

BASTILLE DAY 2017



In July of 1789, the people of Paris stormed the infamous Bastille prison, symbol of political oppression. Now, 228 years later, July 14 is not only the French national *fête*, it is also a day exuberantly commemorated all around the world in the name of liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it is a day to celebrate the power of citizens to shape their systems of government.

Last year, in 2016, Bastille Day in France was marked by horror in Nice, when a terrorist attack killed 86 people and injured over 400. That despicable act reminds us – if we need reminding – that the struggle for democracy, liberty, equality, and fraternity did not end in 1789. As an artist in Nice put it following the deadly attacks in Paris the previous November: *We help each other to love We do not give in to hatred.*



This year, the Board of Directors, teachers, and staff of L'Alliance Française de Tucson extend to our members, our friends, and to all our Francophile and Francophone community, our best wishes for a happy and peaceful Bastille Day, July 14, 2017.

Vive La France!



Rebecca McSwain, President, Board of Directors

Images from <http://honeykidsasia.com/where-to-celebrate-bastille-day-2016-in-singapore-french-national-day-events/>; <http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/IS-Group-Claim-Paris-Attacks-Say-Its-the-First-of-the-Storm-20151115-0008.html> and The Graphics Fairy, <http://thegraphicsfairy.com/>.