

What's Up?

The English-Speaking Community Newsletter



Rentrée, or Back to Business

What a great word is "*la Rentrée*". It's a shame there is no equivalent in English, known however to be more laconic, concise and straight to the point than French! *Rentrée scolaire*, or just *Rentrée*: start of the school year; *Rentrée littéraire*: new publishing season; *Rentrée parlementaire*: new parliamentary session.

We, at the English-Speaking Community, did our *Rentrée* as well - using it often can get annoying, doesn't it? September was a very busy month and for committee members, the preparation of our events haunted most of August as well. The much-loved barbecue made its come-back on Sunday 12th, followed by the *Village des Assos* the following weekend on 18th & 19th, which was followed by the quiz night on Saturday 25th. Not to mention coffee morning, book club and conversation groups.

At the *Village des Assos*, 250 associations did their *Rentrée* alongside us, and although Covid rules were still in place, they were softer than last year considering that all participants had to show the Pass Sanitaire. It was a beautiful weekend, mostly sunny and dry, and I personally enjoyed chatting with some stallholders about preserving nature and animal well-being.

Thank you to all the volunteers who promoted the ESC at this annual event and put their time, skills and energy to show how fantastic we are... Ok, perhaps not yet but trying and willing for sure!

Wishing you all a great *Rentrée*!

Joëlle Glore, President

October 2021 - Inside this issue

- 2 • Conversation groups
- 4 • Autumn walk to Ramsthal and grotte Saint Vit
- 5 • Looking back at a September BBQ

ESC contacts

contact.esc.alsace@gmail.com
esc.newsletter.67@gmail.com
esc.events.67@gmail.com



Village des Associations 2021



Conversation groups

The organisation of each group is specific.
Please get the details of the dates and locations of the next meetings directly from the group leaders listed below:



English conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Nigel at nigelpermaul@gmail.com - 06 75 63 89 98

French conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Colette at fredericka06@yahoo.fr - 03 88 20 21 17

Spanish conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Maria at mtremoureux@esc-alsace.org

German conversation group

If you are interested in joining, please contact Bronwyn at bharrowfield@esc-alsace.org - 06 85 33 11 24

Upcoming events

Monthly coffee morning at l'Escale

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER: 9.30 - 11.30 am

Come and visit our free coffee morning at the Escale community centre (78 rue du Docteur François, la Robertsau - tram E). As usual you can drop by anytime from 9.30 to 11.30. Coffee, tea and cakes will be waiting for you.

A selection of books will be on display. We have some new ones, so surely you will find something you want to take home.

Following government guidelines, we will be checking your Pass Sanitaire.

The next meeting dates are: 18/11, 16/12, 13/01, 3/02, 3/03, 7/04, 12/05, 16/06.

For further details, contact Maggie at mvautheny@esc-alsace.org.



Visit to the exhibition Christo and Jeanne-Claude at Musée Würth

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER: starting at 10.00 am

On 9 October, at 10.00am we will be visiting the lovely Musée Würth in Erstein, to visit a retrospective of the works of Christo and Jeanne-Claude. We will be guided by Rosalie Humler, well known to the ESC.

Please sign-up on HelloAsso here: [Christo Ticket Link](#) (8€ members, 10€ non-members). Pass Sanitaire required.

You are welcome to have a snack at the museum cafeteria immediately following the visit.

Car pooling can be arranged. For further details, please contact Christine Secouet at ckeget@club-internet.fr.

The wrapping of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the artwork Christo and Jeanne-Claude had been dreaming about since 1961, was set up by Christo's team after his death in 2020.

Some of our members were lucky to be able to pay a visit to the monument, in its enhancing shiny outfit, made of the same fabric used for the iconic wrapping of the Reichstag in Berlin in 1995. A view that does change your perspectives!

I was there and glad I could make it, for real at last. As for all of the artists' previous displays, this one could only be seen during a fortnight, from 18th September to 3rd October. The curtain has finally come down on a lifetime artistic adventure.

Catherine Manini (photo by Gilbert Meyer - 30.09.2021)



More info on: <https://christojeanneclaude.net>

With special thanks to Giulia Podavini, one of the 350 monitors present to advise the visitors on the project.

Autumn walk at Grotte Saint-Vit near Saverne

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER - 10.30 am

Join us on our circular walk at Ramsthal fishing lake. We will walk up the valley through beech and conifer trees climbing to the rocky outcrops of Breithkopf and Kappenfels where there are great views of Haut-Barr Castle. We'll then loop around to the 16th century 'Grotte Saint Vit' with its chapel and garden before making our way back down under the ruins of Greiffenstein castle.

Departure time: 10.30am.

Meeting place: Car park at l'Etang de Ramsthal.

Walking details: Around 12 km (3 to 4 hours walking time) ; Gradient: Approximately 300m ;
A few quite steep ascents. Bring a picnic lunch and something waterproof to sit on.

Directions: From Saverne, take the D132 to Lutzelbourg. After 2km, turn right down a gravelled track (signposted Etang de Ramsthal, Greiffenstein). Cross the railway line and turn right again. Parking area on your right by the lake.

Contact: Polly at polly.stotz@gmail.com / 03 88 07 04 93 - 06 72 71 90 41 by Saturday 16th October.
Post walk refreshments chez Zimmerman (*salon de thé* in Saverne) for those who have time.



