

The Alliance Française de San Diego Welcomes Three French-Speaking Writers for a Special Literary Event

The [Alliance Française de San Diego](#), a hub of Francophone culture in the region, is proud to host an exciting literary event featuring three distinguished French-speaking authors who call San Diego home. On Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the organization's headquarters will come alive with stories, discussions, and a celebration of shared cultural heritage.

A Trio of Global Citizens

The event will spotlight the works of Vanina Joulin-Batejat, Claude Koehl, and Kitty Morse, whose diverse backgrounds and literary styles promise a rich and engaging experience for attendees.

- **Vanina Joulin-Batejat** brings her expertise as an international consultant and Executive Coach to her first novel "A la Recherche du Sens Perdu", blending personal experiences and her experiences in intercultural business development with her passion for storytelling. Vanina explores universal themes with great sensitivity, while offering a hard-hitting reflection on the human condition and contemporary challenges. Through these interwoven narratives, the novel offers a veritable autopsy of our societies, questioning notions of resilience, identity and the quest for meaning. Her work reflects her deep understanding of human connections and cultural dynamics.

- **Claude Koehl**, a trailblazer in intercultural communication, will discuss her book *The American Way of Life: The Foreigners' Perspective*. Drawing on over 20 years of experience, Claude founded Intercultural Services in 1994 to enhance cross-cultural leadership and communication skills, aiding global employees in navigating cultural differences and adapting to new environments. Her book reflects her personal journey and professional insights, offering a unique perspective on life in a new country. With a Master's in Social Psychology and degrees in Teaching, Health Promotion, and Organizational Development, Claude is fluent in English, French, German, and Italian, and continues to perfect her Spanish.

- **Kitty Morse**, an award-winning author born in Casablanca, Morocco, intertwines personal history and culinary heritage in *Bitter Sweet: A Wartime Journal and Heirloom Recipes from Occupied France*. Inspired by family documents discovered after her mother's passing in 2017, the memoir delves into her great-grandfather's journal detailing the German advance in Le Grand Est (Alsace/Lorraine) in 1940, and her great-grandmother's notebooks containing 65 heirloom recipes. The story unfolds in Nancy and Châlons-en-Champagne, blending the cuisine bourgeoise of her Ashkenazi ancestors with poignant family history. Kitty's maternal great-grandmother, Blanche Lévy-Neymarck, perished in Auschwitz, leaving a legacy of resilience, memory, and culinary artistry.

An Afternoon of Culture and Conversation

The event will begin with a discussion with the authors animated by Daria Samokhina, book club coordinator of the Alliance Française San Diego, offering insights into their creative processes and the life experiences that have shaped their writing. A question-and-answer session will follow, providing the audience an opportunity to engage with the authors on a deeper level. To conclude, attendees can meet the authors during a book signing session, adding a personal touch to the experience.

Celebrating Francophone Heritage

The Alliance Française de San Diego has long been a hub for fostering cultural exchange and promoting Francophone traditions. Founded in 1927, the organization is part of a global network of over 832 affiliates dedicated to teaching French and celebrating the richness of French-speaking cultures. Events like this literary gathering embody its mission to build bridges across cultures through shared language and art.

Event Details

 Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

 Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

 Location: Alliance Française de San Diego

 Registration: Visit www.afsandiego.org

About the Authors

About Vanina Joulin-Batejat

Vanina, a bilingual French-American with nearly 20 years in the U.S., has built a career as an international consultant and Executive Coach, specializing in intercultural training and business development between France and the U.S. With over 20 years of leadership experience, she has managed complex projects like mergers and acquisitions and supported small business expansions in France and Canada.

Since 2023, Vanina has shifted her focus to writing, producing professional books, short stories, and semi-fictional novels. She also serves as the West Coast Ambassador for “Rencontre des Auteurs Francophones”, promoting Francophone culture and art while contributing to its publishing efforts.

Claude Koehl, an expert in intercultural communication, has spent over 20 years helping global employees navigate cultural differences. In 1994, she founded Intercultural Services to enhance cross-cultural leadership and communication skills, supporting diverse workforces in onboarding, development, and retention. Her book, *The American Way of Life: The Foreigners' Perspective*, reflects her cultural journey and insights gained from assisting others in adapting to

new cultures. Claude holds a Master's in Social Psychology and additional degrees in Teaching, Health Promotion, and Organizational Development. Fluent in multiple languages, including English, French, German, and Italian, she continues to refine her Spanish.

<https://www.foreignersperspective.com/>

About Kitty Morse

Kitty Morse, an award-winning author born in Casablanca, Morocco, to a French mother and British father, emigrated to the U.S. at 17. While earning her Master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she began catering Moroccan banquets and teaching Moroccan cuisine across the country. In 2002, she presented a Culinary Concert on Moroccan culture and cuisine with Julia Child. Her books have been translated into multiple languages, and for 25 years, she led gastronomic tours to Morocco, featuring culinary demonstrations at her family's Moorish riad near Casablanca. Kitty also publishes *The Kasbah Chronicles*, a bilingual newsletter in its 12th year, and serves on the board of LIFE, a non-profit at Mira Costa College in California.

<https://kittymorse.com/>

About the Alliance Française de San Diego

Founded in 1927, the Alliance Française de San Diego is part of a global network dedicated to teaching French and promoting Francophone cultures. With over 832 affiliates worldwide, the Alliance Française fosters cross-cultural connections through language and cultural programs.

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