

*WCU French Newsletter*

# *Bulletin Français*

Volume 1 | Issue 2 | January

## *Bonne Année!*

**Joyeux Noël et bonne année, les Francophiles!**



Not taking French? Pourquoi pas? The number of French students at WCU is growing fast, so if you think French would be something that you would be interested in, email Professor Malissen at [fjmalissen@email.wcu.edu](mailto:fjmalissen@email.wcu.edu).

### **WCU French Announcements:**

- **Upcoming French language courses!**

If you are interested in the French language, culture, or food & wine, consider a Spring 5-week conversational French language course! Contact Dr. Malissen at [fjmalissen@wcu.edu](mailto:fjmalissen@wcu.edu) for the details.

- **New French tutors!**

- Catherine Walker | Contact: [Cjwalker5@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:Cjwalker5@catamount.wcu.edu)
- Brie Reidel | Contact: [bmreidel1@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:bmreidel1@catamount.wcu.edu)
- Sarah Martinko | Contact: [smmartinko1@catamount.wcu.edu](mailto:smmartinko1@catamount.wcu.edu)

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- **Poetry Event!**

Come share your love for poetry and languages at our 2018 World Languages Poetry Event on February 15 at 7-9PM ! If you are interested in reading a poem in a language that you are learning, contact Garrett Fisher at [gdfisher@wcu.edu](mailto:gdfisher@wcu.edu) before January 31, 2018 with:

1. Your name
2. The title/author of the poem you will share.
3. The electronic version to display on the screen.
4. The language of the poem.

You do not have to read a poem to participate in the event. Please come dressed in black, white, and red to support the Valentine's Day theme.

This event is sponsored by the WCU Department of World Languages.

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### **Did you know?**

- *Le Reveillon* is a post midnight mass supper feast
- Children put their shoes out for Pere Noel to fill
- 13 desserts (for Christ and 12 apostles) are put out
- Christmas celebrations start on December 6th, which is Saint Nicholas Day
- It's a tradition to on New Years Eve to kiss at midnight under mistletoe
- The official end to the winter holiday season is January 6th

### **Vocab Lesson**

- Un feu d'artifice = fireworks
- Bonne Année = Happy New Years!
- Un baiser, un bisou = a kiss
- Minuit = midnight
- Du gui = mistletoe
- Les huitres = oysters
- Une bonne résolution= New Year's resolution

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## Bonne Année

By Foster Dalmas



New Years may have ended for us, but in France they're still saying Happy New Year's, or Bonne Année, to each other. They stop saying Bonne Année around the start of February. New Years Day in France is a big holiday, even bigger than in the United States. New Years Day is often called 'La Saint-Sylvestre' in France, as the country is predominantly Catholic and this day is for celebrating the saint Pope Sylvester The First.

On December 31st people throw huge parties in France, such as costume parties or theme parties, and spend the night dancing away. Some cities even throw large balls. New Year's is celebrated with your friends more than your family in France. There are similar traditions to our New Year's celebration, like shooting fireworks or using noisemakers. It's tradition to kiss someone on the stroke of midnight, but you kiss them under mistletoe in France.

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## Looking Back on the Holidays:

### Christmas in France

#### Interview of Professor Axelle Faughn

By Catherine Walker

#### **What are some differences and similarities between American Christmas, and French? What are some French traditions?**

France's main religion is Catholic, so there is a big emphasis on the role of Mary in the birth of Christ. The nativity scene is definitely a big tradition in most households, either by the fireplace or under the tree. So is the advent calendar, candles, and the subsequent epiphany. We celebrate Kings day on January 6<sup>th</sup> by eating marzipan-filled puff pastries. Christmas Carols are very similar, but on Christmas eve the French tend to have a huge family dinner (kind of like Thanksgiving here) with turkey, and what we call a Christmas log for a traditional dessert, which is a rolled cake with frosting on it making it look like a log. Christmas morning is usually spent opening presents similar to here.

#### **Is the story about Santa the same in both countries?**

Yes, I am pretty convinced I saw Santa flying across the sky with his reindeers when I was about 3 yo and looked out at the window of my elementary school.

#### **Do all of the stores close in France on Christmas?**

Yes, Christmas is a day spent with family. Most people might go for a leisure hike in the afternoon.

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## Dîner de Noël

By Brie Reidel



Most families have traditional holiday meals. Mom fills the house with Coconut Balls, spritz cookies, and peanut butter drops, Grandma has a special recipe for apple pie, and dad somehow always knows how to cook the ham or turkey just right to not dry it out. Well, America is not alone! France has many traditional holiday meals as well. Appetizers, main meals, and desserts; France has an abundance of unique holiday treats. For a short snack, amuse bouche – a small puff pastry filled with food such as ham, cheese, or snails – is a famous and easy dish.

The main meal commonly consists of a turkey or pheasant stuffed with ginger and surrounded by mushrooms. And, possibly the most festive portion of the whole ensemble, dessert is usually a Bûche de Noël. Known also as a Yule Log, the Bûche de Noël is a large swiss roll covered in frosting and decorated to look like a festive log. Traditions are comforting and encompass the holiday spirit, but, with all the possibilities, will you try something new?

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