Save the date! for a guided tour in Schiltigheim

13 NOVEMBER 2021, at 10.30am

On 13/11/2021, at 10.30am, Fabienne will lead us for an heritage and historical walk in Schiltigheim. The tour will be happily completed with an *apéro* and/or small lunch in a cosy place in Schilik!"

Watch out for full details in the next newsletter and an invitation to sign-up by email.

ESC Rentrée BBQ

A pandemic upends many well-worn routines – not least the ESC barbecue, rearranged to September from its habitual June slot. Would people come with their *passes sanitaires*? Would the weather be kind? Had we forgotten how to do this?

The organising group swept aside such doubts and plunged into action. We were rewarded by a glorious September Sunday and by a turnout of nearly seventy members and guests determined to enjoy themselves.

The revellers were entertained by the musical accompaniment of the Chantal Stewart group and were generally delighted to find the freedom to chat, in person.

Our thanks go to the team of dedicated helpers who, with minimum fuss, set up, ran, and closed down the event so efficiently.

Mike Wraith, for the committee.



Sunday, 12th September was a beautiful warm sunny day, the kind of day in mid-September when you are so glad you live in Alsace! I had spent the morning on the phone with family back in Ireland who were already bemoaning the change in the weather and the turn to autumn in the geographic British Isles. I think I probably didn't mention the day ahead we were planning and the fun afternoon in the sunny outdoors that lay ahead of us!

A large group of ESC members gathered in the gardens of L'Escale for the first time in over two years. Arriving around noon in time for an apéro, we wiled away the afternoon in the sunshine to the gentle jazz sounds from the band, chatting to friends old and new. Members brought a huge variety of delicious salads to accompany the BBQ sausages and meats laid on by the ESC organising committee. After lunch there was a fabulous array of desserts, to be washed down by a coffee and lots of room to spread out in the open air and lively conversations to be had with many people.



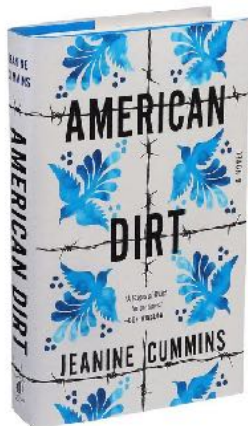
After the isolation wrought by the pandemic restrictions, it was like a breath of fresh air to be together again and a lovely slice of normality to just sit across a table and break bread with others as people have done for millennia.

So much work and preparation goes on behind the scenes so that members can relax and enjoy themselves, so wishing many, many thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who make this all possible. And well done to Joëlle on her first barbecue as ESC President, you made us all feel very welcome. Thanks!

Ann Lynch

Book club review

“American Dirt” by Jeanine Cummins



“This path is only for people who have no choice, no other option, only violence and misery behind you,” a priest warns early on in Lydia and Luca’s journey.”

Nine of us met for this month’s book discussion on my terrace on Monday 13th September.

Lydia Quixano Pérez, a bookshop owner in Acapulco, finds herself increasingly attracted to Javier, her favourite customer who shares her taste in books. Lydia’s husband, Sebastián, is an investigative journalist, working to unmask “The Owl”, the leader of a new narcotics cartel whose grab for power has left the city ravaged and fearful.

When the novel opens, Lydia’s entire family have just been murdered, as a consequence of Sebastián’s exposé. With the exception of herself and her 8-year-old son, Luca.

Action-packed and suspenseful, American Dirt tells the story of Lydia’s flight from “The Owl”, who from start to finish turns out to be

closer than Lydia could have imagined. Instantly transformed into migrants, Lydia and Luca ride *la bestia* - trains that make their way north toward the United States.

“This path is only for people who have no choice, no other option, only violence and misery behind you,” a priest warns early on in Lydia and Luca’s journey.

Despite reviews criticising the author for venturing into a world she had not experienced, and accusations of stereotyping, all 9 members agreed they had been drawn into a fascinating world that they had known little about.

Sue Norman-Fleck

Interested in joining the book club? Contact Joëlle at bookclub@esc-alsace.org



Jeanine Cummins is an American author who has written four books: a memoir entitled *A Rip in Heaven* and three novels, *The Outside Boy*, *The Crooked Branch*, and *American Dirt*. She lives in New York with her husband and two children.

The next book for discussion is:

“Lost City Radio” by Daniel Alarcon, on 8th November

“On Chapel Sands” by Laura Cumming, on 13th December

Your ESC Committee



Joëlle Glore
President



Maggie Vautheny
Vice-President



Mike Wraith
Treasurer



Jonathan Crow
Secretary/Digital Strategist



Catherine Manini
Newsletter Editor



Fabienne Martin
Events Coordinator



Véronique Heller-Clauss
Communication/Strategy
Coordinator

ESC Membership / Registration 2021: [link to Register with the ESC-Alsace](#)

Feel free to contact the treasurer at membership@esc-alsace.org. Full details on our website (click on Join Us).

Newsletter Publication

We'll publish your announcements/advertisements each month, space permitting. Advertisements will be repeated twice only and please let the Editor know if you need your ad repeated.

This service is free to ESC Members, €40 for non-members and businesses, which should be included with submission. Items for publication should be in English.

Please forward items by e-mail to Catherine Manini at newsletter@esc-alsace.org. We plan to issue the next newsletters on the first Monday of the month (please excuse possible organisational delays).

Deadline for next copy is Sunday 31/10/2021 - 6 pm (guidelines can be sent upon request)

Thanks to Terence Boyle for the Cover picture