-Minck 03.88.31.11.95 / danielle.gay.minck@orange.fr

Burns supper: Saturday 26th January 2019 - 19h00

Yes it’s time again to get organised for the 2019 Burns supper and Ceilidh which will take place as usual in l’Espace Culturel, rue du Cimetière, 67850 OFFENDORF at 19h00 on Saturday, 26th January.

Scots and friends all over the world gather at the end of January to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns (1759-1796) with food, music, poetry, song and a cup o’kindness, for Auld Lang Syne. Some have been known to have more than one cup o’kindness. In our version you will be regaled by pipers from Strasbourg Highland Dragoons Pipe Band, see demonstration dances from Strasbourg Scottish Country Dancers and witness the famous “Address to a Haggis” ceremony before getting the chance to try some ceilidh dancing yourselves – in 2019, for the first time ever, we will have live music provided by three top-notch musicians – Carly Blain, Claire Campbell and Darragh Quinn. Those of you who have danced to a live ceilidh band will know that this is a special and unforgettable experience not to be missed. For those who have not danced before or can’t remember the dances from one year to the next, Sheila Roberts will be on hand as usual to do the calling.

It’s expected to be a sell-out event again: members only can book their place now at the price of 35€. Don’t delay, as places can be booked by non-members as from 11th December 2018 (and members not taking advantage of the early bird discount) at 40€. To book your place, please post a cheque, payable to ESC to: Maggie Vautheny, 9 rue du Lion - 67800 Hoenheim. Your place will be guaranteed on receipt of the cheque, but it won’t be cashed until January.
As usual, the advance purchase price of 35€ includes the traditional 3-course meal, wine on the table and a wee dram (of whisky) for the toasts. Please specify at the time of ordering your tickets whether any guests require vegetarian haggis. A cash bar will be available for top ups.

Please note that the Burns Supper is an event for over 16s only. This is one of those rare child-free evenings and so no-one under 16, including babies and small children, will be admitted. (Sorry!)

Please call Maggie or email to maggie.vautheny@gmail.com to check availability or if you need more information.

**Strasbourg Write a Story 2019!**

The ESC is pleased to announce that it will support the English-language short story competition Strasbourg Write a Story for a sixth year this coming winter. **The competition will open on 1 December and will take story entries until Friday 15 February 2019 at midnight.** After a period to allow for judging and the production of a book of the winning 20 short stories, there will be an award ceremony on Sat. 27 April 2019.

The competition organisers are pleased to announce a series of workshops which are free to the general public thanks to the generous sponsorship of the American embassy.

The planned workshop schedule includes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Leader</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 October</td>
<td>Hal D’Arpini</td>
<td>American Library Karlsruhe</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>Denise Donnio</td>
<td>MDAS- Maison des Associations</td>
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<td>1 December</td>
<td>Julia Weston</td>
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<td>12 January</td>
<td>Mark SaFranco</td>
<td>MDAS- Maison des Associations</td>
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<td>19 January</td>
<td>Hal D’Arpini</td>
<td>Carl Schurz Haus Freiburg</td>
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<td>27 April</td>
<td>Michael Wright</td>
<td>ARES Strasbourg</td>
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Sign up on the website at the following address: [http://www.sxb-write-a-story.org/workshops/](http://www.sxb-write-a-story.org/workshops/)

Free the writer within!
**Rentrée des Associations 2018**

As usual, the ESC was prominent at the annual ‘Rentrée des associations’ fair in the Parc de la Citadelle in September. The colourful stall, staffed by a succession of volunteers, was set off beautifully by a large vase of (English speaking) flowers from Gaby Pfeiffer’s garden.

We were kept busy handing out flyers and answering questions, and a substantial number of contacts were made with people keen to receive further information about the association. Nigel Permaul has already sent out details to all of these people and we look forward to a healthy crop of new members.

The only disappointment was that, following a storm warning, the authorities prudently decided to close the fair early on the Sunday afternoon, but we were satisfied enough with the progress we had made.

*Mike Wraith*

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**Walking on the Batsberg**

A small group of us joined Monique on the Bastberg Hill above Bouxwiller for a pleasant Sunday walk at the end of September. It is a walk to be recommended not only for its sweeping views which accompany you right the way round but also for its geological interest. We walked partly on the geological trail which gives good explanations on the formation of fossiliferous, limestone deposits under the Bouxwiller lake which covered the area following the Rhine rift.

