



## ALLEZ 2015!

### A Year of Connections

**Bonne Année et Bienvenue** to the Mercer Island Sister City Association, whether you are renewing your membership or are joining us for the first time in 2015, a year of some exciting connections ahead with the people and city of Thonon-les-Bains, connections which your annual membership helps to support:

In our **7<sup>th</sup> exchange** between Mercer Island High School students and students from the lycées, or high schools, in Thonon-les-Bains, 25 of our students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grades and their families will host each other, form new and often lasting friendships, and take part in the ongoing cultural exchange between our two cities. As student ambassadors for Mercer Island and our nation, they will add to the ever deepening bond of friendship which has developed over 15 years of our jumelage.

Our 25 bright, diverse, and multi-talented French students (see photo on page 2), along with chaperones MIHS French teacher Ji Sider and MISCA Board Student Exchange Chairs Monica Howell and Beth Brennen, arrive in Thonon on February 14, ♥♥ returning February 23. Thanks to the generous support and planning of the city of Thonon and our friends in their Sister City Association, a wonderful itinerary of activities awaits them in addition to the precious time they will each spend with their host families. Included, among many other experiences, will be a boat trip on Lac Léman to Lausanne and the Olympic Museum, a visit to the Thursday Thonon market followed by a reception at the Hotel de Ville (City Hall), a day

of skiing or hiking in the nearby Alps, and a day of touring in Geneva.

Our students and their families will host Thonon's students at the end of October, when they visit us during their break for Toussaint, or All Saints week.



Linda Todd  
MISCA President

2015 is also the year when we are thrilled and honored to welcome an **adult delegation visit from the City of Thonon**, now in its planning stages for both our cities and associations. It is scheduled to take place July 8-13 during Summer Celebration and the day of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing by Mayors Jean Denais and Alan Merkle in Mercerdale Park of the formal agreement to create our sister city relationship. Please contact us if you would like to help in some way with hosting our friends from Thonon.

♥♥ As we arrive in Thonon on Valentines' Day, a holiday we observe according to our customs, we invite any who would like to do so, to mail a Valentine message to the people or host families of Thonon. We will carry them with us, and give them to our friends there at the reception at City Hall or to the families.

Please mark the envelope: THONON VALENTINE and mail them to my attention:

Linda Todd  
5080 W. Mercer Way  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

*Merci Beaucoup,  
Linda Todd, MISCA President*



**Mercer Island Student Exchange Group To Visit Thonon-les-Bains, France - February 2015**

## **FRENCH FILMS ON MERCER ISLAND**

**At Aljoya • 2430 76th Ave SE • Mercer Island  
In French With English Subtitles • Free**

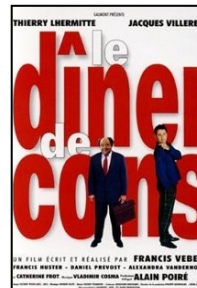
The Mercer Island Sister City Association, the Mercer Island Arts Council and Aljoya will co-host 2 complimentary French films at Aljoya on Mercer Island. **Lance Rhoades**, a featured scholar in the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, will provide introduction and post commentary for both films. In addition to teaching several years at UW, Lance has lectured on literature and film throughout North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. He teaches annually at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wine and cheese will be hosted by Aljoya in the lobby at 6:30PM prior to *Populaire* and each of these films will begin at 7:30PM. For questions or further information, call Carla Peterson at 232-5354.



### **Populaire**

**Friday, January 16  
Wine & Cheese: 6:30PM  
Film: 7:30PM  
Free**

In this French comedy set in 1950's France and the U.S., a rude and demanding insurance agent Louis (Romain Duris) decides that his secretary Rose (Déborah François) could be a world-champion speed typist. Join us for complimentary wine and cheese tastings at 6:30 prior to the film.

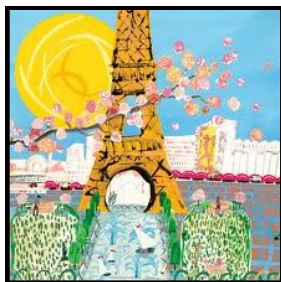


### **Le Dîner de Cons**

**Friday, March 20 • Free  
7:30PM: Film • No 6:30 Program**

In this French film a successful and arrogant publisher, Pierre Brochant (Thierry Lhermitte), regularly competes in a game with his friends to see who can find the most idiotic person to be his dinner guest. He is sure he will be a winner when he finds François Pignon (Jacques Villeret). The evening holds many surprises, however, and François may not be the biggest fool after all.





## April In Paris

Thurs., April 16 • 7PM-8:30PM  
At Island Books  
3014 78th Ave SE, MI

Join us for a festive evening of browsing Mercer Island's charming, and French-focused this evening, **Island Books**. A tasting of French wines from one of France's famous wine appellations paired with delectable cheese tastings will be served, compliments of MISCA. The store will be featuring all things French related including fiction, non-fiction, travel, food and children's books in English with some in French.

