

# Vive la France (in N.J.): 5 ways to celebrate 'Le French Week'

By [Bill Gelman | For NJ Advance Media](#)

on July 07, 2015 at 1:00 PM, updated July 13, 2015 at 2:44 PM

HOBOKEN -- Do you like "Green Eggs and Ham?" Would you try them on a croissant? Would you try them on a bagel? Would you eat them in a bakery?

Actually, it really does not matter if you like green eggs and ham — just don't tell Sam I Am. The classic Dr. Seuss children's story served as the central topic of conversation on Monday, as parents and children got to enjoy a reading of this story not in English, but French (the title would be "Les Oeufs Verts au Jambon" for those who can't remember where they placed that English-to-French translation guide).

Choc-O-Pain French Bakery and Café, 157 1st St. in Hoboken, served as the kickoff host to Le French Week, a week-long celebration of French food, arts and music. Qui Qui Je Speak Francais is promoting the bilingual and bicultural events through July 14.

"I said to myself, 'Pourquoi pas?' (Why not?) New Jersey has a large number of French, Francophones, and Francophiles, so I wanted to bring a piece of France to the Garden State," says Emefa Duho, founder of Oui, Oui, Je Speak Franglais. "I have organized other events promoting French culture and language, so I decided to create Le French Week New Jersey."

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The July 8 event, which is also taking place at Choc-O-Pain, is geared towards the teen-to-adult crowd with charades and taboo games taking place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., with breakfast or lunch included in the \$25 ticket price (Ticket holders are entered into a raffle drawing).



Croissants are one of many French baked goods that Americans enjoy year-round. (Choc-O-Pain Bakery and Café)

Montclair-based Uncle Momo, 702 Bloomfield Ave., known for its French-Lebanese offerings, is hosting the July 9 event, a French/English language exchange and dinner (tickets are \$35 and include entry into the raffle drawing).

It's all leading up to July 14's Bastille Day celebration — commemorating the beginning of the French Revolution and the storming of the Bastille in 1789. The French Institute Alliance Francaise is hosting a 7 p.m.-to-9 p.m. outing at Van Vleck House & Gardens, 21 Van Vleck St. in Montclair, in which guests will enjoy a buffet catered by Uncle Momo's while sipping refreshing French wines. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members.

For something a little more family-friendly and free to all, a trip to Trader Joe's in Clifton, 259 Allwood Road, may be in order. The establishment is hosting a French-themed scavenger hunt for children and French food sampling 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the same day (with a complimentary raffle drawing).