The hill has poetic associations too, inspiring Marie Hart, an Alsatian writer from Bouxwiller, and even Goethe who came to stay in Bouxwiller in 1770. A magnificent lime tree known as Goethe’s tree overlooks the valley and surrounding hills. Oh and don’t miss the chortens! They are Buddhist shrines, all different shapes and sizes but made of dry-stone from the area.

There are legends too of witches up on the top of the hill where an enormous wooden cross can be seen from miles around. It was here that we had our picnic in a club Vosgien shelter which kept us cosily out of the wind. Suddenly there were warning messages of an approaching hurricane...
being sent to us. Had we better rush down the hill and return to the safety of our homes? Well, no I don’t think so! The wonderful sharpness of the landscape around us, the jolly chat and Michèle’s lovely hot coffee were much more enticing. Then of course Monique had lots to show us in the old town of Bouxwiller including the magnificent lycée where she taught for many years.

So if you’re passing that way on a nice day, both the town and the Bastberg hill are not to be missed.

Polly Stotz

Book club's monthly reading: "The Human Stain" by Philip Roth

This is the story of Coleman Silk as told by his neighbour Nathan Zuckerman who is a writer and probably the author’s alter-ego. The novel is set in late 1990s rural New England, during the period of president Bill Clinton’s impeachment hearings and scandal with Monica Lewinsky.

72 year-old Coleman Silk is a former professor and dean of faculty at nearby Athena college. Two years before he had used the word « spooks » to describe two absentee students. The students in question being African American, Silk found himself accused of racism despite having never seen or met them. The uproar among the students and his colleagues was such that he was forced to resign. Shortly after, his wife died of a stroke and he believes the scandal killed her.

The novel begins when Coleman Silk tells Nathan Zuckerman of his affair with Faunia Farley, a 34 year-old illiterate woman working at the college as a janitor. This affair is the cause of criticism by his former colleagues who think he is taking advantage of her. It also maddens Lee Farley, Faunia’s ex-husband, a Vietnam vet unstable and violent.

It is slowly revealed that Silk himself is an African American passing as a Jew (he is light skinned) since you needed to be white to join the Navy in the 50s. He never told anybody, even his wife and children. He couldn’t reveal his most important secret, even to defend his career.

The book explores issues in American society that force a man such as Silk to hide his background to the point of not having a story to share with his family, he, an eminent, upstanding man, esteemed as an educator for nearly all his life until his disgrace and tragic downfall.

It’s a tale of race, shame, ageing and violence.

I read this book not long after it was first published (2000) and, if I couldn’t remember the details, I could remember the strong impression it made on me. The death of Philip Roth in May of this year was a good opportunity for a new reading, the book providing a lot of themes to discuss.

It was the first Book Club meeting since the summer break. There were only seven of us but we had a lively and interesting discussion.

Miren Abdeldjebar
In January 2019, Strasbourg’s multi-national amateur theatre will be performing an original play for our times called Alice in Brexitland. It is a commentary on the strange language and thinking behind the departure of Britain from the EU, cloaked in one of Britain’s favourite fantasies, Alice in Wonderland. Your editor thought it would be interesting to hear about the building bricks that create a performance, from the original conception to treading the boards and so, this month we bring you the further insight, from Tagora’s musical director.

Alice in Brexitland

to be performed at the Cube Noir, Koenigshoffen from 31 January to 5 February 2019

The Alice diary: the musical director's tale

Some aspects of theatre are more technical than others, and one of those is music. Most people can sing, including many who think they can't. Certainly some people like singing and sing more than others; that means they tend to have developed their vocal range more and know more about it. Some can read music.

It's slightly different with players of instruments: people tend not to play an instrument when in the shower or at the wheel - although many guitarists are known to "noodle" while watching television.

Tagora likes working with live music and Alice is a musical show so there will be quite a lot of it. As musical director, I have been working with the writing team and the director for many months choosing and arranging songs to be "borrowed" (all rights duly paid, of course) as well as composing original music.

The ensemble is based around The Other Guys, the rock band I've been privileged to play in for a few years, but is augmented by a number of guest players, complemented by the non-rock skills of the band members. The range of music is eclectic to say the least, but does involve at least one loud, original rock song.

The arrangement and composition have been centred around the strengths of the company, the singers and the players. Some cast members know quite a lot of the songs already and have been practising them since before the Summer holiday. But now there are some heavy rehearsals ahead: everyone needs to be excellent by 31 January.