Also this year, a delightful selection of French Moulin Roty stuffed dolls and animals will be available. One of these cute and cuddly French characters would make a wonderful gift for a special child in your life.



This event is a benefit to support the Mercer Island Sister City Association scholarship fund. 20% of ALL sales at this event will benefit this cause. For information, call Carla Peterson 232-5354.



## Seattle's French Fest

A Celebration of French-Speaking Cultures

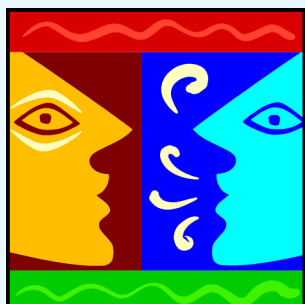
Sunday, March 22  
At Seattle Center

Join **France Education Northwest** at Seattle's 3rd Annual French Fest: A Celebration of French-Speaking Cultures on March 22 at the Seattle Center Armory/Center House.

The festival will be a free, family-friendly event open to the public with the purpose of promoting and raising awareness of Francophone cultures and traditions to the residents of the Greater Seattle area.

During the one-day event, festival-goers will listen to live music, see theater and dance performances, taste international cuisine, learn from informative seminars and demonstrations, play games and enjoy a day full of fun activities en Français!

For more information:  
[www.facebook.com/SeattleFrenchFest](http://www.facebook.com/SeattleFrenchFest)



## Cercle Francophone: Vous êtes invites

*Join Us To Practice French In A Friendly Gathering*

The Mercer Island Sister City Association's French Conversation Evenings are very informal gatherings intended for anybody who wants to improve his/her French. There's no format or agenda - and the only "rule" is that we speak French. All levels of French are welcome! Upcoming French Conversation Evenings will be:

**TUESDAY EVENINGS, 7-9PM: JAN 27 • MAR 24 • APR 28 • MAY 26 • JUNE 23**

**No French Conversation Evening in February**

**At the home of Beth Brennen • 4140 96th Ave. SE, Mercer Island • Please RSVP to Beth: 232-7650**

French Conversation Evenings will resume on Tuesday, January 27. There will be no French Conversation in February as our leaders will serve as chaperones to 25 students on an exchange to Thonon. This program will then resume again March—June. You will receive a reminder email on the Sunday prior to each French Conversation Evening. If you are not currently on our email reminder list, we will be happy to add you. Ask a MISCA board member at a French Conversation Evening or contact: [kathyerickson@live.com](mailto:kathyerickson@live.com).

We are seeking volunteers to host future home Conversation Evenings. A MISCA board member will lead the French conversation.

**To volunteer to host, to learn details or for any questions, call Beth at 232-7650 or Monica at 232-2983.**

## A Message of Support

Upon hearing the devastating news of the terrorist attacks in Paris in early January, MISCA board member, Jane Meyer Brahm, sent a message to Mercer Island Sister City Association friends in France to convey the thoughts and prayers of Mercer Island to our sister city – and, indeed, to all of France. In response, she received several messages of gratitude, including one from Thonon-les-Bains Sister City Association board member, Marie-France Henin.

“Thank you for your e-mail and for thinking of us. I know you understand what such events mean. Yesterday night there was a meeting outside the town hall in Thonon with at least 3,000 people (as in most French cities since the attacks) to say to these terrorists that we are united and we won’t renounce our rights, especially that we’ll remain a free country . . . You see we are living rather dreadful moments as you lived some years ago.”

*From Marie-France Henin*

Rallies were held throughout France, including this gathering in front of the Hotel de Ville (city hall) of Thonon, to demonstrate sympathy for the victims and united resolve to denounce terrorism.

## June & September Newsletters

Summer and fall issues of **Entre Nous** will be mailed to members in June and September. Sign up for new or renewal membership to receive your copies and have up to date information on our events and projects throughout 2015. See page 5 for membership form. Merci!



### French American School of Puget Sound

#### Moulin Rouge Gala Auction

Saturday, March 28 • 5:30PM

Fairmont Olympic Hotel • Seattle

The French American School of Puget Sound will celebrate 20 years of excellence in bilingual education at their Moulin Rouge Gala Auction on March 28. Community members are invited to join in celebrating this great milestone at this fun and fabulous party!

For information about Gala Auction tickets, raffle tickets, online auctions or how to donate, visit:

[www.fasps.org](http://www.fasps.org) and click on Gala/Auction.



## French Ham and Brie

Looking for a perfect, simple weekend lunch with a French accent? What better than a French Ham and Brie. This one is both simple to create and truly delicious!

### Compliments of Chef Jacques Boiroux

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 2 ciabatta rolls   | 6 oz. French ham (jambon blanc), thinly sliced |
| 2 T. Dijon mustard | 6 oz. Brie cheese, thinly sliced               |
| 2 T. mango chutney |  |

Split the ciabatta rolls in 1/2 lengthwise. Spread the Dijon mustard on one half of each roll and the mango chutney on the other half. Fan out the ham and Brie cheese slices on one half of the seasoned rolls and top with the other half. Place the sandwiches in a preheated panini grill for 4 minutes until well browned and the cheese has melted.