So when you come to see Alice - as we truly hope you will - and you see me dressed in black waving my arms about, think of the months of work that have gone into the music, and enjoy it. We will have spared no effort to ensure that you do.

Simon Palmer

For more information have a look at www.tagora.eu
Interested in traditional Irish or Scottish music? Ever wanted to learn how to play a jig, a reel or a strathspey?

Darragh Quinn, an Irish fiddle player and music teacher, recently relocated to Strasbourg, is offering private lessons in Irish and Scottish traditional music.

An experienced touring musician, Darragh has performed in over a dozen countries across Europe, with groups such as Ethno Caravan and Holiday Club. Whether you’re an experienced player or a complete beginner Darragh’s relaxed and supportive teaching style will help you reach the next level. Open to all ages and abilities.

Petsitter wanted
Hello ESC-Members, my name is GRACY, I am 8 years old and very pretty.

All my vaccinations are up to date. My mum (Malika Radünz, the ESC Board member who currently runs the film club) needs to go to Berlin for 10 days in December (from 16 to 26/12).

We are looking for a nice petsitter during that time.

I love piano music, Aromatherapy, sleep of course and endless caresses...

If you’d like to meet me first, please contact:
raduenz14@yahoo.com
or 06 68 98 93 99
ENGLISH LESSONS

Jean Langley, an experienced English teacher, gives private lessons to English and non-English speakers at both primary and secondary levels. Spelling, phonics, reading and writing work for English-speakers - revision of grammar plus oral work for non-English speakers. For younger children Jean’s lessons include games and other activities to help build vocabulary and oral skills. Jean lives at the Esplanade which is in easy reach of both the European and international schools and easily accessible by tram.

You can contact her at 03:88:31:33:79 or write to her at langleyjean@aol.com

Wedding bells? Let us commit your special day to video

Strasbourg-based audiovisual production company DM Design & Media can provide a tailor-made service to match your needs.

With our modern, high-spec digital cameras and sound recorders we are well-equipped to provide a lasting souvenir of your memorable occasion. Our post-production service is of the same quality, using powerful computers and the latest industry-standard software to assemble several hours of raw video into a coherent presentation in the style that suits you – traditional, artistic, documentary: the choice is yours.

Our two-person bilingual team guarantees to capture all the highlights, edit the results and provide them in the format you prefer: DVD, Blu-Ray or in HDTV format on a USB stick.

To find out more about this and the wide range of other services we offer, check our website: www.dmdesignmedia.com

Newsletter Publication

We’ll publish your announcements/advertisements each month, space permitting and limited to 100 words. Advertisements will be repeated twice only and please let the Editor know by the first of the month if you need your ad repeated. This service is free to ESC Members, non-members €40, which should be included with submission. Items for publication should be in English.

Please forward items by e-mail to Catherine Manini at esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com

The next newsletters will be issued at the following dates:
19/11 - 17/12 - 21/01 - 25/02 - 18/03 - 23/4 - 20/05 - 17/06

Deadline for next copy: Sunday 4/11/2018

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esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
esc.film.club@gmail.com
How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying is the Tony Award winning musical based on the best-selling book of the same name. The story concerns an ambitious young man, who, with the help of an advice book, rises from window washer to chairman of the board of a big New York corporation.

Set in the mid-century office world popularized by Mad Men, How To Succeed… boasts a jazzy musical score by Frank Loesser and witty dialogue by theater icon Abe Burrows. It is also one of only nine musicals to ever win the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

Full of catchy songs, energetic dances and funny characters, How To Succeed… promises to be a great time at the theater for audiences of all ages.

From the same artistic team that brought you the sold-out shows of Anything Goes Jr, Fame Jr, Beauty and the Beast Jr., Seussical Jr. and Annie Jr., How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying opens on Saturday, November 17th.

WHEN:
• Saturday November 17th at 20h
• Sunday November 18th at 15h
• Friday November 23rd at 20h
• Saturday 24th at 20h
• Sunday November 25th at 15h

WHERE:
• Le Point d’Eau, 17 Allée René Cassin, 67540 Ostwald

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
• Tickets are available online at: yatstrasbourg.com
• Any remaining tickets will be available at the theater box office prior to each performance.

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE IN ENGLISH.

Young Actors Theater Strasbourg is a non-profit association. Its mission is to involve English-speaking young people in the rich tradition of American theater and to promote English speaking theater culture in the Strasbourg