**Note:** If French ham is not available at the deli of your grocery store, use your favorite ham such as Black Forest.

Thanks to **Chef Jacques Boiroux** for sharing this easy to prepare and delicious recipe. Jacques Boiroux is the founder and principal of Jacques & Company, a Seattle-based food and wine consulting firm. For more than ten years, Jacques Boiroux shared his expertise with the five upscale Metropolitan Markets as Vice President for Research & Development. As creator of **Chef Jacques**, a biweekly cooking television show on KIRO-TV, Chef Jacques offered cooking demonstrations and recipes to viewers.

## Mercer Island Sister City Assn.



### Sign Up For New or Renewal Membership!

As we ring in the new year, now is the perfect time to [join us or renew your membership for 2015](#). Our jumelage with the beautiful city of Thonon-les-Bains in France, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, continues as a source of ever deepening ties of friendship and cultural exchanges, and we need your involvement and support to continue our activities, including our scholarship program.

We hope you will join in some of our many member and friend activities in the coming year. As an association, we also enjoy and benefit from our involvement in the greater "Francophile" community in the Seattle area.

If you are interested in offering your time and talent to our board and their work, please contact us. We look forward to receiving your membership form and appreciate the support you provide through this year's dues, and **Bienvenue** from us to you. We value your membership and involvement with the Mercer Island Sister City Association.

For questions or more information, contact:  
Pat Shafer, 206-232-3685 or Linda Todd, 206-232-4570

## Mercer Island Sister City Association Board of Directors

Linda Todd	President	232-4570
Jane Meyer Brahm	Member-At-Large	232-0701
Beth Brennen	Student Exchange French Conversation	232-7650
Rich Conrad	Member-at-Large	236-9174
Kathy Erickson	Newsletter/Publicity Website	232-7622
Susan L. Gates	Treasurer	232-4960
Monica Howell	Student Exchange/Secretary	232-2983
Casey Mochel	Young Adult Outreach French Community Liaison	425-777-5693
Terry Moreman	Chamber of Commerce	232-3404
Carla Peterson	Events	232-5354
Pat Shafer	Membership	232-3685
Sue Sherwood	Adult & Business Programs Events	236-0740
Kirsten Taylor, Asst. City Manager	City Liaison	275-7661

[www.mercerislandsistercity.org](http://www.mercerislandsistercity.org)



## Mercer Island Sister City Association Membership Form

**Membership valid through December 2015.**

**For New or Renewal Membership**

### Membership Types

Individual Adult	\$25
Individual Youth	\$10
Senior Citizen	\$15
Family	\$30
Sponsor	\$50
Corporate	\$100
Patron	\$200
Donor	\$500
Benefactor	\$1000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Your membership will be effective through December 31, 2015.

Check Payable To: Mercer Island Sister City Association

Mail To: 7605 SE 27th Street, #109, Mercer Island, WA 98040

For Information: Contact Pat Shafer, 206-232-3685 or [pat.shafer@comcast.net](mailto:pat.shafer@comcast.net)

## Mercer Island Sister City Association Calendar

Details can be found on the indicated page of this newsletter.

- Fri., Jan. 16 . . . . . French Movie with Wine & Cheese at Aljoia on Mercer Island, 6:30PM, Page 2
- Tues., Jan. 27 . . . . . French Conversation Evening, 7-9PM, Page 3
- Feb. 13-23 . . . . . Student Exchange from Mercer Island Visits Thonon-les-Bains, Page 1 &2
- Fri., Mar. 20 . . . . . French Movie (No Wine & Cheese) at Aljoia on Mercer Island, 7:30PM, Page 2
- Sun, Mar. 22 . . . . . Seattle French Fest at Seattle Center, Page 3
- Tues., Mar. 24 . . . . . French Conversation Evening, 7-9PM, Page 3
- Thur., Apr. 16 . . . . . April in Paris at Island Books, 7-9PM, Page 3
- Tues., Apr. 28 . . . . . French Conversation Evening, 7-9PM, Page 3
- Tues., May 26 . . . . . French Conversation Evening, 7-9PM, Page 3
- Tues., June 23 . . . . . French Conversation Evening, 7-9PM, Page 3
- July 8-13 . . . . . Adult Delegation from Thonon-les-Bains Visits Mercer Island
- Late Oct. . . . . Student Exchange from Thonon-les-Bains Visits Mercer Island

If you would like to help in some way with hosting our friends from Thonon in July,  
contact Linda Todd at [ljtodd@comcast.net](mailto:ljtodd@comcast.net) or 206-232-4570.

Mercer Island Sister City Association  
7605 SE 27<sup>th</sup> Street #109  
Mercer Island, WA 98040



25 Mercer Island Exchange Students  
Travel To Thonon-les-Bains In February  
See Pages 1 & 2



Thonon Adult Delegation To Celebrate  
15th Anniversary With Mercer Island  
See Page 1



Now Is The Time For  
New or Renewal Memberships!  
See Page 5